



PRODIGAL GOD

Discussion Guide

14-WEEK STUDY

IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

WEEK 2

Discussion Guide

Luke 3:1-38



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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Luke 3:1-38

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To better understand John's ministry; appreciate the beauty and significance of baptism

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you have been baptized, share your baptism story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you read **Luke 3:1-38** last week? What stood out to you as you read? Also, is there anything from Sunday's sermon that you'd like to discuss?
2. Last week, Pastor Doug pointed out four themes that show up repeatedly throughout the Gospel of Luke: **(1)** connections to the Old Testament, **(2)** joy and rejoicing, **(3)** salvation and blessing, and **(4)** reversal of fortunes (changed life). As a group, scan Luke 3:1-22 and discuss examples of those themes.
3. In **verses 11-14**, different groups of people asked John what they should do as evidence of their repentance. As you read John's responses, what common themes do you see in his instructions?
4. In **verse 18**, Luke tells us that John was preaching "good news" to the people. As you think about what John was preaching, how do you think his message can be understood as good news?
5. In **verses 4-6**, Luke quotes a passage of Old Testament prophecy from **Isaiah 40**, which was originally intended as a message of hope and comfort to the people of Judah who had been exiled to Babylon. In it, God is telling His people, "I am going to deliver you from your suffering." Why do you think Luke chooses to include this reference while describing John's ministry? Note: It might be helpful to have the group turn to **Isaiah 40** and read **verses 1-5** and reflect on the words of comfort and hope.
6. Sometimes people have wondered why, if John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, did Jesus get baptized (since He was without sin and had no need to repent). Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized by John? What significant details do you notice about Jesus' baptism?
7. Although we often emphasize God's grace and mercy expressed through the ministry of Jesus, His ministry is also characterized by a call to repent (a changed mind that leads to a changed life). How has your life changed since you became a follower of Jesus?
8. Pastor Doug shared four spiritual realities represented by baptism: **(1)** Christ's death and resurrection, **(2)** our union with Christ in His death and resurrection, **(3)** our new life in Christ, and **(4)** the cleansing/washing away of our sin. Which of those stands out to you as you reflect on your own faith journey?

