

**January 10<sup>th</sup> 2010**  
**Baptism of Jesus. Luke 3:15-16,21-22**

**Starter:** *[In pairs]*. Describe a time when you experienced a new beginning.

**Worship:** Use Psalm 29 as a focus for your thoughts. In prayer reflect on the ways the voice of God is heard today

**Reading: Luke 3:15-16,21-22**

*Read aloud, then allow time for everyone to re-read for themselves along with the commentary and the questions – and reflect alone.*

**Commentary:** Luke tells us that John prepares the way for Jesus' ministry by the baptism he preaches. That baptism not only marks the beginning of Christ's ministry, but it also marks out the dawn of a new era in human history. Our eyes are drawn from one figure to another. In John we see the promise; in Jesus, the fulfillment. As Luke records events, John will soon fade out of the picture entirely. He is 'water' compared to 'fire'. He is herald compared to the One he proclaimed. He preached a promise. It would come true. As John prepared the way for the Lord, so must we in our own lives. As we were given a new birth in the Holy Spirit with our own Baptism, we must hear and obey God's word in our lives.  
(Baranowski)

**Personal Focus Questions:**

1. What thoughts come to mind as you read this passage? What might God be saying to you?
2. Describe a time of renewal in your life. Did it lead to a new sense of purpose for your life?

3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit help you to be a person God is pleased with [v22]?

*Share together in threes the results of your individual reflection.*

*Return together as a group and share any insights.*

*Now together discuss these questions.*

**Life Focus Questions:**

1. John prepared people to meet Jesus. How does your Church go about this task?
2. What plans should we make as a result of our discussions?

**Review:** What challenged you most about this reflection?

**Prayer concerns:** Give thanks for each other as members of Christ community. Pray for those in need and those you seek to bring to Jesus.