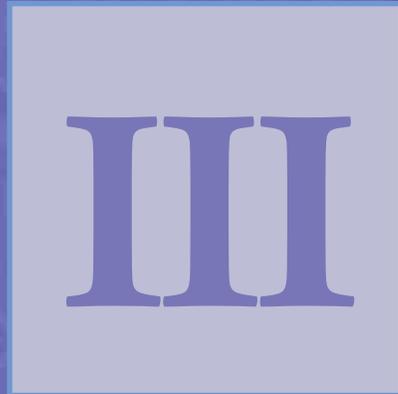
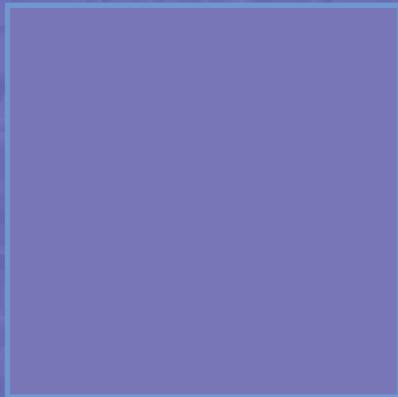


C H A P T E R



1. Please read the chapter at least twice before starting the study guide.
2. Luke dates the ministry of John the Baptist in very specific detail. Fill in the blanks.
 Luke 3:1-2 English Standard Version
“In the fifteenth year of the reign of _____ when _____ was governor of Judea, and _____ tetrarch of Galilee, his brother _____ tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis, and _____ tetrarch of Abilene-2 during the high-priesthood of _____ and _____, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness.”
3. Luke was giving us more than a chronological setting; this information and a bit of research can help us understand something of the times.
 Tiberius was an emperor, known for his cruelty and severity. Pontius Pilate was also renowned for his brutal massacres of the Jewish people in Judea. The rulers from the family of Herod the Great were known for their corruption and cruelty. With all this, Luke reminds, both his original readers and readers today, of the corruption and moral degradation of the Roman Empire, even in the distant provinces like Judea.
 Why do you believe it is important for us to know the character of the men who ruled at that time?
4. All of the people, living in the vast region of the Mediterranean Sea, were subjects of Rome. Here, we see the government leaders and the religious leaders.
 What are the three roles of government leaders mentioned in Luke 3:1?
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5. What is the role of spiritual leaders mentioned in Luke 3:2?
 What, might one assume, would be the character of a high priest?
 If you have a few minutes, try to find some information on these two spiritual leaders. Were they men who led God’s people well?
6. Read Luke 3:3, John the Baptist preached a very clear and simple message. What was it?
7. There was nothing complicated or difficult to understand about John’s message. Define the word “baptism.”
 Write verse 3, in your own words, using your definition of baptism.
8. According to Luke 3:4-6, what was God’s assignment for John?
9. How inclusive was this invitation of salvation?

10. John's preaching was not hard to understand. He warned them to flee from the _____.
11. We have said it many times before, "...fruit is the proof." If we repent, we are forgiven and given the gift of God's Spirit. What 'fruit' do you believe John was talking about?
Read Psalm 34:18 and Psalm 51:17 to help with your answer.

Psalm 34:18 KJV

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalm 51:17 KJV

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

These words, broken and contrite, suggest a completely broken vessel, which has been crushed. When we get to the point of utter sorrow over our sin and humbled at the thought of God's redeeming grace, he will meet us and save us. We will see a change. There will be fruit.

12. If God's Spirit is in us, then we should begin to see some of the fruit or the proof of his Spirit. Are you seeing evidence of His Spirit in you?

Read Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

13. In his preaching, John told those listening to him, being a descendant of Abraham was not enough. They should not rely on their heritage. According to verse 8, if all God wanted were more descendants of Abraham, what could he have done?

14. Think about your answer to the last question. Do you believe Luke is speaking literally or figuratively?
Look up Genesis 2:7.

15. Read Ephesians 2:8-9
Salvation is, and always has been, by_____ There are no exceptions.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

16. Define the word 'grace.'
17. In Luke 3:10-14, who are the three groups who have arrived with a question for John?
- -
 -

18. What question did they each ask? Write their question and John's reply below.

The question	John's reply

19. As I read Luke 3:10-14, I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses, Micah 6:8 *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

This is a very good verse to memorize.

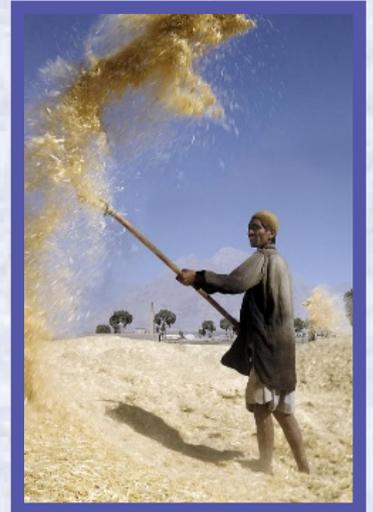
20. The people had not heard this type of clear teaching on repentance for many years. Who did they think John just might be?

21. John was very quick to speak up and clarify. What did he say about himself?

The task of untying a sandal was done by the lowliest of all servants; for the purpose of washing the guests' feet before relaxing in the home of a friend.

