

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

GROWTH
GUIDE



Handout: 04/26/20
Study: 05/03/20

Growing From Despair To Hope

On the night before He suffered on the cross, Jesus encouraged His disciples with these words: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27, English Standard Version).

Jesus gives those who follow Him a promise of peace that is different from what the world experiences. If you have accepted Jesus’ death for the forgiveness of your sins, the reality is that you can face any challenge, suffering, or loss with hope and peace. As followers of Jesus, we know the One who says of Himself that He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, who holds all things together by His power.

We can rest in a future that is secure because we have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus. Jesus promised His disciples they didn’t have to be afraid. And those promises apply today to those of us who follow Him. God has promised that nothing can separate us from the love of God — neither death nor life, height nor depth — nothing in all creation can take from us the love and security and peace of God. That includes sickness, loss, and even death. It includes quarantines. It includes a crashing rubble rate and economic crises. As Christians, we have a basis for hope that is real and lasting.

And that hope frees us as believers to love others well. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus told His followers, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16, ESV).

Light is intended to be seen by others. As followers of Jesus in the midst of a global epidemic, we have a unique opportunity to demonstrate that the gospel is not just words, but that the love of Jesus makes a difference in how we treat people and how we face hardships.

As the coronavirus spreads, so will fear and uncertainty — and the world in which we live will cry out for reassurance and peace. We have the opportunity to live unafraid, to show others a hope that isn’t just based on wearing a mask or the development of a vaccine, but that rests in a relationship with the God of the universe. We can be people of peace and love because Jesus has forgiven us our sins and transformed our lives. And as transformed people, we have a message of hope to offer.

Source: “Jesus’ Words Can Help You Respond In Hope to Covid-19” by cru.org

KEY VERSE

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 5:1-8; Psalm 130:1-5; I Peter 1:3

What Is Hope?

1. How do you define hope? Is there a difference between “hope” as defined by our culture and “hope” as defined in the Bible?
2. What do you hope for? How is hope for the Christian different than those who don’t follow Jesus?

Tuesday: Romans 5:5a; Hebrews 6:17-20; II Timothy 1:8-12

Our Hope Is Dependable

3. What things or people have you placed your hope in that have failed you?
4. What makes our hope dependable? What are some ways or situations that God has demonstrated that He can be trusted and depended upon?

Wednesday: Romans 5:5b, 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14

Our Hope Is Supernatural

5. What does today’s scripture readings teach us about the Holy Spirit?
6. How has the Holy Spirit poured out the love of God in your heart?

Thursday: Romans 5:6, 8:31-39; Psalm 118:1-6

Our God Is For Us

7. According to today’s readings, how do we know that God is for us?
8. How has God demonstrated that He is for you in your life?
9. How is God for you during our crisis?

Friday: Romans 5:7-8; Luke 5:30-32; I Timothy 1:15

Our Hope Is Available

10. According to today’s readings, how has God made hope available to us?
11. If hope is available to Christians, why do we sometimes not feel hopeful?
12. How does Jesus provide the hope we need to make it through our trials? How can you share your hope with others during this time?