



**A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of December 16, 2018**

**Luke 3:7-18**    *What Then Shall We Do?*

*This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 3:7-18](#).*

- Advent & Christmas are the beginning notes of the symphony of destruction God is bringing to sin. And if it is to sin, then it is also to sadness and if to sadness then to death.
- “And he [*John the Baptist*], went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” ([Luke 3:3](#))
- This connects to [Luke 1:16-17](#), “And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”
- This is radical for Jewish people. That is why he calls out their tendency to rely on their genetics.
- Baptism was generally for Gentile proselytes.
- By calling the crowds “brood of vipers” (7), John the Baptist is telling them who their true “father” is (8).
- The axe is laid at the “root” of the trees” (9). Winnowing and burning (17).
- So, stop relying on their origin or activity but on the mercy of God.
- “So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people” (18)?
  - It is good news that God can raise up sons of Abraham from stones (8)
  - It is great news to be warned: Fire is coming (16)...”who warned you?” (7)
  - It is great news to be set free from the allure of money and power.
  - But also sex: “But Herod...” ([Luke 3:19](#))
  - It is good news to “multitudes”, tax collectors and soldiers. Who can hate when you have so much in common and so much to repent over?
- We cannot remain as we are.

*To hear sermons and access past study guides visit [www.wepc.org/archivedsermons](http://www.wepc.org/archivedsermons)*

## WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit [www.wepc.org/lectionary](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary)

### Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
*Rejoice in God*

Isaiah 12:2-6  
*The Holy One of Israel is in Your Midst*

Philippians 4:4-7  
*Rejoice, The Lord is Near*

Luke 3:7-18  
*One More Powerful is Coming*

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#### Reflection on Sunday 12/16

##### Monday

Numbers 16:1-19  
*Korah's Rebellion*

Hebrews 13:7-17  
*Respect for Leaders*

##### Tuesday

Numbers 16:20-35  
*Korah's Destruction*

Acts 28:23-31  
*Paul Preaches in Rome*

##### Wednesday

Micah 4:8-13  
*God Will Thresh Out the People*

Luke 7:31-35  
*The Messiah & John the Baptist*

##### Daily

Isaiah 11:1-9  
*A Ruler Will Bring Justice & Peace*

#### Preparation for Sunday 12/23

##### Thursday

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
*A New Covenant Written on the Heart*

Hebrews 10:10-18  
*A High Priest & Final Sacrifice*

##### Friday

Isaiah 42:10-18  
*Sing to God a New Song*

Hebrews 10:32-39  
*Confidence & Great Reward*

##### Saturday

Isaiah 66:7-11  
*New Life from the Lord*

Luke 13:31-35  
*The Longing & Lament of the Lord*

##### Daily

Psalms 80:1-7  
*Let Your Face Shine*