



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Luke 3:1-6

[1] In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, [2] during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. [3] And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [4] As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

[5] Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

[6] and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Political Landscape (1)
- II. The Religious Landscape (2)
- III. The Message of John (3-6)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Luke gives us clear historical markers by mentioning the five political leaders in Luke chapter 3 (Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, and Lysanias). Why did Luke go to great lengths to place the story of John, and ultimately Jesus, in a historical context? Have you ever considered how the gospels would be different *without* these historical markers, as if the story of Christ happened in some distant, fairyland?
- John and Jesus began their ministries in the midst of a dark political & religious context. Both of their ministries were cut short by the same corrupt leaders listed in Luke chapter 3. How does this truth prepare us and encourage us as our own landscape grows darker?
- Pastor Scott briefly described the “ministry” of the high priest, Annas. He had accumulated a tremendous amount of power through corrupt alliances. Take a few minutes to compare the priesthood of Annas with the priesthood of Christ.
- The word of God came to John *in the wilderness* (as opposed to the halls of power). Where else in Scripture do you find the word of God meeting God’s servants in the wilderness? Why do you think God reveals himself in the wilderness? Has this been true in your life? Does this transform the way that you see the wilderness?
- John began his ministry (like Jesus will in chapter 4) with a quote from Isaiah. Take some time to read Isaiah 40. How do these words point to John’s ministry? (This discussion might take a bit more time than usual, and it might also require you to study Isaiah 40 in depth). How might the religious leaders reacted to John’s bold claim?
- John’s message focused on repentance and forgiveness of sins. Pastor Scott said that there is no salvation apart from repentance & the forgiveness of sins. It might be good to spend some time allowing people to share testimonies of repentance. How did that bring transformation in your life?

