

## **Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals**

### **"Repent and Return"**

**Luke 3:1-38**

**October 18-19, 2014**

#### **For Starters**

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or raised questions?
2. How is your public behavior influenced or not influenced by your faith in Christ?

#### **Digging In**

1. How does God break into the political and religious power structure of the day?
2. Why is it significant that it is John (and not the leaders of the day) who heard the word of the Lord?
3. How does Luke describe John's actions in verse 3? What background does Luke give in verses 4-6 to explain John? How does this use of Old Testament help the reader?
4. Read verses 7-9 - How is John as a preacher? How would you feel hearing his sermon? How does John feel about his listener's spiritual identity?
5. What instructions does John give the people in order to live a life that produces the "fruit of repentance"? Why do you think Luke highlights the tax collectors and soldiers?
6. Luke describes the crowd as "waiting expectantly" and "wondering in their hearts" if John was the Messiah (v 15). What might that feeling have been like? Have you had a similar occasion when you've heard powerful preaching from God? What was the result?
7. What is John's ultimate message in verses 15-18?
8. How does Jesus' baptism in verse 21 differ from the baptism of the people (vv 3,7,12)?
9. Look at the list of names that end the chapter? Who do you recognize? Why is this list here?

#### **Bringing It Home**

1. The word of the Lord comes to John - a seemingly unimportant person living in the wilderness. How does the fact that God's word comes to John encourage you as you seek to follow God this week?
2. How does a changed life (repentance) lead to changed behavior? What behavior, habit, or action do you want to change? How does your faith help you with this?

#### **Digging Deeper**

Compare the opening of chapter 3 with the first few verses of some old testament prophetic books (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos). How are they similar? Why is it significant that Luke uses this format to introduce John? In what ways is John a prophet? How is he different from other prophets?

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at [myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org](mailto:myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org).

**Adopt-a-teacher tip of the week: Find out what your teacher likes to eat and drop off a take-out lunch on a school day.** Haven't adopted a teacher yet? Contact Karrah for more information at [kmesser@doorcreekchurch.org](mailto:kmesser@doorcreekchurch.org)