

## PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

1/12/25

At Southland Church, we are committed to help you KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is designed to help you reflect on and apply what you learned from the sermon this weekend. Use this guide as a quiet time this week. Write your answers in a journal, with the date and main passage noted at the top of the page.

- What main point from the sermon stood out to you? What did the Holy Spirit convict you of or encourage you with?
- If you haven't already, think of one person ("your one") who is close to you but far from God. Write their name down in a place where you will see it daily (a sticky note, your journal, etc.) and commit to praying for them to be open to the Gospel and for you to have opportunities and boldness to share it.
- **Read Luke 3:1-20.** The word "repentance" (v. 3, 8) is a change of mind or heart leading to a change of direction. It is loving Christ, then making Him the most important thing in your life. What "fruits" of repentance does John describe?
- Why does John emphasize actions, like sharing with the needy and honesty, rather than just internal belief?
- John's message was very confrontational, calling people "brood of vipers" and to coming judgment. Why do you think people were still drawn to him and his message?
- Why might he use such strong language? How might that apply to us today?
- Do you see repentance as a one-time change or as a daily commitment? Why?
- What things influence the direction of your life, besides Christ (i.e. success, approval of others, wealth, comfort, entertainment, etc.,)?
- Choose one of those things you noted above. What might it look like to orient your life around Christ rather than that thing, to pursue Him more than that?
- What habits or resources could help you in this act of repentance? List at least one personal habit and one resource within the faith community.
- Take 1 minute now to pray for your one, that God would grant them repentance that leads to forgiveness of sin.
- Write one step of obedience the Holy Spirit is leading you towards this week. Who will you tell about this step, in order to help you?

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

Read Luke 3:21-4:13. What are the things that tempt you away from following Jesus?



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## FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Southland Church is committed to helping parents raise the next generation of disciples who KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is meant to help you as a family, particularly those over 12 years old, to discuss the Sunday sermon. You can do this in an evening devotion or over lunch after service.

A few tips to get started: (1) Make this a phone-free conversation. You and your family put the phones away, except for the person who looks up the Scriptures. He/She would read the passage and then put his/her phone away. (2) Set the pace for how vulnerable to be. If you give a shallow answer, you are more likely to get a shallow answer from your kids. (3) Do not feel like you have to ask all of these questions. Just focus on having a good honest discussion.

Open with prayer, asking God to lead you to know more about Christ and live like Him.

- What stood out to you from the sermon this week? What challenged or encouraged you?
- Think of one person (“your one”) who is close to you but far from God. As a family, take a moment to remind each other of your “ones” and pray for them.
- Have you had a spiritual conversation with “your one” yet? What might help you?
- **Read Luke 3:1-6.** The word “repentance” means a change of heart that leads to a change in behavior. So when we repent, we love Jesus more than ourselves and our sin, and we begin to live for Jesus more than ourselves. If John the Baptist were alive today, what do you think his message might sound like?
- Our passage talks about making paths straight and valleys being filled. What do you think these images mean?
- What things do you tend to follow rather than Jesus (approval of friends, success in school or sports, comfort or entertainment, social media, etc.)?
- What might change about your daily life if you lived with Jesus as the most important thing in your life?
- What “obstacles” make it hard to love Jesus and live for Him?
- What is one thing you might change to follow Jesus more?
- John came to help others “see the salvation of God” (v. 6). What is one way you could help your “one” see the salvation of God?

Ask if there is some way you can pray for your family members, and then close in prayer.



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