

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



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Sergio & Andrea Duarte | Uruguay

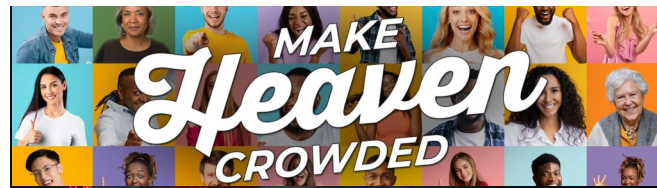


PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for a good number for our 1st Biblical Counseling Conference. We were challenged by the teaching.
- Praise the Lord for 4 men from Glen Memorial Baptist in Michigan, who came down in October for a missions trip. They laid floors in the Duarte’s house, and were involved in teaching a FEBU class, preaching, and sharing testimonies.

PRAY

- Pray for upcoming Christmas program.
- Pray for new souls to come to Christ.
- Pray for believers to take the next step and get involved in discipleship, evangelism, and encouraging others.



Handout: 01/05/24

Study Date: 01/12/25

Your Readiness Can Make Heaven Crowded

The passage the Ethiopian court official is reading is Isaiah 53:7–8. It describes the Suffering Servant's unjust treatment and death. The Ethiopian must have been surprised to learn that this is good news. It's because of Jesus' death on the cross that he—and all of us—can be reconciled to God. He responds immediately and insists on being baptized (Acts 8:36).

Philip's explanation follows the common format of evangelism in the early church to Jews: he explains how Jesus of Nazareth fits into the Jewish Scripture (our Old Testament). Peter did the same on the day of Pentecost when thousands of Jews flooded Jerusalem for the feast and discovered the Jesus-followers whom the Holy Spirit had just indwelt (Acts 2). Paul will continue the pattern; in each town he goes to visit, he starts either with the synagogue (Acts 9:20; 13:14–49), or another place where Jews meet (Acts 16:13). Jesus started this tradition when He met with the two men on the road to Emmaus: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).

That doesn't mean that we should always start with the Old Testament when introducing people to Jesus. As Jesus did during His ministry, we should start by meeting the person where they are. Paul did this when he spoke with the Greek philosophers in Athens. He began by putting their monument to an unknown god into context, and then quoted their own philosophers to show that God has sovereignty over His creation. Finally, he explained that God's sovereignty extended to His right to judge them and to raise the dead (Acts 17:22–31).

Resource: bibleref.com

KEY VERSE

Acts 8:35 (NKJV)

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”

Read Acts 16:19-34 Every Day!

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 8:35

Introduction

1. What does Acts 8:35 teach us in terms of our “readiness” to share the Gospel? What can WE do to make sure we are as prepared as Philip was?
2. The article on page 1 shares with us the “format” for evangelism used by numerous Biblical figures. How can we use this format to evangelize today?

Tuesday: Acts 8:26; II Peter 3:9; II Corinthians 5:20

Be Where God Wants You To Be

3. Acts 8:26 gives Philip “clear direction” as to where he is to go to deliver the Gospel? Where is God calling YOU to go?
4. What motivation should we receive from the Lord’s promise in II Peter 3:9 that He is “*not willing that any should perish*”?

Wednesday: Acts 8:27-30; I Thessalonians 5:19

Be Aware Of Who God Wants You To Invest In (Spiritual Readiness)

5. What is Acts 8:27-30 teaching us in observing Philip’s action and response to the “*man of Ethiopia*”? Is God calling YOU to “invest” in someone?
6. What actions can each of us “individually” take to make sure that we “*do not quench the Spirit*” as is told to us in I Thessalonians 5:19?

Thursday: Acts 8:30-31; Acts 8:32-35; Rom. 1-16; Acts 8:36-37

Be Prepared To Share My Faith At Any Time (Intellectual Readiness)

7. Acts 8:30-31 teaches us an invaluable lesson in that we should be diligent in approaching people seeking the knowledge of God’s Word. Are YOU?
8. For many of us, it can be awkward to share the Gospel. But what motivation and encouragement does Romans 1:16 offer those of us who are hesitant?
9. In Acts 8:36-37 we read of the act of baptism as a symbol of our faith. What is the glorious result of Philip’s diligence in verse 37?

Friday: Ephesians 4:12

Be Willing To Attend The Making Heaven Crowded Seminar

10. Referencing Ephesians 4:12 what avenues can we pursue to “*equip*” ourselves for Christian service and ministry?
11. Ephesians 4:12 calls us to action indeed, but what is your interpretation of “*edifying the body of Christ*”? How can we contribute at our church?
12. What will be your “next move” to help Make Heaven Crowded?