Lesson 3 Luke 3

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
    make straight paths for him.  
5Every valley shall be filled in,  
    every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
    the rough ways smooth.  
6And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

7John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

11John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

12Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

13“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

14Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

15The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16John answered them all, “I baptize you with[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25042b)] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25042c)] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 18And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

19But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus

21When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened22and 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.”

23Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph,

the son of Heli, 24the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,25the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josek, the son of Joda,27the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, 28the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, 29the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, 31the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, 33the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, 38the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Matthew 3:1-6 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea **2**and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” **3**This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
    make straight paths for him.’”

**4**John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. **5**People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. **6**Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Mark 1:4-6 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**5**The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **6**John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

1. How would you describe John’s message and style?

2. Read Luke 3:1-9, and also Matthew 3:1-6 and Mark 1:4-6. Why do you suppose God called and prepared such an unusual man to be the forerunner of His Son, the Messiah?

3. What was John’s life calling?

4. What do you think verses 8-9 mean?

5. Who have been the “John the Baptists” in your life? To whom might God be calling you to be a “John the Baptist”?

6. Why do you suppose people wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah?

7. How did John answer them in verses 16-17?

8. John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. What is significant about Jesus being baptized when “all the people” were being baptized? What was different about Jesus, than “all the people”?

9. What unique things happened at Jesus’ baptism? What do you think you would have felt and thought, if you’d been there that day?

10. The genealogy in verses 23-38 is considered by most scholars to be Mary’s genealogy. It differs from the Genealogy in Matthew 1, which is considered to be Joseph’s genealogy, (the “legal” genealogy of Jesus.) What is significant about the wording of verse 23?

11. Journal this passage SOAP style.