

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, January 12, 2025 (Baptism of our Lord)

Isaiah 43:1-7

Discussion Starters

1. The text encourages people to have no fear. What reasons are given for this encouragement? How might these reasons apply to us today?
2. What does it mean to be "redeemed?"
3. If you were in exile, what would your reaction be to this prophecy?
4. What is God saying by the vivid imagery in verse 2? What "waters" and "fire" seem especially close to you right now? What does it mean to you that God will be with His people through such things?
5. Which of the promises of this passage is most meaningful to you? Why?

Acts 8:14-17

Discussion Starters

1. Given that these Samaritans were considered outcasts by the Jews, why would Peter and John come to them?
2. Why would God wait to pour out the Holy Spirit until Peter and John had arrived?
3. How does God give the Holy Spirit now? Does it come apart from the salvation moment or as a part of it?
4. What is meant by the "laying on of hands?" Does it convey any special power?
5. How do prejudices impact the work of the church today? What lessons could the church learn about its prejudices from this passage?

Luke 3:15-22

Discussion Starters

1. What about John made people think he might be the Messiah?
2. What three things happened at the baptism of Jesus that made it different from any of the other baptisms happening that day?
3. Why was Jesus baptized? Was He any different after His baptism?
4. Why was Jesus baptized at the same time as all the other people?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?