

Connect Group Journal – Preparing the Way

Text: Luke 3:1–22

Opening Reflection

Icebreaker:

What has been a pivotal moment in your life — a decision or event that changed your direction?

Write a few thoughts:

Luke 3 records a pivotal moment in history — when God prepared the world for Jesus.

Read Luke 3:1–22

As you read or listen, underline or note anything that stands out.

Notes:

Movement 1 — Hear the Message

(Luke 3:1–9)

John came with a clear message: **Prepare for Jesus through repentance.**

Reflect

1. Why does Luke include specific historical names and rulers?
What does that tell you about Scripture?
2. What was John's main message?
3. Why is repentance necessary?

John warns that self-righteousness is not enough. True repentance bears fruit.

Personal Reflection

What obstacles in your life may need to be “leveled” or removed to make room for Jesus?

Movement 2 — Respond in Repentance

(Luke 3:10–14)

The people ask, “What then shall we do?”

Reflect

1. How would you define repentance in your own words?
2. How is repentance different from guilt or regret?
3. What does “fruit in keeping with repentance” look like in everyday life?

Personal Reflection

Is there an area of your life where God is calling you to change direction?

Movement 3 — Believe Jesus Is Lord

(Luke 3:15–20)

John points beyond himself to Jesus.

Reflect

1. What stands out to you about John’s humility?

2. What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord — not just Savior?
3. The imagery of the winnowing fork shows urgency.
How does this affect the way you think about spiritual decisions?

Verse 18 calls this message “good news.”

Personal Reflection

Do you personally believe Jesus is Lord?
If yes, how is that evident in your life?
If unsure, what questions remain?

Movement 4 — Worship Jesus

(Luke 3:21–22)

At Jesus’ baptism:

- The Spirit descends.
- The Father speaks.
- The Son obeys.

The Trinity is on display.

Reflect

1. What does Jesus’ baptism teach you about obedience?
2. What does it teach you about God’s heart?
3. Why is worship the natural response to repentance and belief?

Personal Response

This passage calls for a decision.

Take a quiet moment and consider:

- Is the Holy Spirit drawing me toward deeper surrender?
- Do I need to confess and repent?
- Am I ready to trust Jesus fully?

Write a prayer in your own words:

The Gospel Reminder

- We have all sinned.
- Sin separates us from God.
- Jesus died and rose again for our salvation.
- Salvation comes through repentance and faith.

Romans 10:9 — Confess and believe.

Next Steps

- I want to begin following Jesus.
- I want to renew my commitment.
- I want to talk with a leader about baptism.
- I want to pursue church membership.
- I need prayer.

What is one step I will take this week?