

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week's sermon over Luke 3:1-20.
2. What does the word "Beginnings" mean to you in the context of the Jesus' life?

In the following passage we find Jesus at the beginning of his ministry on Earth. Just before this, John the Baptist is preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins to crowds of people all around the river Jordan. These people began to wonder if John was in fact Christ, but soon after God's divine voice and spirit would descend and intervene in a revolutionary way.

READ Luke 3:21-22 & 4:1-13

DISCUSS and REFLECT

In this passage, Jesus is baptized and as he was praying, the Holy Spirit descends upon him in bodily form like a dove. Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, is then led to leave the Jordan and is tempted in the desert for 40 days.

- Name a couple things that stand out to you in this passage and explain why they stood out.
- Discuss elements of the passage that were difficult to understand. Explain why or why not.
- What is the significance of God's Spirit descending like a dove? What does it say about Jesus' identity?
- Why is it important that Jesus was baptized? What is he acknowledging?
- How does Jesus differentiate himself from Adam (Genesis 3) in Luke 4? Why is this important?
- What does Jesus' refusal to demand God's miracles say about his relationship with God?

APPLY

1. Satan tempts Jesus where he is most vulnerable in Luke 4, and he often attacks us in the same way. How can we best follow Jesus' example in how he responds to prepare ourselves for similar attacks?
2. Think of a time in your life when you have struggled with temptations of the enemy, or of a time when you have struggled to grasp your identity in Christ. How can this passage bring meaning and comfort to those experiences?

MEMORIZE

Luke 3:21-22

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The temptations and attacks of the enemy are very real, and it is often easy to succumb to them. But never forget who you are: sinful, imperfect, yet infinitely loved. You are child of God, and with you he is well pleased.

Suggestions for further reading: Genesis 3