

12.16.18 - Advent - Christian

For Advent:

If you're not in a small group, or if your group is taking a break this month, feel free to use these as personal devotional questions, or with your family or housemates.

Leader Prep Section

- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group. No need to do all the questions if you don't have time!
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Goal / Focus: Preparation

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
- What are some special traditions/practices you have done in the past or things you have done this year to prepare your heart for Christmas?

Background / Reading

Read: Luke 1:67-80; Luke 3:1-6

- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? (Remind those who share that we'll likely return to their ideas in our discussion!)

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

- In Luke 1:67-80, Luke has recorded Zecariah's song after the birth of his son, John the Baptist. In vs. 68-75, Zecariah praises God because "He has raised up the horn of salvation to _____", and lists several ways God will use the Messiah to show His goodness to His people. List all of those ways.
- In Luke 1:76-79, Zecariah's song shifts to sing about his son. What purpose does Zecariah prophesy over his son's life?
- In Luke 3:4-6, we read Isaiah's prophecy of John the Baptist. According to Isaiah, what was John the Baptist's purpose?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

- What do you think it actually looked like for John the Baptist to "prepare the way for the Lord"? Describe the phrases in Luke 3:4-5 in your own words.
- Compare the prophecy from Zecariah (Luke 1:76-79) and the prophecy from Isaiah (Luke 3:4-6) about John the Baptist's life and calling.
- Read John 1:19-28. What do we learn about the character of John the Baptist from His response to the questions about who he is? (assured sense of his calling/humility/freedom to be who God has made him to be)

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

- Who has God made you to be and where has He placed you? What calling and identity has He given you? Do you feel freedom to be who he has made you to be?
- Who has God NOT made you to be? What do you NOT have to be?
- When you look at the life and example of John the Baptist, how do you sense God inviting you to settle into your calling? Share specifically and pray for each other.