

How to Get Close to God Following Jesus – Part 1

Life Church St. Louis – February 20, 2022

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Acts 1:1 (ESV) In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,

John 14:12 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

1. _____ the way for Jesus

Luke 3:2 (ESV) during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Luke 3:3 (ESV) And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:4 (ESV) As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

2. Understand _____

Luke 3:7-8a (ESV) He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.

Luke 3:9 (ESV) Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Luke 3:11 (ESV) And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

Luke 3:12-13 (ESV) Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

3. Receive two _____

Luke 3:16 (ESV) John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 3:17-18 (ESV) His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Luke 3:21-22 (ESV) Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Acts 2:38 (ESV) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Weekly Healing Scripture

Numbers 21:9 (ESV) So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

How to Get Close to God Study Guide

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Intro. Why is it important to follow Jesus' example in both His doing and His teaching (Acts 1:1)?

What are the keys to doing that works that Jesus did according to John 14:12?

Why do you think that so many people do not believe that believers can do the works (miracles) of Jesus today?

1A. Why do you think that God prepared John in the wilderness (Luke 3:2)?

1B. In what ways must repentance be the first step in getting close to God (Luke 3:3)?

1C. How did John the Baptist prepare the way for people to believe in Jesus (Luke 3:4)?

1D. Why must repentance be an ongoing practice in a believer's life in order to get closer to God?

2A. What did John mean in commanding people to "bear fruits in keeping with repentance (Luke 3:7-8)?

2B. What are the consequences of not bearing the good fruit of repentance in a person's life (Luke 3:9)?

2C. How does Luke 3:11 speak of the fruit of repentance?

2D. What common sin must the tax collectors repent of and show good fruit (Luke 3:12-13)?

2E. How would you explain true repentance to an unbeliever?

3A. What is the purpose of being baptized in the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16, Acts 1:8)?

3B. How was John's stern message of repentance good news (Luke 3:17-18)?

3C. In what ways is Jesus an example for us to receive the two baptisms God has for us (Luke 3:21-22)?

3D. What is your next step in getting closer to God (Acts 2:38)?