

Grow in confidence – with Luke's Gospel

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

5th Meeting **THEME: Hope for the world, homework for the church**

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. At home read Luke 3:1-20.

20.00 – 20.10 Start One day Jesus will come back in glory and will be seen by the whole world. He sent his church into the world, so that all nations would hear about Him and be prepared for His coming. Two questions to start your meeting with:

- Are you happy with how you are involved to help the world to prepare for His coming?
- Would you be happy with His coming? Why/why not?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray Ask God for the Holy Spirit when you study the passage for today.

Today we read about John the Baptist's ministry to prepare the way of the Lord. As he prepared the way for the Lord in those times, in our times the way of the Lord must also be prepared.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage **Read: Luke 2 : 1-20**

Look again at verses 1-6 The purpose of his preparing ministry

- Luke pays a lot of attention to the time wherein John's ministry took place. Why?
- Were God's people in those days ready to welcome the coming Lord? What did they need?

Look again at verses 7-9 The problem of his preparing ministry

- John called those who wanted to be baptised 'brood of vipers. Why?
- Which are wrong grounds and which are good grounds to think you are ready for the coming of the Lord?

Look again at verses 10-14 The practice of his preparing ministry

- Three groups of people get answers on their question what a fruitful life should look like. Which common topic comes back in the answers John gives? How would that be related to us?

Look again at verses 15-18 The Person of his preparing ministry

- John is not just a moralistic preacher. In his preaching he points to Jesus as the coming one. He baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is the One to whom we should look for forgiveness and newness of life. He is the One also Who will come to judge the living and the dead. What would be John's aim when He talks about Jesus?

Look again at verses 19-20 The price of his preparing ministry

- If John would have stayed in the desert, or would have limited his preaching and warning to the crowds, he would not have been imprisoned. What do we learn here?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: homework for the church

Jesus has us, Christians, in the world, so that the world will be prepared for his' second coming. To be ready to prepare others, we need a prophetic, preaching ministry like John's. We should become Spirit-filled people, showing practical justice and generosity and sharing the good news. Take some minutes of silence and ask the Spirit to speak to you. Take some moments to share what you heard or thought.

20.50 – 21.00 End Pray for each other. Pray that you may be filled with the Spirit, to spread hope around you.