



CURRENT THEME:

Characters at the Cradle

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” **Luke 4:8**

FEBRUARY 15 | LIFE APPLICATION

Live our lives for Jesus.

Today's Scripture: Luke 3:1-22 - "Jesus Begins His Ministry"

Review from Luke 2:

1. **How old was Jesus when he and his parents went to Jerusalem during the Feast of the Tabernacle?** (He was 12 years old.)
2. **After the Feast ended and everyone was traveling home, what happened?** (Mary and Joseph were traveling with a lot of people and realized that they did not know where Jesus was! He had not come with them!) **Where did they find him after searching for three days?** (In the temple.) **What was he doing?** (He was listening to the teachers and asking questions.)
3. **What did Jesus say when Mary told him how worried they had been?** (And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" [Luke 2:49](#)) **What did everyone think about Jesus when they observed him talking with the teachers?** (They were astonished!)
4. **When Jesus went home with his parents, what was the last thing said about him until he was an adult?** See [verse 52](#): "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

Discuss Luke 3:1-2a

Read this section together. **What were these verses telling us?** (When these things happened, where, and who was in power at that time. It is proof that Jesus lived at a time in history that is a known fact — the people and places were real, historically proven, and so was Jesus.)

Read and discuss Luke 3:2b-3

"...the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

1. **Who is this person being described?** (John the son of Zechariah.) **Who else was he related to?** (He was the cousin of Jesus, six months older!)
2. **What was John doing when "the Word of God" came to him?** (He was in the wilderness, perhaps going there after his aging parents died.) **What did he do after this?** (He went all around the region of the Jordan river, telling people about God's coming wrath and judgment and to repent of their sins. And, he baptized them for the repentance and forgiveness of their sins.)
3. In [verses 4-6](#), we see that the prophet Isaiah prophesied about John long

before he was born. Read together what Isaiah said about John:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Discuss Luke 3:7-9

John is telling the crowds of people why they need to repent.

1. **Why do we need to repent?**
2. **What does it mean to "repent?"** (To be sorry for your sins and turn from your sinful, or evil, ways. Basically, change the way you think and then change your life, how you live.)

Discuss Luke 3:10-14

In these verses, the people are asking what it means to repent and what they should do. **What did John say this meant in their daily lives?**

All: Share what you have with others (clothing, food, etc.)

Tax collectors: Don't take from others more than you should

Soldiers: Don't take money for favors, don't lie about people to get them in trouble, don't be cruel toward others

Discuss Luke 3:15-18

1. The people are listening to John expectantly, and even wondering if he might be the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. **What does he say to them?** Read together:

"I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

2. Read the description of "who" John said was coming. (Describe)

- He who is mightier than John himself
- That John is not even worthy to untie this person's sandals
- He will baptize them, with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- He will have a winnowing fork in his hand to clear the threshing floor (*He will remove the bad grains and chaff from the good wheat*)
- He will gather the wheat (His faithful followers) into his barn (his kingdom)

- **And, what will he do with the chaff, the “trash” on the threshing floor?**
(He will burn it with an unquenchable fire.)

3. This section is finished with **verse 18:** “*So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.*” **What are exhortations?**
(Encouragements, prompting them to obey the Lord and turn from sin. Exhortations to do the right thing and to tell others about the Lord.)

Discuss Luke 3:21, 22 before Verses 19, 20

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

1. **John was baptizing all the people who repented, but who else was baptized?** (Jesus.)
2. **We have learned that Jesus was without sin. Why do you think he wanted to be baptized?** (Discuss: In obedience to his heavenly Father, to be a model for us in what we should do.)
3. **What happened when Jesus prayed after he was baptized?** (Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came on him, like a dove.)
4. A voice came from heaven. **What did God say?** (“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”)

Discuss Luke 3:19, 20

1. **What happened to John when he rebuked King Herod and his wife for their evil ways?** (He was put into prison.) **Do you think John was important to God? Why?**

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick

John's baptism: one of repentance and forgiveness. And our new behavior, turning from sin and living our lives in a godly way.

Jesus's baptism: one of Holy Spirit empowerment to do ministry and kingdom advancement: Repentance-Forgiveness-Holy Spirit empowerment and then serving him with our lives wherever we are!

Both baptisms are important for us! For forgiveness and empowerment to do ministry for him.

Prayer: Jesus, We are thankful for John. He was very brave. He preached about you to everyone and told them to repent and live their lives for you. Help us to do the things that John taught the people to do. And help us to live our lives for you as he did. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Family Challenge:

1. **If we asked John what we should do, what do you think he would say to us?**
(Discuss.)

If we are repentant:

- Stay in your jobs — do them well. **What does this mean at your age?**
- Care for others
- Share with others
- Don't be cruel
- Just be honest and don't take advantage of others
- Be content with what you have
- And, if you haven't already, repent of your sins and be baptized!

2. Together, watch the story on YouTube - **John Baptizes Jesus:**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMzIB185JSc