

Study of Luke Ch. 3

Share the Gospel

Opening

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being worst and 10 being best, how would you rate each of the following?

What has been an unexpected blessing during this time of social distancing, stay at home order, and COVID-19?

Study

Today we are going to talk about sharing the gospel message with others. One of our jobs as Christians who love our neighbor as yourself is to share the gospel story and how that plays out in our life with others. We will look at John the Baptist in Luke 3 and how he prepares the way for the Lord. This will seed our discussion of how we can prepare the way of the Lord as well!

Read [Luke 3:1-22](#).

First of all, what is the deal with all these names?

Luke reminds us of the special role that John is to play for God's kingdom. What is his role (v.4-6)? This prophecy comes from Isaiah the prophet some 700 years before!

In verse 7, John addresses the crowd. Who do you think were in the crowds coming to see John? Who else came to see John (v. 12-14)?

Why were people coming to see John (v. 15)?

Preparing the Way of the Lord is a great way to think about what it means to share our faith and the gospel message. This idea implies that it is not us who cause people to believe. We don't save people. We simply help prepare the way for Jesus to come into their life. Sometimes, we don't make that way easy and smooth. Sometimes we make it difficult or even turn people away from the already narrow path to salvation.

If you were going to share the news about Jesus with a crowd, what would you share?

Read verses 7-9. What are your initial reactions to John's words? Why would John use these words?

When we look at other gospels, we see that John was talking to religious leaders and people who had reduced their salvation to an elitist mentality. They believed they were saved by their good words and if that was not enough, they would fall back on the fact that they are descendants of Abraham. Oftentimes, they would make salvation such a burden that common people were left with despair and hopelessness.

In light of this knowledge, are John's words appropriate? Why?

How did people respond (v.10-14)?

When the people expressed a desire to change, what was John's response? How was this message compared to his first message?

Mark of a Disciple: Share the Gospel

Sharing the gospel means helping people hear the message of Jesus. It can be tough to know how to share the gospel with other people. In fact, most people are afraid to share the gospel with others. Many are afraid of saying the wrong thing, turning people away, or failing to change someone's mind. These are all real concerns.

What keeps you from sharing your faith in Jesus with others?

Our fears stem from the knowledge that we are sinful and can fail. That is based on our ability. Earlier, we said that "prepare the way of the Lord" is a better way to look at sharing the gospel. The burden lies on God to change hearts. The burden to save relies on God to save. Our burden is much easier!

What do you think it means for us to prepare the way of the Lord when sharing the gospel?

In St. John's youth ministry, our vision is that youth are "Disciples Making Disciples". This idea is one that takes time to happen. In fact, the idea is that while you are growing as a disciple yourself, you invite others along. Our actions, words, choices, and way of life all point down a path of what life with Jesus can look like. That is why it is important to consider all that we do to have an impact on others. As we say, "As a Christian, you are a leader. You are either leading people towards or away from Jesus." We are responsible for our way of living. That's how the path to faith is laid for others. We have relationships and through those relationships, we make paths toward or away from Jesus.

What ways are you helping to point to Jesus in your life as a disciple? What are some places that can be stumbling blocks for others that point them away from Jesus?

This week, take time each night before bed to reflect on how God used you to point someone to Jesus and how you pointed away from Jesus. Thank God for those moments and ask for forgiveness where you need to. How will you remind yourself to do this? Text each other if you want. Set an alarm. Do something intentional to grow your faith.

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.