

WEEK 3:  
**PREPARE FOR  
A KING**

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:**

Luke 3:1-20

**RELATED SCRIPTURE:**

Psalm 51; 1 John 3:4-10; Acts 3:14-20

The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sanctification center, where flawed people place their faith in Christ, gather to know and love Him better, and learn to love others as He designed.

– Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

**PERSONAL STUDY:**

**Read Luke 3:1-6 and Luke 1:16-17.** In chapter 1 Gabriel tells Zechariah that his son John would “make ready... a people prepared... for the Lord.” In chapter 3 John describes himself as a “voice crying, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord’”. What does it look like for a person’s heart to be prepared for Lord? If someone you respect a great deal or someone who has authority over you is coming to your house, how do you prepare for them?

Verse 3 says John proclaimed “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” What is repentance? What is the relationship between repentance and forgiveness?

**Read Luke 3:7-20.** Is it surprising to you that verse 18 calls John’s message good news? Why are his warnings, rebukes and instructions good news?

In verses 10-14, John gives instructions on how we should handle our possessions and our power. Verses 19-20 tell us that Herod imprisoned John for rebuking his sexual activity. Why are sex, power and possessions so difficult for us to surrender to Jesus’ commands? Are there any ways you need to repent in how you handle your possessions, your positions of power or your sex life?

In John’s baptisms, he replaced a custom of people baptizing themselves with people being baptized by someone else. What is the significance of this change? Are there any ways you are trying to save yourself instead of trusting Jesus to save you?

## SERMON NOTES:



## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

**Read Luke 3:4-6 and Isaiah 40:1-5.** What does it look like for us to prepare our hearts for the Lord? If Jesus has done everything necessary for us to be forgiven in the cross, what roles do repentance and obedience play in our lives? What areas of your life are you wanting Jesus to “adapt to your roads” instead of adapting to His roads?



In inviting everyone to be baptized, John proclaimed that we are all sinners who cannot save ourselves – our morality, our heritage, our ethnicity, our education – none of these can save us. We all need Jesus. Have you been baptized since becoming a Christian? Why or why not?

**Read Luke 3:7-9.** What happens if we deal with the fruit of our actions but never deal with the root of our sin? What are the roots of your sinful thoughts, affections and actions? How does the gospel of Jesus’ grace put the axe to those roots?



**Read Luke 3:10-20.** Selfishness frequently shows itself in how we handle possessions, power and our sexual lives:

- Where do you have authority and power (work, family, community, etc.)? Are there ways you use your power to serve yourself instead of using it to serve others?
- Where are you believing money or possessions give you hope, peace or identity?
- Where are you most tempted to sin sexually?

