

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

John's name means "God is gracious." Jesus' name means "God saves." Share your full name and any special meaning, significance, or history to your name. If time allows, share what you wish your name was, if any different!

LEARN & APPLY

Growing as disciples of Jesus includes learning the contents of his story. Read Luke 3:1-22 today and discuss the following:

We've been reading about an angel's message to Zechariah and also to Mary. Now Luke 3:2 says that the word of the Lord came to John - and through him to the world.

- What does it tell you that God intervened so intentionally to get his message across?
- What message(s) are you learning from God's word and one another?

Responding to God's word, people kept asking John "what should we do?" (Luke 3:10, 12, and 14).

- How would you describe or summarize John's answers?
- John was approached by tax collectors and soldiers, people who probably had a hard time imagining how to obey God in their work. Based on your line of work, if you asked John what to do, what do you think he would say?

The beginning of chapter 3 is a major section break. Years have passed since the things God began to do in chapters 1 and 2. Think backward in your own story. What has God begun in your life or put on your heart that has not yet come to fruition? Is it time yet to act on that?

PRAY

John's message is full of emphasis on what we should do to respond to God, but life following Jesus is not just about trying harder. Jesus is "the more powerful one" (3:16) and he was filled with the power of God's Spirit at his baptism (3:22). In prayer today, surrender your challenges to God and ask His Spirit to empower your life. You can use this simple structure: "God, I surrender _____ to you. Holy Spirit, empower my life."

This resource and more are always available at gracepeople.church.