

### **Luke 3:1-6—The Way of Hope**

John spoke a truth that countered the systems of his day. Under Roman rule, people were commanded to declare Caesar, Rome’s ruler as god. But John did not declare Caesar as his Lord.

John’s heart was devoted to God, and his call was to prepare people for the coming Messiah. John spoke of baptism and repentance as the way to re-order people’s lives and thinking. Replacing a rigid political system with burdensome religious laws was not the solution. Putting our hope in Christ, and His already/but-not-yet Kingdom is the way to make “straight paths” in our hearts and lives.

The Kingdom we serve is not of the world. It’s the Kingdom where all is made right. Together we turn from the way things have been done before, and ask Jesus to teach us His ways to extend grace, love, and hope. We’re called to repent—to turn—from our old way of life, and embrace Jesus’ gift of salvation.

### **Hope As a Way of Life**

Find ways—this week—to learn more about Who Jesus is (getting into God’s Word with another person or two is great!), and then share what you’ve discovered with yet another person.

Ask the Lord to reveal where you need to make a “navigational change”, and then obey. Determine in your heart to make Jesus easy-to-find in your day-to-day life. Pray for the people with whom you study, and also for those with whom you share. Let the Season of Advent prepare many hearts for His coming.

Jot down a few notes about your experiences and feelings.

**Next week:** *3rd Sunday of Advent, Luke 3:7-18*

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**December 9, 2018**    Second Sunday of Advent

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Today:** *Psalm 138*    (*Ask God's Spirit to speak to you.*)

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**Monday:** *Luke 1:5-25, 57-80*

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**Tuesday:** *Matthew 4:1-6, 28:18-20*

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**Wednesday:** *Matthew 3:1-12*

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**Thursday:** *Isaiah 62*

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**Friday:** *John 1:6-34*

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**Saturday:** *Mark 1:1-8*

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O God our Father, Who sent forth Your Son to be King of kings and Prince of Peace: Grant all kingdoms of this world would become the Kingdom of Christ, and learn of Him the way of peace. Send among all people the spirit of goodwill and reconciliation. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

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