

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Scripture: Luke 1:80, 3:1-14



THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

John's message of repentance is the repudiation of sin in preparation for God's forgiveness, resulting in godly living.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- Why did Luke include the list of the political and religious leaders of John's day? What significant event occurred in the wilderness that had not occurred in 400 years (verse 2b; Jeremiah 1:1-2; Ezekiel 1:1-3; Zechariah 1:1)?
- Who is John the son of Zechariah, and what did God call him to do (1:76-77; 3:4)?
- Why does Luke quote Isaiah 40:3-5, as quoted by Luke communicated with his metaphor (Isaiah 40:3-5; verses 4-6)? How is Luke's quotation of Isaiah 40 different than Matthew's and Mark's, and why?
- What was John's message? What is repentance, and how does it relate to forgiveness?
- How did some from the crowds attempt to obtain God's favor by circumventing the necessity of repentance (verses 7-9)? Do we do the same today?
- Discuss the following three principles of repentance that we learn from John's message and baptism:
 - The evidence (result) of repentance
 - The scope of repentance
 - The life of repentance
- Why can Jesus alone offer forgiveness for our sins? How does Jesus personify God's salvation?

Recommended Resource

On the Incarnation by St. Athanasius