

SERMON SERIES ON LUKE:
GOD THE SON, SON OF MAN



John the Baptizer

Our Fellow Forerunner

STUDY GUIDE • LUKE 3:1–20

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Luke 3:1–20

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested Icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to share an experience they have either watching a prequel of a movie or reading a prequel to a novel. How did the prequel affect the movie or the novel? How important is the prequel in introducing the main content?

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- [Build My Life](#)
- [Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will be accountable to one another as they grow in spiritual maturity.
2. GG members will receive Christ or affirm him as their Lord and Savior.
3. GG members will encourage and support each other as they suffer in the name of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

In our passage, we see John focused on fulfilling his calling from the Lord, as prophesied by the angel Gabriel. He fearlessly proclaimed the truth of God's word, even if it meant facing opposition and suffering. Similarly, Christians who know their calling and follow it live fearless lives, even in face of opposition and suffering. Let's take a look at how this was true in the life of John the baptizer.

John preached a message of repentance (vv. 1-14)

John knew that his calling was to prepare the nation of Israel to receive her Messiah. So, he preached a message of repentance, calling people to confess their sins and turn from their wicked ways. God's work of salvation in a person's life does not stop with justification, but continues on to sanctification.

1. What message did John proclaim in the region around the Jordan?
How did this fulfill the prophecies made concerning him?
(cf. Luke 1:16-17, 76-77; Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6)
2. Luke quoted from Isaiah 40:3-5 and ascribed this prophecy to John.
How did John fulfill this prophecy? (cf. John 1:19-23)
3. What is the "wrath to come" that John mentioned? (cf. Romans 1:18; Hebrews 10:26-27)
4. According to John, how can one escape the coming wrath? What false thinking did he accuse the Jews of? (cf. John 8:39-47; Romans 4:11-17; Galatians 3:28-29)

WORD & WALK:

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5. By teaching the people to do good works, was John preaching a message of salvation by works? (cf. James 2:14-16)

Application

1. What are areas in your life where God is at work, sanctifying you to become more like Jesus Christ? How can the GG help keep you accountable?

John declared that Jesus Christ was much greater than him (vv. 15-17)

The Jews, upon seeing and hearing John, thought that he might be the promised Messiah. But John differentiated himself from Jesus Christ, who unlike him, is both God and man. He alone is able to save people from sin and death, and he will one day judge all humankind.

1. How did John describe Jesus? How is He greater than John? (cf. John 1:1-18; Colossians 1:15-16)
2. What did John mean when he said that Jesus will baptize people with the Holy Spirit? (cf. Acts 2:1-4)
3. What did John mean when he said that Jesus will baptize people with fire? (cf. Malachi 3:2-3; Luke 17:29-30)
4. What determines whether Jesus will baptize a person with the Holy Spirit or with fire?

Application

1. Have you come to a point in your life where you accepted Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? If not, what is keeping you from making that decision?

John was imprisoned because of what he preached (vv. 18-20)

John was fearless in preaching the truth of God's word. He was willing to be persecuted and suffer for the message of the gospel. His focus is not

WORD & WALK:

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on his circumstances, but upon the delight of the One whom he serves.

1. What is the “good news” that John preached to the people?
2. Why was he imprisoned by Herod? (cf. Matthew 14:3-4; Mark 6:17-18)
3. What does the life of John the baptizer, Jesus Christ, and the apostles tell us about the kind of life believers will face here on earth? (cf. John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:12)

Application

1. How have you suffered because of your faith and calling in Jesus Christ? Share with the group what helps you to patiently endure suffering in the name of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER ITEM

Pray for one another that you continue to be sanctified and become more and more like Jesus Christ. Pray for those who are facing persecution and suffering because of their faith. Pray that believers around the world be given the same courage and boldness that John displayed in sharing the good news of the gospel to those who need it.



Your feedback is important to us.

Do you find this study guide helpful in leading your growth group? If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://gcf.link/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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