

## 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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## MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



TED & TONIE FARRIS | NEW MEXICO, USA

PRAY - Our COVID numbers have skyrocketed here. In January we tested positive. Tonie was on oxygen and had an abnormal heart rhythm. She had to have her heart shocked recently for a procedure to check for blood clots. Please keep her in your prayers.

PRAY - Recently we were involved in a hit and run car accident by a drunk driver. Please pray as alcohol is a huge problem here. If only these people would experience the saving power of Jesus Christ! Please pray we could play a role in leading these people to Jesus.

## The Story Of The Prodigal Son

Here Jesus answered the accusations of the scribes and Pharisees (Luke 15:2), for the father not only ran to welcome his son, but he honored the boy’s homecoming by preparing a great feast and inviting the village to attend. The father never did permit the younger son to finish his confession; he interrupted him, forgave him, and ordered the celebration to begin!

Of course, the father pictures to us the attitude of our Heavenly Father toward sinners who repent: He is rich in His mercy and grace, and great in His love toward them (Eph. 2:1–10). All of this is possible because of the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. We are saved by God’s grace, and grace is love that pays a price.

In the East, old men do not run; yet the father ran to meet his son. Why? One obvious reason was his love for him and his desire to show that love. But there is something else involved. This wayward son had brought disgrace to his family and village and, according to Deuteronomy 21:18–21, he should have been stoned to death. If the neighbors had started to stone him, they would have hit the father who was embracing him! What a picture of what Jesus did for us on the cross!

Everything the younger son had hoped to find in the far country, he discovered back home: clothes, jewelry, friends, joyful celebration, love, and assurance for the future. What made the difference? Instead of saying, “Father, give me!” he said, “Father, make me!” He was willing to be a servant! Of course, the father did not ask him to “earn” his forgiveness, because no amount of good works can save us from our sins (Eph. 2:8–10; Titus 3:3–7). In the far country, the prodigal learned the meaning of misery; but back home, he discovered the meaning of mercy.

The ring was a sign of sonship, and the “best robe” (no doubt the father’s) was proof of his acceptance back into the family (see Gen. 41:42; Isa. 61:10; 2 Cor. 5:21). Servants did not wear rings, shoes, or expensive garments. The feast was the father’s way of showing his joy and sharing it with others. Had the boy been dealt with according to the Law, there would have been a funeral, not a feast. What a beautiful illustration of Psalm 103:10–14!

It is interesting to consider the father’s description of his son’s experience: he was dead, and was now alive; he was lost, and now was found. This is the spiritual experience of every lost sinner who comes to the Father through faith in Jesus Christ (John 5:24; Eph. 2:1–10). There is only one way to come to the Father, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ. Have you come home?

Source: Bible Exposition Commentary by Warren Wiersbe

## KEY VERSE

Luke 15:24 (NKJV)

*“for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”  
And they began to be merry.”*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Luke 15:11-24; Psalm 103:10-14; Ephesians 2:4-5**

### Introduction

1. List the main characters in the Story of the Prodigal Son. Who do they represent?
2. List some characteristics of the father in the story. What do they tell us about God's attitude towards sinners?

**Tuesday: Luke 15:11-16; Isaiah 53:6; Proverbs 13:15; I Peter 2:25**

### Admit You Have Run Away From God

3. In what ways can you identify with the son who left?
4. Why was life difficult for the son who left? Remember a time before you were saved or a time you left God. What made life apart from God difficult?

**Wednesday: Luke 15:17-20a; Proverbs 28:13; Ephesians 5:8-14**

### Decide To Return Home To God

5. What did the son remember about his father's house? How can we keep the goodness of God at the front of our minds?
6. When we stray from God, how long should it take to decide to return to Him? What are some reasons we take longer?

**Thursday: Luke 15:20; I Peter 3:18; John 1:12; Ephesians 2:17-18**

### Receive Forgiveness From God

7. What was the father doing when the son returned? What does this tell us about God's desire for you to come home?
8. What did the father do when he saw his returning son? What does this tell us about God's willingness to forgive?
9. Based on today's readings, how does someone receive forgiveness from God? How would you counsel someone who feels that they are too far away to receive forgiveness?

**Friday: Luke 15:21-24; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 2:19-22**

### Accept Your Place In God's Family

10. The father does more than just forgive the son. What did the father do in this parable to show that the prodigal is his son? What does this tell us about the character of God?
11. How can this parable encourage us when we sin and feel distant from God?
12. Based on today's readings, what does it mean to be part of God's family?