

## Life Group Notes – Sunday 13 January 2018

Read Luke 3 v15-17 and v21-22

This is one of the accounts of Jesus' baptism. Share your experience of baptism with the group and what it meant to you.

At baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus & broke into his life. Have you had that experience, either at baptism or on other occasions? Pray for one another that you will know the Spirit working powerfully in you.

The passage begins with the statement that 'the people were waiting expectantly'. Times were hard and they were eagerly awaiting the coming of their messiah.

Are you 'waiting expectantly'? What are your visions/hopes/dreams for 2019 and beyond?

Is your vision/hope/dream in line with God's? Is it big enough or do you too easily settle for mediocrity? Bob Gass in 'Word for Today' identifies the following as 'dream killers'. Do any of these resonate with you? If so, pray for each other.

- discouragement
- disappointment
- settling for the average
- lack of confidence
- lack of imagination

Verse 21 tells us that Jesus was praying as he was baptised. What does this tell us about the importance of prayer?

Look at some or all of these other scriptures about prayer.

- 1 Thessalonians 5 v16
- Daniel 9 v1-3
- Nehemiah 2 v1-5
- 2 Chronicles 7 v11-14

All these scriptures emphasise the importance of prayer underpinning people's lives and visions. Do you place that same importance on prayer?

Many people will probably acknowledge that they know they could pray more. Identify small steps that you could take to improve your prayer life. Share these and pray for each other.

If you have time, you may like to read round some of the scriptures above and identify the importance of prayer underpinning the events described.