

Read Luke 3:7-23 NLT

6) From the passage what types of people does Luke identify that went out to see John in the wilderness, and why is that significant?

7) From this passage do we see the Trinity together, and why is that significant?

8) In thinking about the buzz that the community was feeling around the presence of John; are there things that we can do to pique the interest of others about Jesus?

9) Do you find talking about Jesus to others difficult, why, or why not?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS



This week read back through Luke chapters 1-3 and pray about the following questions:

1) Through the preaching of John people repented and turned away from their sin. Is there anything you need to repent from and surrender to God?

2) What do you see, or what jumps out at you from these passages?

3) Ask God for an opportunity to talk with someone about Him this week.

## The Stories That Remain

*The Fear of God*

Pastor Craig Sweeney | April 2, 2023

**Thread:** The fear of God is STILL the beginning of wisdom and our FAITH will follow.

**Key Text:** *“Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. John answered their questions by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.’”* Luke 3:15 – 17 NLT

**From the beginning of Jesus’ story, it was more than what we can see with our own eyes and touch with our own hands; we ENGAGE with the Holy Spirit daily.**

Jesus - *“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”*  
John 14:15–20 NLT

*“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.”* John 14:26 NLT

- The Holy Spirit is the presence of God.
- The Holy Spirit brings to life the scriptures for direction and application.
- The Holy Spirit is present with you for relationship.
- The Holy Spirit brings conviction of right and wrong.

“And with fire” - Final, eternal Judgements.

The scriptures are clear that, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

Proverbs 1:7 ESV

**Honest Question: How are you relying on the Holy Spirit’s work in your life to follow Jesus?**

*“John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people. John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for many other wrongs he had done. So Herod put John in prison, adding this sin to his many others. One day when the crowds were being baptized...”*

Luke 3:18 – 21 NLT

**Many in the crowd came out to the wilderness, because of someone else.**

*“...Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, ‘You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.’ Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry.”* Luke 3:21 – 23 NLT

**Challenge:**

- How can I engage my FAITH and engage with the Holy Spirit daily?
- Have I despised wisdom and God’s instruction? Will I humble myself before God?

## Life Group Homework

### The Stories That Remain

#### Spring 2023 | Week 1

Message Date 4/2/2023

#### MY STORY



- 1) What fictional world or place would you like to visit?
- 2) What book, movie read/seen recently would you recommend and why?

#### QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

#### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



Luke 3:1-6 NLT

“It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. 2 Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. 3 Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. 4 Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, “He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him! 5 The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth. 6 And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.”

- 4) One of the things that Luke does for us in this passage is place John’s ministry in a specific place in time and location. How does he do that from this passage, and is there a way to verify it?
- 5) Where was John preaching?