

“SERVICE Group” Interactive Discussion Guide

This Week’s Core Practice: Prayer, Psalm 66:16-20--I pray to God to know him, to lay my request before him, and to find direction for my daily life.

SERVICE Focus: Extending Compassion (Social Justice)-- We will respond to the social needs of our neighborhood by participating in a local, hands-on, face-to-face, compassionate ministry to people in need.

Option 1— John the Baptizer Prepares the Way - [Luke 3:1-20](#)

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the * questions and filling out your discussion with the other questions. Be sure to leave time for sharing personal requests and praying for one another.)

Open It

1. When have you participated in a meaningful outdoor worship service?
2. If you could make a certain style of clothes or hair popular again, which would it be?
3. *What well-known public person would you most readily describe as a great speaker?

Explore It

4. What different rulers did Luke mention in giving a historical setting to John the Baptist’s ministry? ([3:1-2](#))
5. *What was John’s basic message? ([3:3](#))
6. Where did John the Baptist carry out his ministry? ([3:3](#))
7. What Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled by John the Baptist? ([3:4](#))
8. How sensitive was John’s welcome of the crowds who came to hear him? ([3:7-8](#))
9. What responses did John expect from his listeners? Why? ([3:8-9](#))
10. *What attitude did John warn the people not to have? Why? ([3:8-9](#))
11. How did people react to John’s message? ([3:10](#))
12. What advice did John give those in the crowd who wanted to respond to his message? ([3:11](#))
13. What practical examples of repentance did John use to help people who asked for direction? ([3:11-14](#))
14. In what way was John becoming famous? ([3:15](#))
15. *What title were the people beginning to give John? ([3:15](#))
16. What was John’s response to those who thought he might be the Messiah? ([3:16](#))
17. How did John explain his phrase, "Produce fruit in keeping with righteousness"? ([3:8](#), [11-14](#))
18. How did John describe Jesus? ([3:16-18](#))
19. What finally got John thrown into prison? ([3:19-20](#))

Get It

20. What is repentance?
21. When John explained repentance to people, how did it relate to the work they did in life?
22. *When we are confronted with a call to repent, why do we tend to accept or reject the invitation strongly?
23. What connection is there between repentance and forgiveness?
24. In what ways could John the Baptist’s directions to his listeners help someone today who reaches the point of repentance?
25. How did John apply the principle that while God is at work changing people, He often does not change their work or their place in life?
26. *In what ways does John’s life teach us about humility?
27. How should your relationship with God make your work habits differ from those around you?

Apply It

28. *In what areas of your life do you need to show the fruits of repentance this week?
29. At work this week, what action can you take because of agreement with God’s priorities?

Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon (slides posted on “Pastor’s Blog”)

- What significance does the passage/message have for you today?
- What does the passage/message mean to you?
- What does the passage/message affect your life?
- What can we learn about God, Christ, ourselves, our responsibility, our relationship to others?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away from the sermon? From our group?

Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?