1. **Luke 3:1-6**

* Who was Caesar during this time period according to the **Bible**?
* What years did he reign as Caesar (Google it if you don’t have a **footnote**)?
* Who was governor of Judea during this time period according to the **Bible**?
* Google the governor named above and state which years he maintained being in office.
* **Cornelius Tacitus** (55 AD – 120 AD) *The Annals of Imperial Rome 15.44*

“To suppress this rumor, Nero fabricated scapegoats and punished with every refinement the notoriously depraved Christians (as they were popularly called). Their originator, Christ, had been executed in Tiberius’ reign by the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilatus.

* What did this Roman historian document in his writings?
* Research Cornelius Tacitus of Rome and state whether he was a Christian or not?
* Why would this excerpt of Tacitus’ writing, which seems to have negative undertones towards Christians, be relevant in today’s time?
* Who did the “word of God” come to in the passage from **Luke**?
* Where was this individual who received the “word of God” at that time?
* What did he proclaim to the people?
* **Ezekiel 36:25-33**
* Name at least 4 things God reveals he will do to his people in **Ezekiel**.
* What similarities and/or differences do you see between the description of John’s “baptism” with water in **Luke** and what God is going to do with “water” in **Ezekiel**?
* **Isaiah 40:1-5**
* Which verses from **Isaiah** does John the Baptist quote?
* Do any of these verses he didn’t quote seem to connect to what he is proclaiming to the people as well, and if so, share why?
* **Psalm 125:4-5, Proverbs 2:12-15, Isaiah 59:7-8**
* Consider John’s message in **Luke** “The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth” and the three readings of the **Old Testament**, what is the difference between a “winding” or “crooked” road and a “straight”?
* Reflect on the **Gospel of Luke 3:5-6** for a moment and share what it says to you.
* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 2*

“ John, being chosen for the Apostleship, was also the last of the holy prophets: for which reason, as the Lord was not yet come, he says, Prepare ye the way of the Lord. And what is the meaning of ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord?’ It is put for, make ready for the reception of whatever Christ may wish to enact: withdraw your hearts from the shadow of the law: cease from the types: think no more perversely. ‘Make the paths of our God straight.’ For every path that leadeth unto good is straight and smooth and easy: but the other is crooked that leadeth down to wickedness them that walk therein.”

**Second Quote**

“And all flesh did see the salvation of God, even of the Father: for He sent the son to be our Savior. And in these words by ‘flesh,’ man generally is to be understood, that is, the whole human race. For thus all flesh shall see the salvation of God: no longer Israel only, but all flesh. For the gentleness of the Savior our Lord of all is not limited, nor did He save one nation merely, but rather embraced within His net the whole world, and has illuminated all who were in darkness.”

* Please share something with the group that was meaningful to you today.