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!

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 is your perception of baptism? If it has changed over the years, how has it changed?

Book - Scripture

* Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:
* Read Luke 3:21-22
* Describe what you think the baptism moment could have looked like? What do you think the witnesses would have been thinking?
* What is the response of Jesus’ prayer?
  + What does that response tell us about prayer?
* In these verses it says that the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in bodily form. Share your thoughts on this. Discuss what images and thoughts that brings up for you?

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 might it have been like for John to experience this baptism moment?
* It must have been an extraordinary experience for John to see and participate in this baptism. What do people like John teach us about processing extraordinary truth?
* In this moment and throughout his life Jesus (who is himself God) prays to God privately and publicly. What does that teach us about prayer?
* What do we learn about God’s heart from this passage?

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.
* What parts of the Christian faith feel like extra ordinary truths for you right now. How can you continue to process those things in light of John and this passage.
* What have you learned about Jesus from studying this passage today?
* What’s something new you have thought about or learned from this passage?

Time of Prayer