

UNEXPECTED

DISCUSSION GUIDE

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH



Content



Care



Connection



Commission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Seasons** upcoming Livestream event on February 12 at 11am, featuring special guest Carol Peters, a Jazz Gospel Pianist Extraordinaire! Along with Carol, we will also hear the testimony of Johanna Campbell. To access this livestream event go to: northview.org/seniors
- **Volunteer as a Tutor!** Our Punjabi Connection ministry is starting a tutoring program on February 8th. It will run on Mondays from 3-430pm, until June 14th. You do not need to speak Punjabi in order to volunteer. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Nitu at nharry@northview.org.
- **Northview Kids at Home: Ministry Box** Looking for an opportunity to engage with your children AND the Northview Kids TV weekend content? The children's ministry department is offering a ministry box for the month of February. Register online to receive your box at northview.org/kids.

PRAYER REQUESTS

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK:

Aaron and Kim Diaz serving with *Children of Hope*, in Puebla, Mexico.

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

Seniors



Pray for Pastor Vic, our pastor to seniors. Pray for our seniors as many of them are isolated from their families and from social gatherings, this can make them feel very alone.

Pray for the families who have lost loved ones during this Covid time.

Pray that the upcoming Seasons event would engage and encourage the seniors in our congregation.

LOOK

Read Luke 3:21-22

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 effectiveness of John the Baptist's good news message (read Lk. 3:7-14 for a refresher), many people are being baptized as a response to his preaching ministry!
- Jesus Himself was also baptized, note how He leads His people by example!
- We see all three persons of the Trinity present and active in these two short verses.

LEARN

Read Mk. 1:9-11 and Mat. 3:13-17

1. What details do each of these gospels add to the story?

Matthew helps us understand the motive Jesus had in being baptized as an outworking of his perfect obedience to the Law of God, and Mark helps us see that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the event that kicks off the public ministry of Jesus.

2. How does Matthew's baptism story help us understand why Jesus was baptized?

Matthew tells us that Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" (v. 15), as part of living a perfect life of obedience before God, and keeping every dot and iota of the law (Mat. 5:17)

Read Luke 11:1-4.

3. What stands out about the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples?

There are many appropriate answers: the simplicity of the prayer, the brevity of the prayer, the God-honoring posture of the prayer, the necessity of asking for the forgiveness of sins, etc.

Read Genesis 2:18-20.

4. What is the single problem that God identifies in creation?

Man is alone, and this is not good (v.18)

5. What is different about how God formed the animals compared to the man? (Hint: compare Gen. 1:24-26 to Gen. 2:18)

The animals are created in complementary pairs that have the capacity to reproduce, the man is created alone (at least until Gen. 2:22-25).

6. What does this teach us about human nature?

We are created to be with other people. This is part of what it means for us to be made in the image of God, we are relational people that exist as part of communities, in a similar way to how God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit exist in their own perfect community.

LIVE

In this passage, we are reminded that God is the Trinity and this is by no means an insignificant theological matter, it is part of God's very nature, and we reflect this aspect of God in our human capacity for and need to have relationships.

1. Who have been some of the significant or formative people in your life?

2. What sorts of things helped build these relationships to the point where they could be significant in your life?

3. What are you doing currently to build or maintain relationships with the important people in your life?

All relationships need time and proximity. Be creative, ask your group what they have been doing, and what can be done to continue to build our key relationships even in this difficult cultural moment.

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Jesus modeled a robust prayer life, and even taught His disciples how to pray (Luke 11:1-4) showing us the importance of this spiritual discipline.

4. Based on the example of Jesus, what are some areas of growth in your own prayer life? (Hint: read Luke 6:12-13, 9:28-29, 22:39-44)

Jesus prayed when He was facing difficult circumstances, when he was facing hard decisions, when He needed rest, and when He needed God's guidance

All of us could grow in praying for our felt needs, praying for wisdom in difficult decisions, praying for rest, etc.

5. What is one habit you think you can commit to in regards to growing in your prayer life?

Don't be shy to ask for input from every person in the group. All of us have room to grow in our prayer lives, and hearing the ideas of others may help the rest of the group add new prayer habits to their lives