



## 1) Following Jesus - Luke 3:1-14 - Have I Truly Repented?

The ministry of John the baptist shows us that we cannot even begin to talk about following Jesus until we truly repent, to turn away, from myself. Have I truly done that? Do I even see that I need to?

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

1. **(Do something like this everyone week)** Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share about what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?
2. What are your own observations, lessons, or questions you have after hearing the sermon this week?
3. After you have read through verse 6, which part of John's message did you, or do you, need to realize the most-the message that forgiveness is available to everyone or the message that repentance is needed by everyone? Why?
4. What would your honest reaction be if you were in the crowd and heard verse 7? What about verses 8-9?
5. After reading verses 10-14, what does your bank account and transactions, and the way you use or spend your resources say about you? Does your life show that you have repented (turned away) from YOU or not?

6. Which of the following best describes you right now: 1. I'm living my life traveling in my own direction on my own (It's all me) 2. I'm living my life, but I have Jesus with me and he even influences my decisions (It's Jesus and me) 3. I have turned away from me altogether, and am following Jesus INSTEAD of me (It's all Jesus)

7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

## 2) Following Jesus - Luke 3:15-22 - Is Repentance Enough?

John the Baptist continues his ministry of preparing people for Jesus as he speaks of what Jesus will bring to our lives that his baptism couldn't do. John just baptized with water, but Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

1. **(Do something like this everyone week)** Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share about what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?

2. What are your own observations, lessons, or questions you have after hearing the sermon this week?

3. According to verses 15-16, why is Jesus so much superior to John?

4. Let's talk about the Holy Spirit first. What do you know about the Holy Spirit and how He works in the lives of believers? (After sharing, check out Ezekiel 36:25, Titus 3:3-7, John 14:12,16,26, John 16:7, Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22, Romans 8:9-16 and discuss what these passages say about the work of the Holy Spirit)

5. Now let's talk about fire. What do you know about how God refines believers with fire and how that works in the lives of believers? (after sharing, check out Malachi 3:1-4, Zechariah 13:8-9, Isaiah 48:10, Hosea 6:1, Psalm 66:10-12, 1 Peter 1:6-7 and discuss what these passages say about how God refines and why)

6. Read verses 17-18. How have you personally seen the Holy Spirit work in an area of your life to make you able to follow Jesus more fully? How have you personally seen fire being used in your life to burn away the chaff (you) so only wheat (Jesus) is left?

7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

### 3) Following Jesus - Luke 3:23-38 - Jesus: The Example of True Humanity

While Matthew's genealogy shows the royal heritage of Jesus, Luke's genealogy goes all the way back to Adam emphasizing His humanity. Jesus was fully God, fully man, but chose not to operate as God. Not only is Jesus a man, but He's more human than we are - and that has huge implications for how we follow Him.

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

1. (Do something like this everyone week) Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share about what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?
2. What are your own observations, lessons, or questions you have after hearing the sermon this week?
3. In what ways is Luke's genealogy different than Matthew's? What is Luke trying to show us about Jesus?
4. Jesus was thirty when He started his ministry. He had an ordinary job and experienced loss like we do. It is it hard for you to imagine Jesus being human like we are?
5. Read Acts 10:38. How did Jesus perform miracles? What purpose did they serve? Were they to show that Jesus was divine?
6. How is sin connected to being human? Does sinning make us more or less human? Read Hebrews 2:14-17. Do you believe that Jesus became like us in every way?
7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

## 4) Following Jesus - Luke 4:1-13 - Following Jesus Through Temptation

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

1. (Do something like this everyone week) Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share about what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?
2. What are your own observations, lessons, or questions you have after hearing the sermon this week?
3. What are your thoughts about Hebrews 2:17-18 and Hebrews 4:15-16?
4. In verses 1-2 (compare with Matthew 4:1), what do you think about the Spirit leading Jesus into a place to be tempted? Why would He do that?
5. In verse 3-12, go through each temptation? How was Jesus being tempted? Why would it be so tempting for Jesus to sin in each case? How did Jesus walk in victory?
6. How have you been tempted to leave the will of God in order to get what you feel like you need, want, or desire at times? How have you been tempted to leave serving God alone when to do so would be very difficult to do? How have you been tempted to make decisions because you weren't sure God was still involved in your life?
7. How does really BELIEVING what God says in His Word make a difference in how we respond to temptation?
8. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

## 5) Following Jesus - Luke 4:14-21 - The Mission of Jesus

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

1. Do something like this every week! Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, and play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?
2. Read Luke 4:14-21. What stands out to you? What challenges you? What encourages you? Is there anything you might have questions about?
3. Here we see Jesus telling his hometown what he is all about, the purpose or mission of his life and newly started ministry. What is his purpose or mission?
4. We frequently call the mission of Jesus the "gospel". We talked this week about how understanding sin is the first step in understanding how Jesus deals with sin? What is sin? What does it do? If you would like to use the "4 things" about sin here they are.
  1. Everyone has sin in their life (Romans 3:23)
  2. Sin is our master we are its slave (John 8:34, Romans 6:6)
  3. Sin gives us only one thing, death (Romans 6:23, James 1:15)
  4. There is nothing we can do about (Ephesians 2:1-8)
5. Now how did Jesus deal with sin? We talked about Jesus being our substitute (taking our place) and ransom (paying our penalty). He did this by doing three things! Have fun talking about how Jesus dealt with and defeated sin.
  1. Jesus lived the life we couldn't live
  2. Jesus died the death we should have died
  3. Jesus gave us a new life we did not deserve
6. As we follow Jesus it's our job to remember that Jesus fixed our sin problem! It is also our job to proclaim to others how he has done that in our lives! Take some time as a group to share what Jesus has done for you!
7. What is one thing you want to remember from this week? Who is one person you can share that one thing with?