



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Forerunner - Tim Knipp

March 5th, 2023

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.
- What are your experiences in “the wilderness”? What associations does “the wilderness” hold for you?
- Describe a time you prepared your home (or another space) to receive a guest or visitor of honor. What did you fix or “make straight” to receive them?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying:**
- **Read Luke 3: 1-6**
- What do we know about the rulers and leaders mentioned in verses 1 and 2? What does their inclusion show us about the time period in Judea?
- What do we know about John? What actions does he take? Who is his message to?
- How does John’s message connect with the quote from Isaiah in verses 4-6?
- What is the author trying to accomplish in these verses?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- What are the implications of a God who shows up in our lives and in our world in real ways?
 - What in that might bring hope or encouragement?
 - What in that might bring worry fear?



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- What is the importance for believers today that God entered into the political, cultural, and religious context set forth in Luke 3: 1-2?
- On Sunday, Tim said that as Christians today, “we can be more spiritual than God is.” What are your thoughts on this?
 - Given this, as the church, how might we need to repent in this?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- How can we heed the call to prepare for the Lord’s presence in our lives?
 - In our attitudes?
 - Our practices?
 - In things we might need to set aside?
- Where do you long for God to show up in the real stuff of your life?
 - What in that space feels disheartening or distant from God?
- Where would you be hesitant for God to show up in your life?
 - What response does this feeling call you to?

Pray for one another about the ways you feel called to respond.

Time of Prayer