

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Mighty King

LUKE 3:1-38

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection insures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 2:22-52

1. Read Luke 2:22-52
2. How can we respond to Jesus like Simeon and Anna?
3. What in this passage cause you to praise Jesus?

STUDY // LUKE 3:1-38

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview: John "the baptizer" was raised up and sent to prepare the way for and point people to Jesus.

1. Read Luke 3:1-9.
2. Notice all the historical and geographical details listed in verses 1-2. Why does Luke put such details in his gospel?
 - a. Why types of people are listed in these verses?
3. Verse 2 says "the word of God came to John." What's the significance of the word coming to John instead of the others listed in verses 1-2? How does this fit with what we have already seen in Luke's gospel?
4. What does verse 3 tell us about John's ministry? What does it mean that John "proclaimed a baptism of repentance for sins"?
 - a. What is repentance?
 - b. What is the link between repentance and forgiveness of sins?
 - c. While we might think such a proclamation is harsh, verse 18 tells us it's "good news." Why is John's message good news?

- d. How does this proclamation make the people ready and point them toward the Savior, who is Christ the Lord?
 5. In verse 4-6, Luke quotes from Isaiah 40:3. Why does Luke quote from Isaiah? How is John the fulfillment of what Isaiah prophesied?
 6. Verses 7-9 give us more of a glimpse into John's preaching.
 - a. What is John's concern in verse 7? How does the text explain why John is so stern with them?
 - b. Why does he tell the people to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance"? What does that mean?
 - c. What would be a contemporary way of saying, "I'm okay. I have Abraham as my father"? How does John confront this kind of complacency?
 - d. What is John's warning in verse 9?
 7. Read verses 10-20.
 8. What different types of people are identified in verses 10-14? What's the significance of Luke listing these types of people?
 9. What does John tell each group to do? Why? What is John emphasizing about genuine repentance?
 10. How do some of the people respond to John in verse 15? How then does John respond to the people?
 - a. What is John's view of Jesus?
 - b. What does John make clear about Christ in verses 15-17? What is surprising about this picture of the Messiah?
 - c. What does he say Jesus will do?
 - i. What does it mean that "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"?
 - ii. What does the imagery of the winnowing fork, threshing, floor, wheat, and chaff represent?
 11. In verse 18 John's preaching is called good news. How is this word of a coming Judge who will baptize with fire good news?
 12. How does Herod respond to John's preaching? Why? What does this tell us about John? What does this tell us about Jesus and the message of the gospel?
 13. Read verse 21-38.
 - a. John told us that Jesus is the Promised Messiah who brings salvation and condemnation. And now, we have the testimony of the Father in heaven.
 14. Why was Jesus baptized? What does Jesus baptism tell us about Jesus? What does the Father's words at Jesus baptism tell us?
 15. Why does Luke list Jesus genealogy? Why does he list it here? How does it fit into the flow of Luke's Gospel?
 16. Can you identify the main thread and theme of chapter 3? How does this fit into the overall purpose of the Gospel of Luke (cf. 1:1-4)?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in

the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are you joyful that you have seen salvation? Are you joyfully awaiting the return of the Savior?