22. For us to understand what John meant when he said Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire, we must consider the word picture he paints in verse 17.

Winnowing is a process to separate the chaff from grain, using the wind. A man would stick his winnowing fork in the grain pile and toss it in the air. The wind would blow the lighter chaff away and the grain would fall in a pile below.



When the worker finished his winnowing, he would gather the wheat and then burn the chaff. The Holy Spirit does the winnowing of souls. I hope this helps you better understand John's message.

Day Three

23. Luke flashes forward in John's ministry to mention just how this style of preaching went over with those listening. John did not mince words. He simply spoke truth, no matter who was in his audience.

What happened to John, when he rebuked Herod and Herodias?

24. Which of Herod's sins did John speak out against?

Didn't he realize these are two very powerful people?

25. Luke 3:20 says Herod added this to his list of sins. Spend a few minutes thinking about this. What was it he added to the list?

26. Let me ask you one more time. What message had God given John to share?

When the opportunity presents itself, what is the loving thing to do?

Do we speak truth; or do we overlook, making excuse for someone's sinful behavior?

When God calls us to speak should we weigh out the consequences or simply obey?

Ephesians 4:15 TPT "...we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth..."

27. Did you notice what Jesus was doing, as he was being baptized?

Have you ever noticed this before?

I had not. So often we see Jesus stop and pray.

What do you believe Jesus might have been talking to the Father about that day?

28. Write the Father's reply?

29. How good it is to feel The Father's pleasure?

We do not hear the audible voice of God, but we can feel his pleasure.

When do you feel God's pleasure?

30. How old was Jesus when he started his ministry?

31. What were you doing when you were this age?

If that is still in the future for you, what do you see yourself doing when you are 30 years old?

32. Using the list found in Luke 3:23-38, highlight any names you recognize. How many of the 76 names did you recognize and remember something about?

33. In Luke's list, showing Jesus family tree, who was Jesus' earthly father?

34. The Jews kept extensive genealogies, to establish a person's heritage and inheritance. How far back does Luke trace Jesus's family tree?

35. Matthew's gospel also establishes Jesus as the rightful heir to David's throne. What had God promised King David?

Read the verses and highlight God's promise.

2 Samuel 7:16

"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

1 Kings 9:5

"I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David, your father, when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'"

2 Chronicles 6:16

"Now, LORD, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David, my father, the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me according to my law, as you have done.'"

2 Chronicles 7:18

“I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David, your father, when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor to rule over Israel.’”

36. Think for just a few minutes, after reading the verses listed in question 34. How do we know none of David’s other descendants were the one promised to sit on his throne, forever? Where are these descendants today?

37. In what way was Jesus different from all of David’s other descendants, before him?

John 10:17-18

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.”

38. In your Bible, use a pink highlighter to mark the five women mentioned in Matthew 1, the genealogy of Christ.

It is very unusual to see women mentioned in Jewish genealogies. At least two of these women were not Israelites by birth; some had sad and sordid backgrounds. The one thing they all had in common was, they were all sinners.

Why do you suppose these women were mentioned?

Women named

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

39. Read 1 John 4:14, *“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”*

What is John’s testimony concerning Jesus’ purpose for coming to earth?

Who does this purpose include?

40. How many generations of your own family line are you familiar with?

Do you know much about their lives or their character?

41. Is there a family trait or character quality you most want to carry on?

42. Now think of your descendants.

What do you want them to know about you?

What would you like to be remembered for?

46. The kinsman-redeemer spoken of in the Old Testament is a male relative who, according to various laws of the Pentateuch, had the privilege or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need. The “nearest kinsman” or “kinsman redeemer” is translated from the Hebrew word, Ga'al. The word means to redeem, receive, or buy back. Look up Leviticus 25:47-48 and, in your own words, explain the kinsman redeemer.
47. The story of Ruth has a very important connection with the story of Jesus. In the New Testament, Christ is regarded as our kinsman-redeemer because of our great need; this is a need that only He can satisfy. In Ruth 3:9, we see a beautiful picture of the needy supplicant, who had no way to rescue herself. She requested the kinsman-redeemer to cover her with his protection, redeem her, and make her his wife. In the same way, the Lord Jesus Christ bought us for Himself, out of the curse, and made us His own beloved bride. He is the true kinsman-redeemer of all who call on Him in faith.
- How do you feel knowing you have a kinsman-redeemer?
Jesus is our kinsman-redeemer.
48. Let's look at one last Old Testament reference for the kinsman redeemer. Look up Job 19:25-27. Despite the trials Job was enduring, he knew one thing for certain. What was the truth that gave Job the strength to not lose hope?
49. Read Genesis 17:7-8
What type of covenant did God make with Abraham?
(You might want to underline this in your Bible.)
50. Choose three names from those you highlighted in question 32 and write a sentence or two about each. Describe their character or tell of an event in which they were an instrumental figure.

Name:	Name:	Name:

51. Of all the characters we looked at in Luke 3, which one did you enjoy the most?
Why? What did you enjoy about studying them?
52. Which character quality would you like to see more of in your walk of faith?

