

# The Gospel of Luke 3:21-38

Discussion for week of February 28, 2021

*the gospel according to*

# LUKE

## Begin with Prayer

Beginning with silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time. Consider Mary's prayer: **"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled"** (Luke 1:38).

## Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a few minutes to briefly check in with one another. Suggestions:

- *What is one good memory you have made in 2021?*
- *In 2-3 words, describe how you are doing this week, and briefly explain your choice.*
- *Share something that God used to encourage or speak to you since we last met.*

## Listening to God's Word

People are often interested in tracing their lineage in order to understand where they came from. This question was very important to the people of Israel. They were able to trace their family line far into the past. This is the context Jesus was born into and that Luke records. You may notice some famous names in the lineage of Jesus. This is important because Luke wanted to show how Jesus was the fulfillment of a promise made in the very beginning of the biblical story to Abraham. Now today, we get to enjoy the privilege of being counted among the inherited family of God through Jesus, and inherit the spiritual blessings given to Him by the father. Let's spend some time reflecting on that privilege!

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## Option I: Lectio Divina

**Leader:** Slowly lead your group through this meditative exercise. DO NOT RUSH. Leave a few periods of silence (i.e. >30 sec) *between each sentence* of these instructions. Before you begin, have the group open their Bibles to **Luke 3:21-38**.

1. **Ready:** Spend a few moments in silence. Let it be long enough to let your mind, breathing and heart rate slow down. Pray silently and simply, in 2-3 words expressing your desire to hear from God. (~ 2 minutes)
2. **Read:** Have someone read **Luke 3:21-38** slowly, out loud. (~ 3 minutes)
3. **Ruminate:** Individually, silently, slowly and prayerfully re-read the text. (~ 10 minutes for this section)
  - *What word, phrase, image or character catches your attention?*
  - When something in the passage catches your attention, ask God: "Why do you want me to hear those words?"
  - Then be still and listen. *What ideas, memories, hopes, faces, feelings emerge?*
  - When something comes to mind, ask God: "Why did you want me to pay attention to this Scripture and these thoughts/feelings?"
  - Then be still and listen. *What insight (idea, feeling, principle) emerges?*

**Pause to Share:** *Invite all to briefly share what they heard in this time.*

4. **Respond:** Invite each person, if they are comfortable, to express a brief prayer of response to the insight they sensed – ex. thanksgiving, praise, confession, repentance, request, desire, love.
5. **Rest:** Sit silently in the quiet. Feel God's loving gaze on you. He is happy to be with you. (~2 minutes) Close with a simple, "Amen."

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## Option 2: Small Group Discussion

Read **Luke 3:21-38** twice. Then discuss together:

- What is your first thought when you read through this passage?
- What are some ways that you have felt the importance of lineage in your own life?
- What does it feel like to know or discover that your lineage includes pain, sadness, or sin?
- Share a positive church memory where you have felt loved and welcomed into the "lineage of God" through belief in Jesus.
- What connection is Luke making regarding Jesus beginning his ministry at 30 years old (see Ezekiel 1:1, Numbers 4:3, 2 Samuel 5:4)? Why might that be important to our understanding of who Jesus is for us?
- Jeff mentioned 1 John 3:1-2. Do you have another favorite verse or passage that anchors you in your identity within God's family?
- How does God's creation of a new family formed through the lineage of Jesus speak to the disunities and prejudices that are part of our world?
- What are some ways that we might seek to bring the attention back on our own "lineage" to the neglect of Jesus' family?
- You may want to recall some of the ways Jesus fulfills promises to people found in this list of names.
- How is God speaking to you in this Scripture? How do you intend to respond?

### **Lineage Matters – Which family will define us?**

Knowing where we have come from is important, but the family life we grew up in could also be less than ideal. Being a part of Jesus' family does not mean that we will never experience difficulty or hurt, but it does mean we can experience those things with great hope and security. This week our practice is to choose 1 (or more) questions to consider and act on. May we all grow deeper into our identity as children of God!

1. *What is one way you can serve someone, and make them feel welcome in the family of God?*
2. *What attitude, behaviour, habit or excuse is God asking me to "leave behind" as I recognize my identity as an adopted son/daughter?*
3. *Reflect on 1 positive experience you have had by living in community with the church.*

*Close by inviting Jesus to do his work in your life: "Lord Jesus, ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within [me], changing [me] from the inside out. ... Clean house—make a clean sweep of [my] life. ... Place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false ... put out with the trash to be burned." (see Luke 3:16-17, MSG).*