



Week of December 9, 2018

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,

² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. When did you learn the truth about Santa Claus? Did that affect you?
- B. Was there ever a time when you did a project without paying attention to the instructions and had to start over?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Who might the "One" be who is crying out in the wilderness? (Hint: it isn't necessarily John.)
2. Have you ever thought much about the historical references provided by Luke? What purpose might they serve? Do you think that every sentence in the Bible is purposeful or is there any "filler" just because the words were composed by humans? Why do you believe what you do?
3. How does the image of John the Baptist wearing a shirt of camel hair and eating locusts and wild honey affect your view of him? It is not present in Luke's gospel. How does omitting it affect your view of John?
4. What does "repentance" mean to you? How do you practice repentance? Why do people need to repent before Jesus arrives?
- 5a. What secular/worldly values have you brought with you into your Christian faith? Which absolute Christian values most conflict with worldly values?
- 5b. Should worship spaces have an American flag on display? Why could this be a problem?
6. What is a worldly value that you hold that is an impediment to following Christ?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers for areas in your lives where you need to make greater room for Jesus.