

The Gospel of Luke - Lesson 5

Luke 3:1-18;21-23

Introduction and Background

In this passage we learn about John the Baptist and what he said and did. Luke quotes from a passage in the Old Testament that predicted that John the Baptist would come preparing the way for Jesus. We also learn about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Before He began His ministry, Jesus was trained as a carpenter and worked in Nazareth.

Read [Luke 3:1-6](#)

1. What year was it? Who were the rulers and high priests?
2. What was the message John was preaching?
3. Why do you think the people needed to be forgiven? Do we need forgiveness today?
4. Which Old Testament prophet had written about what John was doing?
5. What would be the role of the "voice shouting in the wilderness?"
6. What would people see in verse 6? What do you think that means?

Read [Luke 3:7-18](#)

7. How did John respond to the people that came to him for baptism?
8. Why do you think people thought they were safe because they were descended from Abraham?
9. How did the crowds respond to John's criticism? What did he say they should do?
10. Who were the people expecting to come soon? (verse 15) How did John describe Him? What did John say this person would do?
11. What kind of news was John giving to the people?

Read [Luke 3:21-23](#)

12. Who did John baptize? What happened when Jesus was baptized? Do you think this is important? Why? How old was Jesus at this time?

Chat about these words from the passage:

governor/baptize/ruler/repented/curves/salvation/brood/wrath/poised/chopped/extort

For Discussion:

13. Why do you think that John was sent to "prepare the way" for Jesus?
14. What kind of things should a person do to prove they are repentant?
15. Why do you think Jesus came to John to be baptized?
16. Why do you think it was important for the people to be baptized?
17. Why do you think that baptism is still so important for Christians today?

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Fill in the Blanks:

- a. It was the _____ year of the reign of _____.
- b. John the Baptist taught people to turn from their _____ and turn to _____ to be forgiven.
- c. The prophet _____ had spoken about John.
- d. Everyone was expecting the _____ to come _____.

True or False:

- a) Pontius was a pilot.
- b) Isaiah had prophesied that Jesus would preach in the desert.
- c) John told the crowds to show their repentance by the way they lived.
- d) Jesus was 30 years old when He began His public ministry.

Notes:

More Research

[Who was John the Baptist?](#)

[Where is the Jordan River?](#)