

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;...” 1 Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK

Sandra Heim - Peru

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST:

Last week, Peru’s president, Pedro Castillo, appointed a new cabinet, his fourth since he came to power six months ago. This included replacing a prime minister who lasted just three days in office. The country has been dealing with another Covid surge, as well as the environmental consequences of a huge oil spill in the Pacific Ocean on the outskirts of Lima. Please pray that God would use these crisis situations and the continued economic and political instability to help people realize that true security is found only in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and that we as believers would be sensitive to opportunities to share that good news.



slheim@abwe.cc

Jesus' Stories

growth guide

Handout: 03/06/22

Study: 03/13/22

“I’ve Wasted It, I’ve Wasted It”

John Piper - Don't Waste Your Life

My father was an evangelist. When I was a boy, there were rare occasions when my mother and sister and I traveled with him and heard him preach. I trembled to hear my father preach. There was a certain squint to his eye and a tightening of his lips when the avalanche of biblical texts came to a climax in application. Oh, how he would plead! He would press the warnings and the wooings of Christ into the heart of each person. He had stories, so many stories, for each age group—stories of glorious conversions, and stories of horrific refusals to believe followed by tragic deaths.

For me as a boy, one of the most gripping illustrations my fiery father used was the story of a man converted in old age. The church had prayed for this man for decades. He was hard and resistant. But this time, for some reason, he showed up when my father was preaching. At the end of the service, during a hymn, to everyone’s amazement he came and took my father’s hand. They sat down together on the front pew of the church as the people were dismissed. God opened his heart to the gospel of Christ, and he was saved from his sins and given eternal life. But that did not stop him from sobbing and saying, as the tears ran down his wrinkled face—and what an impact it made on me to hear my father say this through his own tears—“I’ve wasted it! I’ve wasted it!”

This was the story that gripped me more than all the stories of young people who died in car wrecks before they were converted—the story of an old man weeping that he had wasted his life. In those early years God awakened in me a fear and a passion not to waste my life. The thought of coming to my old age and saying through tears, “I’ve wasted it! I’ve wasted it!” was a horrible thought to me.

KEY VERSE

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Matthew 13:44

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 12:6, Matt 26:22-25, Luke 22:3-6

Judas: Bad Intentions

1. Judas was with Jesus. He saw the miracles. He saw the life change. He witnessed everything Jesus did. Why do you think he betrayed Jesus?
2. What happens to people when they hear the Word of God throughout their lives but never truly understand what the Gospel means?

Tuesday: Mark 10:17-22, Matt 10:39, 16:25

The Rich Young Ruler: Too Much To Give Up

3. The rich young ruler was a “good guy”. The Bible even says that Jesus loved him. Why don’t you think he was willing to give His life to Jesus?
4. What are some things in your life and the lives of others that make it difficult to “lay down your life” and follow Jesus?

Wednesday: Matthew 25:14-30

The One Talent Man: Fear Driven

5. Why do you think the man gave his servants a different number of talents “based on their abilities”?
6. Why did the one talent man hide his talent in the ground? How does fear play a role in your spiritual life?

Thursday: Matthew 13:44-46, Philippians 3:4-10

Treasure Finders: A Life Of Joy In Jesus

7. Both of these people sell everything in order to passionately pursue the treasure they discovered. Does this mean we all need to sell all of our worldly possessions to pursue Jesus? If not, what does this mean for us today?
8. When the man finds the treasure, it is the JOY that he experiences that causes him to give everything up for it. What is your JOY? Have you made this the most important thing in your life?
9. Both of these people take action in order to get these valuable treasures. What actions have you taken in order to show that you treasure Jesus?

Friday: Galatians 2:20, John 14:15, Mark 16:15, Phil 1:8, Matt 25:40

What Do Treasure Finders Do?

10. When Jesus becomes your primary focus and passion your life will shift to look more and more like Him. In what ways have you found this to be true in your life?
11. All of the above passages are focused on what happens after we make Jesus the main thing in our life. In addition to these, there are many other characteristics of true disciples of Jesus. What are some of these that we may have missed?
12. When our people and churches are filled with people who are passionate about living their lives for Jesus, what will happen?