

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 13, 2008

Passage: Luke 3:1-20

Memory Passage: Luke 3:8

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 3:1-6.** Who are some of the significant persons mentioned in these verses? Why are two high priests mentioned? What does this tell you about the state of religion in Palestine?
- (b) To whom did God's Word come? What does this tell us about the people that God uses (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)?
- (c) How does Luke summarize John's message in verse 3? What kind of a baptism was he preaching? What was this designed to do for the people (Luke 1:77)?
- (d) What prophecy does John fulfill from Isaiah 40? How did this also fulfill the words of the angel (Luke 1:16-17) and the prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:76-79)?
- (e) What is the symbolism of the valleys and mountains? What is John preparing the people for according to verse 6?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 3:1-6 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. What was John's purpose? How was he different from all the important people mentioned in the first two verses? Why do you think God likes to use "insignificant people?" How did John prepare people for the coming of Jesus? Give thanks for some important, "insignificant" people God has used in your life.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 3:7-9.** What does he call those who came out to hear him? How is this unlike most evangelists today?
- (b) What warning does he give them in verse 8? What were the Jews basing their salvation upon? Why is this an inadequate foundation for salvation?
- (c) What did he tell them to do? Is the fruit of a changed life an evidence of salvation or a means to salvation? What is the difference and why does it matter?
- (d) According to verse 9, how close is God's judgment? Compare this with what Jesus says in John 3:18.
- (e) Read Matthew 7:13-23 and compare this with the preaching of John. What determines if a person is saved?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 3:7-9 and Matthew 7:21-23. What makes a person saved? How are good deeds or fruits related to salvation? How can they help us see if our repentance is genuine? Does this indicate sinless perfection? Pray for someone who has recently come to faith that the fruit of salvation might be evident to all.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 3:10-14.** What practical suggestions did John give to the people that were coming to be baptized? What does he teach them about selfishness? Does this passage *require* us to give to others to be saved?
- (b) Read the following passages and note the evidences of a changed heart in each of these? Ephesians 4:28; Acts 20:35; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 6:18.
- (c) What do these passages tell us about giving? Psalms 112:9; Proverbs 11:24-25; Proverbs 19:17; Isaiah 58:7-8.
- (d) Someone has said that a man's giving is one of the best indicators of his heart. Do you think that is a biblical statement?
- (e) What did John tell the tax collectors and the soldiers? Does honesty in our business dealings matter to God? How is contentment an evidence of God's work in our hearts (1 Timothy 6:6-10; Hebrews 13:5-6; Matthew 6:25-33)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 7:10-14. Talk about some practical things that you might do to show the evidence of God's salvation in your life. Pray for opportunities to show God's grace and love to someone this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 3:15-18.** What did many of the people think about who John was? Why would they think this?
- (b) What did John tell them about his role (also see John 1:19-28)? How did he compare himself with that of the "One who is coming?" What does this tell you about John's attitude about himself (Romans 12:3; John 3:29-30)?
- (c) What will be the difference between John's baptism and the Messiah's? What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:13)?
- (d) What will be the Messiah's role in judgment (Luke 3:17; John 5:26-27; Acts 10:42; Acts 17:31)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 3:15-18 and Romans 12:3. How did John view himself and his ministry? Discuss humility. What should be our attitude toward what God does in our lives? Pray that God will show you areas of pride in your life that you need to deal with so that His grace might shine through.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 3:19-20.** What conflict did John's preaching cause (Matthew 14:3-4; Mark 6:17-18)?
- (b) What do Herod's actions tell about his character (Proverbs 9:7-8; Proverbs 15:6)?
- (c) What often happens when we are willing to speak the truth (John 15:18; Matthew 24:9; Luke 6:22)?
- (d) How did the Pharisees respond when the disciples shared the gospel (Acts 4:15-19)? How did they respond (Acts 4:19-20 and Acts 4:24-31)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 3:19-20 and Acts 4:19-31. Talk about the difficulties you have in sharing the gospel. Do you have fears about how people will respond to you? Are they legitimate? How can we overcome these? Pray that the Lord will give you a heart of boldness to speak the gospel even if others will reject you.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 3:1-20. What was John's ministry and purpose? How did he fulfill God's call on his life? What is repentance and why is it important in salvation? How are good works and the fruit of repentance related to salvation? Pray for worship services that the Word of God might bring change to the hearts of all who hear.

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The Ministry of John
"Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance..."