

Wednesday

Read Luke 3:5a *Getting level*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What valleys and mountains have you faced in these past months?*
2. *What have you learned about God's grace as you traveled in the rough places?*

Prayer Focus Gracious One, we long for a time when the world is a smooth and even playing field, that everyone has a chance to see you, welcome you, and thrive. Help us transform the obstacles so we can see your way.

Thursday

Read Luke 3:5b *Preparing the way*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How might the way be made smoother for you? For our community?*
2. *What part could you play in preparing the way for others to move closer to God?*

Prayer Focus We've had rough times, and we've sometimes created crooked ways that you never meant for us to travel. We commit ourselves once again to listening with the ears of servants, seeing others through your eyes, and waiting for our hearts to be reconciled to you.

Friday

Read Luke 3:6 *The Word is for everyone*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does it matter that all living beings should see God's salvation?*
2. *Take time to reflect on how we are meant to be partners with God's saving grace.*

Prayer Focus It's hard to wait, Redeemer. We want tangible results, right now. Give us the patience to wait, to pray for your word coming into our wilderness. Help us join hands as we wait, so we can share in preparation for the fulfillment of your promise.

Preparation

Pastor's message: Luke 3:1-6 In the wilderness of our life we learn to depend on God and are invited to be transformed.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *How are you setting aside time this week to focus on preparing room in your heart for Christ's coming?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Luke 3:1-6**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



PREPARATION December 5, 2021

Monday

Read Luke 3:1-2 *John hears God's word*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think it was important to Luke to set the time and list all these names? Of the people he names, which ones do you think received the word of God?*
2. *Is there any place of wilderness in your life today? Would you expect to hear God's word for you there?*

Prayer Focus Creator, you are beyond all time, history, rulers, and human limits. Speak to us again through the love you showed when you came to be the Word among us. Be with us in the wilderness of our lives today.

Tuesday

Read Luke 3:3-4 *John fulfills the prophecies*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *If John wanted people to listen, why do think he wandered in the wilderness rather than live in a city?*
2. *Advent is all about waiting. Take time to reconnect and wait quietly for God's voice.*

Prayer Focus Let us hear the voice of anyone that calls us back to you. Turn us back to you, to face you for connection and for forgiveness. Baptize us again, make us straight paths in preparation to welcome you into our hearts once more. Transform us, O God.

