

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
- **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.
- **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

PRAYER REQUESTS

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK:

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

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

Local Outreach: Cyrus Center

The Cyrus Centre is a local outreach in Abbotsford and Chilliwack that Northview supports; the Cyrus Center provides 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:

- 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 Isa. 59:1-8.

1. What is the main problem that the prophet Isaiah describes in this passage?
Our sins make a separation between us and God (v.2)
2. According to Isaiah, how prevalent is the presence of sin in the everyday life of people?
It affects their speech (v.3), their honesty (v.4), their actions (v.7), and their attitudes (v.8)
3. If the problem of sin is this bad, what should all people do?
REPENT! Sin is inside all people and we need a savior!

Read Romans 13:11-14.

4. What is the level of urgency in these words from Paul?
Very high! See his commands: understand the time (v.11), the hour has come (v.11), the day is almost here (v.12)
5. Why is Paul encouraging the Romans to clean up their act?
The day of salvation is closer than when we first believed (v.12), Jesus is coming back soon!
6. What are the positive commands in this passage?
Put aside deeds of darkness (v.12), put on the armor of light (v.12), behave decently (v.13), clothe yourselves with Jesus (v.14)

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.