SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE
Luke 3:1-14

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?
Ice Breaker: Name one way you saw the Lord bless you or your family this holiday season.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 3:1-14:** Where is this passages located in the context of Luke's story? What has happed up to this point?

2. What is Luke's purpose for listing all of the rulers and governors in the first verse? How would it aid the overall point of his gospel? How would it encourage his readers as they heard this read? How might it encourage your faith today?

3. What are you reminded of when you read "the word of God came to"? What context is Luke placing John's ministry and message with that phrase? Why does it matter?

4. How does Isaiah often use the images of "road" and "way" (see Isaiah 35:8-10). How is Isaiah 40:3-5 different? Therefore, what good news does John prepare the people for?

5. How ought we to respond to John's message of the coming Lord? What hope can we find today in this Messiah who comes to "make the mountains low" and the "rough places level"?

6. What was the warning that John gave his listeners in verses 7-9? Who was the warning for then? Who is the warning for today?

7. What does John mean when he says, "God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham?" What point is he trying to get across to those who are listening? Why might Luke have included this point and how does it remind us of the beginning two chapters of Luke?

8. What is John's solution to his call for preparation (v. 10-14)? How is this different from what Jesus will call people to? How is it similar? How might John's call impact your life today?

For Further Study: Encourage your small group to read Isaiah 40-44 this week. (Remember that when a new testament author quotes a verse from the old testament, they are referencing the whole old testament context of that verse, not just the verse or two.) Therefore, what is the full context of John's quotation of Isaiah 40:3-5?