SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 3

Prepare the Way of the Lord

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 3:8

"Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 3

God's word skipped the palaces and came to a man in the wilderness, and it can find you wherever you are this week. Luke 3 asks for a repentance you can see — in your wallet, your words and your temper — and then shows you Jesus, the beloved Son, standing in the water with sinners.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Word in the Wilderness

READ · LUKE 3:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who were the powerful people Luke names, and to whom did the word of God actually come, and where (3:1–2)?

REFLECT

God passed by the emperor and the high priest and spoke to John "in the wilderness" (3:2). What wilderness are you in right now, and how might God be speaking to you there?

REFLECT

Isaiah pictures ravines filled and mountains brought low to make a road for the Lord (3:4–5). What pride needs to come down in you, and what empty place needs to be filled?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take ten quiet minutes today with no phone and ask God, "What is in the way between You and me?" Write down what comes to mind.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 3:8)

DAY 2 OF 5

What Shall We Do?

READ · LUKE 3:7–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three groups ask John "What shall we do?", and what does he tell each one (3:10–14)?

REFLECT

The crowd leaned on "We have Abraham for our father" (3:8). What do you lean on instead of a changed heart — your family, your church years, your past, or "that's just how I am"?

REFLECT

John told the soldiers to stop taking money by force, stop lying about people, and be content with their pay (3:14). If you asked John "What shall I do?", what would he name in your daily life?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one concrete fruit of repentance from verses 10–14 — share something, pay something back, stop a lie, quit grumbling about your pay — and do it today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 3:8)

DAY 3 OF 5

One Mightier Than I

READ · LUKE 3:15–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

When people wondered if John was the Christ, what did he say about himself and about the One coming after him (3:15–17)?

REFLECT

John said he was not fit to untie Jesus' sandal strap (3:16). Where do you want credit or attention, and what would it look like to point people to Jesus instead?

REFLECT

John told Herod the truth and was locked up for it (3:19–20). Is there a hard truth you have been avoiding saying — to someone else, or to yourself?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one unseen act of service today that no one will thank you for, and offer it quietly to Jesus.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 3:8)

DAY 4 OF 5

You Are My Beloved Son

READ · LUKE 3:21–22

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was Jesus doing when heaven opened, what came down on Him, and what did the voice from heaven say (3:21–22)?

REFLECT

Jesus had no sin, yet He went into the water with sinners (3:21). What does it tell you about Him that He stood in line with people like you?

REFLECT

The Father said, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased" (3:22). Many of us never heard a father say anything like that. How does it change things to know that in Christ God receives you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray out loud today as Jesus did at the Jordan, and thank the Father that He accepts you because of His beloved Son, not because of your record.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 3:8)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Son of Adam

READ · LUKE 3:23–38

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where does Luke's list of names begin and where does it end (3:23, 38)? Pick out two or three names you recognize.

REFLECT

The line runs through David, Abraham and Noah all the way to "Adam, the son of God" (3:38). What does it mean for you that Jesus is related to every man, not just to good religious families?

REFLECT

Some names in this list belong to men with deep failures, yet God kept His promise through them. Where do you need to believe that your story is not too broken for God to use?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write your own name at the bottom of today's page and next to it: "Jesus became a son of Adam to bring me to God."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 3:8)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

John's preaching was blunt — "You brood of vipers" (3:7) — yet crowds came and asked what to do (3:10). How do we speak plainly to each other in this group without crushing a man?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

John gave each group an answer that fit where they worked and lived (3:10–14). What would repentance look like at your job, in your cell block, or in your home this week?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Heaven opened while Jesus was praying (3:21). What place does prayer really have in our lives, and how could we help each other pray more this week?

MY PRAYER

Father, Your word found John in the wilderness, so find me where I am today and show me the fruit You want to grow in me, starting with…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 3:8

"Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham."