



First Baptist Church

day 1

LUKE 3:7-8A

DWELL

Remember that “repentance” means “to turn around.” John’s preaching was meant to convince people to genuinely repent—to turn around from their sin and go in a different direction. When he called onlookers a “brood of vipers” he meant that their motives for being baptized were dishonest. They wanted to avoid God’s judgement, but didn’t have a genuine desire to change their attitudes or behaviors.

← What does it mean to “produce fruit consistent with repentance”?

↪ Do you have something in your life you need to repent from? How can you show this with your actions and not just your words?

MEMORIZE

Write Luke 3:22 on a note card and place it in a folder or binder where you will see it frequently. Read it to yourself each time you see it this week.

PRAY

Do you have something you need to repent of? Ask God for forgiveness and ask Him to show you how this repentance should change the way you live.

day 2

LUKE 3:8B-9

DWELL

John knew that some Jews—including some in the crowd—believed their heritage as descendants of Abraham and “God’s chosen people” meant that they had no need of repentance—that they were already “in the club.” John was quick to correct them, pointing out that God had the power to literally create new children for Abraham out of stones if he wanted to. In other words, their heritage meant nothing without genuine faith. John went on to share how urgent the need for repentance was, using the image of a tree with dead branches that are thrown into the fire.

↓ Why did John use the image of a tree that “doesn’t produce good fruit”? What was this meant to represent?

→ Have you ever thought that being part of a church or growing up Christian is enough to have a good relationship with God? How might these verses change your thinking?

MEMORIZE

Read Luke 3:22 aloud to yourself slowly and carefully, taking time to hear each word. Do this one or two times a day until you can do it from memory.

PRAY

Thank God for giving us baptism as a visible sign of our commitment to repentance and relationship with Him.

day 3

LUKE 3:10-14

DWELL

The people in the crowd asked John what they needed to do in order to receive the baptism that he was offering. In return, he offered practical examples of things that needed to change in their life to show true repentance. For example: they should practice generosity and compassion, giving their belongings to those who were less fortunate. To the tax collectors, who were known for taking extra money and keeping it for themselves, he said that they should be honest and only collect the taxes that were actually owed.

↪ What kind of attitudes was John implying that people needed to repent from (such as dishonesty)?

↓ What are some other examples of behaviors or actions that show true repentance? List a few.

MEMORIZE

Take a few moments to silently recite as much of Luke 3:22 as you can remember from memory when you are waiting in lines or in other quiet moments of your days this week.

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you toward behaviors that show true repentance.

day 4

LUKE 3:15-18

DWELL

John knew that many people in the crowd were wondering if he was the Messiah they had been waiting for. So he was quick to correct this misunderstanding—he was not the Savior. His response shows deep humility and respect for his cousin Jesus, whose work would be much greater than John’s.

↑ What does it mean that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire?

↔ Have you been baptized? If so, why did you decide to take that step? If not, consider talking with your pastor, youth leader, parents, or guardians about whether you are ready for this sign of faith in Jesus.

MEMORIZE

Ask a friend or family member to quiz you as you recite Luke 3:22 to them from memory. They can give you the next word of the verse if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Thank God for all the people in your life who have taught you about repentance and about Jesus.

day 5

LUKE 3:19-20

DWELL

Not everyone was pleased with John’s preaching or accepted his message of repentance. King Herod was one of these people. He was not happy about being rebuked by John for his sinful behavior, and responded by having John imprisoned. Following God and living for Him means that sometimes the people around us will not like what we have to say. Does this mean we should go around pointing out people’s sins to them, not caring what they think? Not at all. When we address sin, we should always do so humbly and lovingly. Additionally, we should expect people to not always agree with us or our choices.

← What does it mean to rebuke? Why was Herod so displeased with John for rebuking him?

↓ How could Herod have responded to John’s rebukes instead?

MEMORIZE

Use colored pens, pencils, or markers to draw Luke 3:22 colorfully on a piece of paper or note card, and place it somewhere you can see it often. You can use stickers or cutouts from magazines to decorate it if you’d like.

PRAY

Pray that God would give you courage and faith to follow Him, even when it’s not the popular thing to do.