

## Wednesday

Read Luke 3:15-16 *One more powerful is coming....*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How might John have felt knowing that he was only the 'opening act' for the Messiah? to think that he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandal?
2. What is the difference between baptism with water and baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire? Which baptism have you experienced? How do you claim your baptism?

### Prayer Focus

Pray to claim the empowerment of your baptism with humility appropriate to your role in God's reign.

## Thursday *With winnowing fork, he will gather wheat; burn*

*chaff* Read Luke 3:17-18

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How are you utilizing your spiritual gifts to grow "wheat"?
2. Are there attitudes, opinions, critique, that would be healthy to burn in order to make room for Christ-like perspectives?

**Prayer Focus** Honestly confess any "chaff" in your heart and life. Invite a cleansing of those attitudes, etc. that are not Christ-like, making room for God to birth fresh perspectives.

## Friday *He proclaimed the good news.*

Read Luke 3:7-18

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What God-given gifts do you have that are bearing fruit?  
Are some of your gifts lying fallow? If so, why?
2. How is John's call to share our gifts 'good news'?

### Prayer Focus

Give thanks for your spiritual gifts and commit to offering those gifts in new ways to further Christ's ministry.

## Responding to Grace: Gifts

*Christians offer our gifts to the church for a number of reasons. We believe that good comes of what we give. (For instance, the hypothetical person who receives a coat in scripture will be warm, the one who receives food, fed.) Beyond communal transformation, we believe in the possibility for spiritual transformation. When we tithe, we remember that all that we have is a gift from God – meant to be shared. We begin to free ourselves of entitlement. We also are afforded the opportunity to detach from all that is transient and temporary, which reminds us that the apocalyptic tone of John the Baptist's words are Good News. All of this will pass away, but the Lord is coming soon!*

### Message Notes:

## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What gift have you received this week? What spiritual gift have you offered to another?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Luke 3:7-18.

- Have someone read **Luke 3:7-18**.
- 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)

December 9, 2018

## Gifts

**Monday** *Bear fruits worthy of repentance.*

**Read Luke 3:7-9**

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What type of fruit gives evidence of true repentance, a turning from sin and turning to God?
2. Why is it necessary that trees that do not bear good fruit are cut down and thrown into the fire?

### Prayer Focus

Examine actions and words of the past day. How have you born fruit that is evidence of repentance? Confess actions that were not worthy. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you to change in ways that bear fruit.

**Tuesday** *What then should we do?*

**Read Luke 3:10-14**

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How does the command to share one of your two coats with someone who has no coats feel?
2. What does this passage say about how Christians should treat those who are marginalized?

### Prayer Focus

Pray for those who have no coats. Pray for the integrity of our systems that no one would be exploited for personal gain of the powerful.

