

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

Handout: 03/10/24
Study Date: 03/17/24

Offering Grace

The Word of God tells us that if we allow bitterness to creep into our hearts and if we become bound up in resentment, discontent, acrimony, and grudges against others, we come short of the grace of God and have allowed the ungodly characteristic of bitterness to sink its deadly root into our heart. This bitterness defiles us before the Lord and causes no end of trouble in our own lives and in the lives of others too.

Bitterness is a sin of the flesh that too often manifests itself in bitter words, poisonous lips, and cursing mouths. We are warned in God's Word to get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice, for when the root of bitterness is allowed to fester and develop, it results in much trouble: "And by it many are defiled."

We are warned that foolish sons not only bring grief to their father but also they bring bitterness to their mother. Husbands are instructed not to become bitter against their wives. Indeed, all Christians are warned against the pernicious growth of bitterness in their heart which is a destructive cancer that infects every area of our Christian life, including our fellowship with our Heavenly Father and our relationship with our fellow man.

Bitterness has been described as a slow poison which grieves the Spirit of God, gives place to the enemy of our soul, and causes us to come short of God's grace and His will for our lives.

How important to examine ourselves to see if bitterness is being nurtured in our own hearts. Let us take this warning seriously and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God in Christ forgave us. Let us therefore be imitators of God as dear children, walking in love as Christ also has loved us and gave Himself for us.

My Prayer:

Heavenly Father, search my heart, oh God, and help me to identify any seeds of bitterness that may be lurking within. There may be bitterness from recent events in my life or from things that happened long ago, but the bitterness still remains in my heart. Lord, by your grace please root out this bitterness and replace it with Your grace and forgiveness, mercy and kindness. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

Resource: dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Bud & Pam McCord | Brazil



- PRAISE**
- We have just completed our new ministry office which we are calling The Jesus Christ Institute. Besides being our new work space, we will also use our office as a place to make disciples, teach, make videos, counsel and deliver Jesus' love.
 - We have been blessed by the visit of our eldest son Ken, his wife Kellie and daughter, Kayla.
- PRAY**
- Pray for us to pay attention to God and keep receiving from our Lord, each person and opportunity that He wants to send to us.
 - Pray for continued good health.
 - Pray for wisdom, strength, and joy for us and for over 40 couples and individuals who we consider "fruit that remains." They are living and teaching others to abide in Jesus Christ, to keep Him at the Center of their circumference of love.

KEY VERSE

Hebrews 12:15 (NKJV)

“looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Hebrews 12:14-15; Matthew 18:23-27

Introduction

1. Hebrews 12:15 teaches us “what lesson” in regard to “bitterness”? Is there “someone” that comes to mind from reading this verse you need to forgive?
2. Paragraph 5 on pg. 1 calls us to “examine ourselves” to see if bitterness is taking root in us. Are YOU truly walking as an “imitator of God”?
3. What lesson is Matthew 18: 23-27 teaching us about “paying it forward”?

Tuesday: Ephesians 4:32

What Offering Grace Is Not

4. Ephesians 4:32 is very clear in stating that forgiveness is not “conditional.” It is in fact a *command!* Do YOU “live by” this interpretation?
5. While we are called by Christ to “forgive” we need to be reminded that . doing so does NOT *minimize* the offense. Is this YOUR understanding?

Wednesday: Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:13

Offering Grace Because God Has Forgiven You

6. According to Matthew 18:21-22 how many times are we told to forgive?
7. Because Christ *forgave us* according to Colossians 3:13, how “specifically” are we called to treat “one another” in this verse?

Thursday: Matthew 18:32-35; Ephesians 4:26-27; Matthew 6:14-15

Offering Grace To Avoid Growing A Root Of Bitterness

8. In Matthew 18:32-35 we are told a story of a servant who was not willing to give the same forgiveness he had received. What were his consequences?
9. Ephesians 4:26-27 advises us not to “sin” or let the “*sun go down*” on our wrath. For we then “*give place to the devil*”? Did YOU know that?
10. Matthew 6:14-15 tells us that forgiveness from “our father” hinges on the forgiveness we bestow on others. How does this affect YOU?

Friday: Ephesians 4:32; Rom.12:19; Genesis 50:20; Matt.18:21-22

How To Offer Grace

11. Romans 12:19 speaks about vengeance towards others. To *Whom* does vengeance belong to? Why do YOU think it belongs to Him?
12. What message do YOU receive from Genesis 50:20 regarding what you have done in your past and what God has planned for YOUR future?