

Groups Guide
01.08.23

Luke: The Mission
Week 2 – “Water and Wilderness”
Luke 3:21 – 4:13

Summary:

In the first message of this series on Jesus’ mission, Marnie said that before Jesus began his ministry he needed to double down on his identity. What was true of Jesus is true of all of us. What we do flows out of who we are. The question, of course, is how do we come to who we are? How do we become who God made us to be?

In the story of Jesus as told by Luke, there are two events that served to clarify and solidify Jesus’ identity. We saw last week that the twelve year old Jesus already has a sense of who he is, even if not completely or perfectly formed at that age (Luke 2:49). This week, we see that identity confirmed in its fullness.

Two events are significant in this. First, the baptism of Jesus. Second, the 40 days in the wilderness and the testing Jesus experienced there. Matthew, Mark, and Luke place those events next to each other. Those two events are the focus of our group discussion and personal reflection this week.

Scripture Text:

Luke 3:21-23
Luke 4:1-13

For reflection / discussion:

1. What do you know about your own baptism (if you’ve been baptized). Is it something you remember? If you can, share what you recall or what you’ve been told about that event in your life.
2. Looking back on last week’s text from Luke 2:41-52, do you see how the event of Jesus’ baptism might be connected to that story. What do you think Luke wants us to see or learn as we move from chapter 2 into chapter 3?
3. Compare Matthew 3:13-17 to Luke 3:21-23. As you do so, why do you think Jesus was baptized?

4. What is the common thread that appears in both Luke's baptism story and the story of the wilderness temptations (see especially 3:22 and 4:1). What might we take away from this?
5. On Sunday at GCB Marnie said that each of the temptations in the desert was an assault on Jesus' identity. In what way is this so?
6. What is implied by Luke 4:13. Why is it important for us to keep that verse in mind?
7. Jesus responds to each temptation by quoting scripture. Each reference is from Deuteronomy, which many scholars believe Jesus had memorized as a devout Jewish male. Have you ever tried to memorize scripture? What has your experience been?
8. Can you recall a season or a moment of testing that you look back on and see that God used to deepen or strengthen your faith?