

**Preparation for Jesus' Public Ministry**  
**Luke 3:1–4:13**

**Memory Verse:** *"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased"* (Luke 3:22 ESV).

**Background Helps** (see last week's forecast)

**Lesson Helps**

Here are three alternative lesson aims for this week's lesson based on different portions of the material:

- Based on Luke 3:1-20 – My students will learn about John's ministry of preparation for the Lord's coming, so that they will repent, believe, and be baptized.
- Based on Luke 3:21-4:13 – My students will learn about the genuine humanity of Jesus Christ, so that they will seek his sympathetic help in their times of temptation.
- Based on Luke 4:1-13 – My students will learn about the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, so that they will memorize Scripture to use in overcoming their own temptations.

It is crucial to use a variety of methods in your weekly presentation. Seek to use at least one new student-oriented method and one new teacher-oriented method each week. Maintaining your students' attention is a first step toward application of truth to life. Here are some possible methods for use with this week's readings:

1. To make the historical setting come alive in Luke 3:1-2, bring in a map of the United States and of New England. Who is President of the USA? Who is governor of each New England state? (This may take some research of your own before class!) Who is the Roman Catholic bishop of RI? Now, using maps of the Roman Empire and of Palestine, compare the corresponding data from Luke 3:1-2 for the period of Jesus' public ministry. (See separate pdf file, map of "Palestine under King Herod.") We're talking about real events, involving real people, living in real places!
2. To help your students visualize the events of Luke 3:3-14, have them imagine that they were in the crowd at the Jordan River where John was preaching and baptizing. Write down what happened and their personal impressions in a diary. (Give some time in class to do this.) Then ask one or two to read aloud to the rest their "diary entry."
3. For your concluding application from Luke 3:10-14, have each student write down privately what he or she believes John might require as a definite fruit of repentance. Then have prayer for this fruit to be produced.

4. In your study of Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:21-22), ask one of your students (ahead of time) to share the story of his (her) own baptism and its significance in his (her) life.
5. Ask your students a week ahead of time to ask their parents for information on their family tree, tracing it as far back as possible. Have several share their findings in class. Then study Jesus' family tree in Luke 3:23-38. He was a real man, tracing his ancestry back to Adam—our forefather too, if we could trace it back that far!
6. After studying the three temptations of Christ in Luke 4:1-13, have your class name three specific temptations to which they are particularly susceptible. Then, in small groups, find specific verses that could be used in overcoming each of these temptations. At the end of class, assign one of the verses for memory work this week (or have each student choose a verse for memorization). Next week, ask for these verses to be recited in class.

These are a few suggested methods for this week's lesson. Obviously you cannot use them all. Choose an appropriate method according to your lesson aim. Or, better yet, come up with your own methods! Be creative!

**Home Assignment:**



Read Luke 4:14–6:11, the opening scenes of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee.



Memorize Luke 5:32