

## 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

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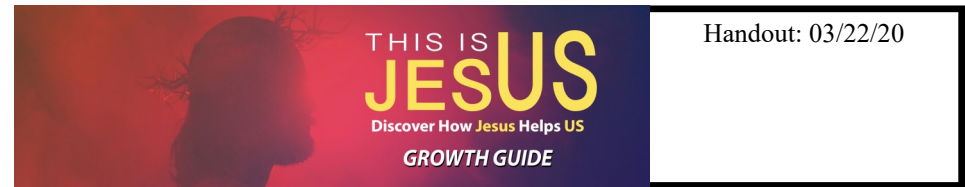
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## Jesus Provides Rest

We are living through interesting times. This Corona virus has caused many of us to feel anxious and insecure. We feel the disappointment of cancellations, changed plans, and lost work. We don’t know when things will get back to “normal”. We have been told to isolate ourselves and practice social distancing. My wife had the challenge of explaining to our five year old son why other children at the park were not allowed to interact with him. We are made for relationships. Most importantly we are made to have a relationship with God.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” This time can be an opportunity for spiritual growth if we let it. While we physically distance ourselves for our health and the health of others, let us experience closeness with Jesus. While our activities are cancelled let’s be sure to keep our appointments with the Lord.

Why? Because if we do, He promises to give us rest. Our prayer for you is that you use this time in your life to grow closer to Jesus and find the rest only He can give you. Below is John MacArthur’s definition of rest:

“The dictionary gives several definitions of rest that remarkably parallel the spiritual rest God offers those who trust in His Son. First, the dictionary describes rest as cessation from action, motion, labor, or exertion. In a similar way, to enter God’s rest is to cease from all efforts at self-help in trying to earn salvation.

Second, rest is described as freedom from that which wearies or disturbs. Again we see the spiritual parallel of God’s giving His children freedom from the cares and burdens that rob them of peace and joy.

Third, the dictionary defines rest as something that is fixed and settled. Similarly, to be in God’s rest is to have the wonderful assurance that our eternal destiny is secure in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. It is to be freed from the uncertainties of running from philosophy to philosophy, from religion to religion, from guru to guru, hoping somehow and somewhere to discover truth, peace, happiness, and eternal life.

Fourth, rest is defined as being confident and trustful. When we enter God’s rest we are given the assurance that “He who began a good work in [us] will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians. 1:6).

Finally, the dictionary describes rest as leaning, reposing, or depending on. As children of God, we can depend with utter certainty that our heavenly Father will “supply all [our] needs according to His riches in glory in Christ” Jesus” (Philippians. 4:19).

## KEY VERSE

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Matthew 11:25-30; John 1**

### Jesus Offers Rest

1. When were you the most tired in your life? Were you tired physically, emotionally, spiritually, or all the above?
2. How would describe the kind of rest that Jesus offers to us?

**Tuesday: Genesis 2:1-3; John 2**

### God Created Rest

3. What do you think of when you hear the word “rest”?
4. What does it mean that God rested? Does it mean something different than the way we use the word today?

**Wednesday: Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:27-28; John 3**

### God Created Rest for His People

5. Why did God command Israel to have a Sabbath day of rest?
6. Read Hebrews 4:9-11. What does it mean to enter into God’s rest today?

**Thursday: Matthew 6:25-33; Psalm 23; John 4**

### Rest Today for the Believer

7. In what ways does Jesus provide rest for those who believe in him?
8. What are some situations in your life in which you need God to help you find rest? How can Jesus help you find rest during the COVID-19 crisis?
9. Is there anything preventing you from feeling the rest of God in your life?

**Friday: Revelation 22; John 5**

### Enjoy God’s Rest Forever

10. What will we receive rest from in heaven?
11. Are you looking forward to heaven? What are you most looking forward to?
12. How can you experience rest with Jesus during these turbulent times?

Spend some time in prayer and reflection thanking God during this Easter season for the death and resurrection of Jesus so that we may enjoy peace with God and enter his rest.