

CLOSER LOOK

A LIFEGROUP STUDY ON THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE



LABELS
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE
LUKE 3:1-18
MAY 15, 2022

MAIN POINT

THE GOSPEL CALLS US TO A LIFE ABOVE LABELS

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How has the Luke study been going? What have you liked about it? Are there any challenges you are experiencing? Has it helped you get into a more consistent habit of reading God's Word?

UNDERSTANDING

Review the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says about a particular topic.

Have a volunteer read Luke 3:1-6

What is the significance of Luke writing verses 1 and 2?

Luke wanted to document with precision the time in which John began preaching and Jesus began His ministry. Luke wrote this prior to the Roman Calendar being established, so dates were typically related to when rulers were established. This particular timeframe would have been approximately A.D. 29 plus or minus a year. Tying Jesus' events to history is one way we know Jesus is real, and the events actually occurred.

What is the significance of John quoting Isaiah 40:3-5 in verses 4-6?

John was connecting the Old Testament writings of Isaiah to Jesus, so that people could see that the prophesy is being fulfilled. He was declaring Isaiah's prophesy is being fulfilled in Jesus coming to bring salvation to His people. This would have been a very significant event for Israel.

Have a volunteer read Luke 3:7-14

In v7, what was John saying to the people when he called them a "Brood of Vipers"?

He was basically telling the people of Israel that they had become the seed of the Serpent (Gen. 3:15). The people of Israel were beginning to incorrectly think they were reconciled to God simply by their heritage of being God's chosen people (see verse 8 reference "Children of Abraham").

What does it look like to "bear fruits in keeping with repentance"?

Answers will vary, but the point is that living in repentance means we'll bear spiritual fruit. It is impossible to bear spiritual fruit unless we are in Christ. In other words, spiritual fruit is different from good deeds.

Have a volunteer read Luke 3:15-18

In v15, what was the crowd's perception of John, and what does that indicate about John's ministry?

They began wondering if John was the Christ which was a significant claim for people to make. This seems to indicate he spoke with authority and people were taking notice of his ministry. Later, Jesus stated that John was the greatest of all people born of women (Luke 7:28). John was having a large influence on many people in Israel.

What did John mean when he said that Jesus would baptize with "the Holy Spirit and fire"?

The people would know Jesus is the Christ when He baptized with the Holy Spirit, and this occurred at Pentecost 40 days after He was resurrected. Fire in the Old Testament often represented God's presence. Fire both purifies (Mal. 3:2-3) and destroys (Rev. 20:15).

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives.

When looking at your own personal ministry and the people you are trying to reach, what things have you learned from reading about John's ministry?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take a moment to ask your group if there are any prayer requests.

Please consider praying for the following:

- Our Neighbors: We will invite our neighbors to Lifepoint Church and intentionally seek opportunities for gospel conversations
- Our Nations: Peace in Ukraine and opening of borders so that we can begin
- Our Next Generation: Due to significant growth in Lifepoint Kids, we are in need of at least 30 people will commit to serving for 12 months or longer
- Our Church Body: We will be a people who lives differently than the world and continuously grow in knowledge and sanctification in Jesus Christ

PRAY WITH YOUR GROUP

Pray over your group's prayer requests:

God, Thank you for Your Word and the people who You divinely inspired to write Your Word. Your Word reveals who You are, and You never had to do that. But because You want to be known by us, and because of Your love for us, we are blessed with the Bible. Help us to be bold in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the World Like John the Baptist was in His day- Amen.

LP REMINDERS

Please encourage everyone to register for the following items under the "Events" tab on the Lifepoint App or LPGuest.com

- May 22: Baptisms
- May 22: Discovering Life Membership Class
- May 25: Night of Worship (Lewis Center Campus Hosting) at 7:00PM
- June 12: Starting Point
- Jun 19: Core Beliefs

MEMORIZE

“John answered them all saying, ‘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. We will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’” Luke 3:16