

# UNEXPECTED

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH



Content



Care



Connection



Commission

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Ministry Leader Training - January 2021** Saturday, January 16 at 9am. We welcome all of you Community Group Leaders, Bible Study Table Leaders, Youth & Young Adult Leaders! Our Pastors will talk on the current state of the church, our vision, and "Commission Over Constraints". Register online or by emailing Amanda at [discipleship@northview.org](mailto:discipleship@northview.org)
- **Pre-Marriage Class** For couples who are seriously dating or engaged we are offering a pre-marriage class this coming February here at Northview's Downes Road Campus. For more details and to register check out our website, [northview.org](http://northview.org).
- **Employment Opportunity** Northview has an opening in our Discipleship Department for a Women's Ministry Administrative Assistant. For more information, please go to: [northview.org/employment](http://northview.org/employment)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

#### MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK:

**Greg and Becky Ouellette** serving with *Multiply*, here in Abbotsford, BC.

**Caleb and Raquel Enns** serving in Northview's Church Planter Residency as they prepare to church plant in Thailand.

#### MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

##### **Local Outreach: Cyrus Center**

The Cyrus Centre is a local outreach in Abbotsford and Chilliwack that Northview supports; they provide homeless youth, 18 and under, with a temporary, safe place to stay while working toward a long-term solution.

Pray for the youth that come through Cyrus Centre, that they would be safe, they would find a long-term solution and that they would come to saving faith in Jesus.

Pray for the necessary support that the centre needs going into the new year (financially, morally, volunteer-wise, etc).

## LOOK

### Read Luke 3:1-14

1. What stands out to you from the passage?
2. What do you remember from the sermon?
3. What did you learn from this passage?

*Observations/Things to remember about John:*

- Note the litany of historically verifiable markers such as important government and religious officials (vv. 1-2)
- Note the significant amount of time that has elapsed since we last read about John the baptist: compare 1:80 to 3:2.
- John is introduced as a prophet, since he hears "the word of God" (v.2)
- John is leading a revivalist movement in the desert and people are flocking to him to be baptized (v.7)
- Note the tone of John the Baptist's preaching: he is provocative, accessible, and direct as he preaches to the crowds (vv.7-9)
- Note the main theme of his message: repentance for the forgiveness of sins (v.3, 8)
- The crowds are moved to respond by the preaching of the gospel, what shall we do? (v.10)
- John is concerned with how people live (vv.10-14). Repentance is a choice and a lifestyle!

## LEARN

### Read Luke 1:13-17, 76-79

1. What kind of a role is John to play for the people of Israel?  
*He is to be a prophet who goes on ahead of Jesus to prepare the way.*
2. How is the content of John's ministry described in Luke 1:76-79?  
*It is to give knowledge of God's salvation in his forgiveness of their sins (v. 77).*
3. What motivates God to send John?  
*God's "tender mercy" (v. 78).*
  - What is mercy? "Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm"
  - What are other Biblical examples of merciful things God has done?

### Read Luke 3:7-9.

4. Does this sound like a message of "tender mercy"? How do the predictions about John's ministry fit with his message?
  - Have you found other places in the Bible where something that doesn't sound like good news is actually good news? Why is it that this is sometimes the case?

### Read Isaiah 59:1-3

5. What is the problem that sin causes?  
*Sin creates a separation between God and the sinner.*
  - How do we speak about sin and its effects? Do we talk about how it causes division between us and God? Or do we look at how it affects others? Or how it affects ourselves?

### Read Isaiah 59:18-19

6. How does God respond to sin?  
*He responds with judgement, and towards those who live in sin his arrival is not good news.*

### Return to Luke 3:1-14

7. In light of the problem of sin, and how God responds to sin, can we now see how John's message is in fact a merciful one?  
*His strong words are themselves the first step to restoring the relationship with God that was ruptured by sin.*

## LIVE

**Repentance that leads to saving faith has three qualities: profession, practice, and perseverance.**

1. What are some ways you have seen people fall short of saving faith?
2. How should we challenge/encourage those who are stumbling in their profession, practice, or perseverance?
3. Take some time to pray for those in your life who have walked away from the faith, and for your own practice of your faith in particular.