

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

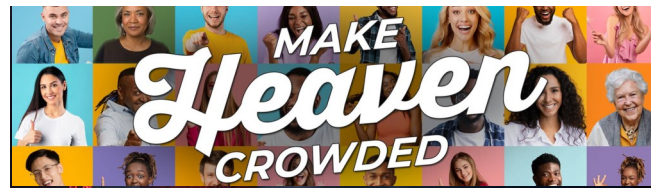
Tony and Marcia Haug | Japan

PRAY

- Pray for the staff at New Beginning Internation Preschool at they share the gospel
- Pray for follow-up from the Christmas outreach of SCBC, where over 84 people attended.
- Pray for Taiga Takeyasu, who is pastor-in-training at SCBC.
- Pray for Mrs Kiyomi Tsuwazaki’s husband to be drawn to Christ, he is meeting with Tony weekly.
- Pray for the salvation of Mrs. Kihara and her husband. She continues to attend services.
- Pray for two SCBC members who have cancer: Watatabe and Matsushima.
- Pray for Gabriel, Julie, and Diana as they prepare to come to Japan next year to join our team

PRAISE

- Praise God for the opportunity to lead a Bible study.



Handout: 01/26/24

Study Date: 02/02/25

Your Invitation Can Make Heaven Crowded

Starting in John 1:35, Jesus begins calling His first disciples, including Nathanael. The day after Jesus is baptized, He is with John the Baptist and John’s disciples. John makes the proclamation, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36). After this proclamation, two of John’s disciples begin following Jesus. One of those disciples is Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew retrieves Peter so he can follow Jesus as well. Jesus then enters the region of Galilee and calls Philip who then finds Nathanael. Philip proclaims to Nathanael, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45). Nathanael’s skeptical response is that found in John 1:46, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Nazareth was a city roughly 55 miles north of Jerusalem. During the time of Jesus, the Jews held those from Nazareth, a city within the region of Galilee, in low esteem. This isn’t seen better anywhere else in Scripture than through Nathanael’s question, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

The low view of Nazareth is important in understanding Matthew’s claim that Jesus “fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that He would be called a Nazarene” (Matthew 2:23). Nothing in the Old Testament explicitly says that Jesus would be from Nazareth, so what is Matthew talking about? Most likely, Matthew is referring to those prophecies regarding Christ that reveal how others will despise Him and treat Him poorly—Psalm 22:6–7 and Isaiah 53:3, for example.

Psalm 22:6–7 describes the Christ as being “scorned by everyone, despised by the people” as “they hurl insults, shaking their heads.” Isaiah 53:3 describes the Christ as “despised and rejected by mankind.” It is possible these passages are the prophecies to which Matthew alludes in his statement “He would be called a Nazarene.”

Nathanael’s mocking question, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” foreshadows the fact that Jesus would be mocked more earnestly by others (cf. John 7:42). Nathanael asks the question because the Christ was seen as being the one who would deliver Israel from oppression. The long-awaited Messiah was to be held in the highest esteem. So why would He come from a place like Nazareth?

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” The surprising answer is “yes.” God chose to have His Son, the Savior of the world, live in Nazareth. “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are”(1 Corinthians 1:27–28). We see this often in Scripture: Joseph, Ruth, Gideon, and David all began in lowly, despised places, but God chose them and used them in great ways.

Resource: Gotquestions.org 1

KEY VERSE

John 1:46 (NKJV)

“And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Read John 1:40-49 Every Day!

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 1:46; II Timothy 1:10; Matthew 11:28

Believe That Jesus Can Save Lives

1. What gift from Jesus Christ is revealed to us in II Timothy 1:10? What has He granted us by being the one *“who has abolished death”*?
2. As followers of Christ, what can we expect to receive as we go through this life on earth? What will those *“who labor”* receive? (Matthew 11:28)

Tuesday: Mark 1:17; Matthew 9:37-38

Recognize That God Wants To Use You

3. In Mark 1:17 Jesus states; *“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”* As believers, What *“exactly”* is this verse calling us to do?
4. According to Matthew 9:37 *“the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”* How does this verse motivate YOU to be a *“laborer.”*

Wednesday: Colossians 4:5; Romans 10-1; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Identify People In Your Circle Of Influence

5. We must *“walk in wisdom toward those who are outside.”* according to Colossians 4:5. How can we demonstrate this daily for others to see?
6. Romans 10:1 is a clear calling for all of us to spread the Gospel and make disciples. How should we be praying NOW for those we hope to influence?

Thursday: Proverbs 18:24a; John 1:46

Care Enough To Extend An Invitation To Church

7. It has often been said that *“people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”* Why does Proverbs 18:24a apply to this?
8. How often are we reaching out to new people in our life to truly get to know them and ultimately be an influence for Christ? How many this past week?
9. In John 1:46 we see Philip responding to Nathanael’s statement with *“come and see.”* As believers, what action is this verse calling us to?

Friday: II Corinthians 9:6; I Corinthians 3:6

Remember As Invites Go Out, Guests Come In

10. What important lesson are we learning from II Corinthians 9:6? What kind of *“bounty”* can we expect if we *“sow sparingly”* to invite others?
11. Referencing II Corinthians 9:6; how many seeds are we planting every week, month and year”? How can we grow as a *“reaper”* of the harvest?
12. After we have *“planted”* a seed we are then called to continue to cultivate it. Who then will *“give the increase”* if we do? (I Cor. 3:6)