

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ The repentant sinner is the forgiven saint. Let's do the spiritual work, in community, of leveling the mountains or hills, filling the valleys, straightening the crooked places, and smoothing the rough roads in our lives.
- ✚ A life rightly aligned with our trinitarian God will possess an authentic social concern and an ethical track record vocationally.
- ✚ The Heavenly Father greatly delights in ALL of His beloved children!

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HEART

- ✚ John the Baptist told people not to rely on their ancestry as Abraham's descendants for salvation. What false securities or cultural connections might we wrongly depend on instead of a personal relationship with Jesus?
- ✚ How can we conduct ourselves ethically and morally in industries or workplaces where unethical behavior is the norm, without having to leave those vocations entirely?

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HEART

- ✚ The sermon emphasized that repentance requires community and cannot be done alone. How comfortable are you being transparent and vulnerable about your sins with other believers?
- ✚ What mountains, valleys, crooked places, or rough roads in your life need to be leveled, filled, straightened, or smoothed to prepare the way for Jesus to work more fully in your heart?

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HEART

- ✚ John the Baptist warned against fruitless trees being cut down and burned. What fruit of repentance is evident in your life that demonstrates your faith is genuine? Is there an example?
- ✚ How does understanding that God's love for you causes Him to delight in you change the way you view yourself and your relationship with Him?

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HEART

- ✚ What does it mean practically to share with those who have nothing, as John instructed, and how does our vertical relationship with God show up in our horizontal relationships with others?
- ✚ Herod responded to John's message by imprisoning him rather than repenting. What are some ways we might try to silence conviction or make problems go away instead of genuinely repenting?

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
- ✚ Option 1: Repentance Inventory
 - ✚ Set aside 30 minutes to pray and ask God: "Where do I need to repent?"
 - ✚ Write down what comes to mind (thoughts, attitudes, behaviors)
 - ✚ Share with one trusted person and ask them to hold you accountable.

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
- ✚ Option 2: Ethical Excellence
 - ✚ Identify one area at work (or school/home) where you're tempted to cut corners or compromise
 - ✚ Commit to "doing the next right thing" in that area this week, even if others don't
 - ✚ Journal about the experience

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
- ✚ Option 3: Generous Living
 - ✚ Take inventory of your "excess" (clothes, food, money, time, skills)
 - ✚ Give away or share something with someone who has less
 - ✚ Reflect on how this act of generosity connects to repentance child, and He delights in me"

– Luke 3:1-22 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
 - ✚ Option 4: Delight Meditation
 - ✚ Each morning this week, start your day by saying: "I am God's beloved child, and He delights in me"
 - ✚ Notice how this truth affects your thoughts, emotions, and choices throughout the day
- 3: Generous Livingchild, and He delights in me"

– Luke 3:1-22 –




FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: The Call to Authentic Repentance

Reading: Luke 3:1-9


 **Devotional:** John the Baptist's message cuts through religious pretense with startling clarity: "Produce fruit consistent with repentance." Repentance isn't merely feeling sorry or making religious gestures—it's a complete reorientation of mind, heart, and action. John warns against relying on spiritual heritage or cultural Christianity. We cannot be grandfathered into the kingdom because our parents believed or because we attend church regularly. God desires personal, authentic transformation. Today, examine your life honestly. Are there areas where you've substituted religious activity for genuine change? What mountains of pride, valleys of despair, or crooked paths of compromise need leveling in your heart? True repentance begins when we stop making excuses and start producing fruit that demonstrates we've truly changed our minds about sin and embraced God's way.

– Luke 3:1-22 –



Day 2: Repentance in the Marketplace

Reading: Luke 3:10-14; Colossians 3:23-24

 **Devotional:** When tax collectors and soldiers asked John what repentance looked like for them, he didn't tell them to quit their jobs. Instead, he called them to ethical conduct within corrupt systems. This is revolutionary: you don't need to abandon your workplace to honor God; you need to behave differently within it. Repentance shows up Monday through Friday, in how we bill clients, treat colleagues, and handle resources. When everyone around you cuts corners, misrepresents facts, or exploits others, your integrity becomes a powerful witness. Vertical alignment with God produces horizontal transformation in relationships and work. Consider your vocational life today. Are you conducting yourself with impeccable ethics, or have you adopted the questionable practices of your industry? Authentic faith doesn't retreat from difficult environments—it transforms them through consistent, moral living that honors Christ.

– Luke 3:1-22 –



Day 3: The Beloved Identity

Reading: Luke 3:21-22; 1 John 3:1-3


🌟 **Devotional:** At Jesus' baptism, the Father declared, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The profound truth hidden in this statement is that God's delight flows from His love. Because Jesus is beloved, the Father is pleased. This same dynamic applies to us. As God's adopted children, we are beloved, and that love causes God to delight in us—not because we've achieved perfection, but because love precedes performance. You may have walked through life questioning whether God is truly pleased with you, cataloging your failures and shortcomings. But hear this today: whom the Father loves, He delights in. Your belovedness isn't earned through flawless behavior; it's a gift of grace. Rest in this identity. Let it transform how you see yourself and approach God—not as a disappointed judge, but as a Father who cherishes you.

– Luke 3:1-22 –



Day 4: Sharing Is Caring

Reading: Luke 3:10-11; James 2:14-17

 **Devotional:** John's practical instruction was simple yet profound: "The one who has two shirts must share with the one who has none." Authentic repentance manifests in generous living. When our hearts are rightly aligned with God vertically, it inevitably shows up horizontally in how we treat others. The cruciform gospel—loving God and loving neighbor—isn't merely theological theory; it's daily practice. Examine your life today. Do you hoard resources while others lack basic necessities? Do you accumulate excess while remaining blind to legitimate needs around you? True transformation moves us from self-centered consumption to others-centered compassion. Sharing isn't just about money—it's time, attention, skills, and presence. Ask God to open your eyes to someone in your community who needs what you have in abundance. Then act. Because sharing truly is caring, and generosity is the fruit of genuine repentance.

– Luke 3:1-22 –



Day 5: Baptism by Spirit and Fire

Reading: Luke 3:15-18; Acts 2:1-4

🌟 **Devotional:** John distinguished his water baptism from Jesus' baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire." This dual baptism represents both blessing and judgment—the Spirit for those who repent and receive Christ, eternal fire for those who reject Him. For believers, Spirit baptism brings empowerment, transformation, and God's indwelling presence. The same Spirit who descended on Jesus at His baptism comes to dwell in us, commissioning us for kingdom work. But this passage also reminds us of urgency: the winnowing fork is in Jesus' hand. The wheat will be gathered; the chaff will burn. This isn't meant to terrify but to motivate. Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit—the transforming presence of God in your life? Are there people in your sphere who need to hear the gospel before it's too late? Live today with both gratitude for the Spirit's presence and urgency about sharing the good news with those still separated from God.

– Luke 3:1-22 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Abba, thank you that You delight in us despite our triflingness. Encourage us to be honest about areas needing repentance. We desire to live ethically in unethical environments, strengthen us so that we can live out our values. Holy Spirit empower genuine life change in us for Your glory. Amen.

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