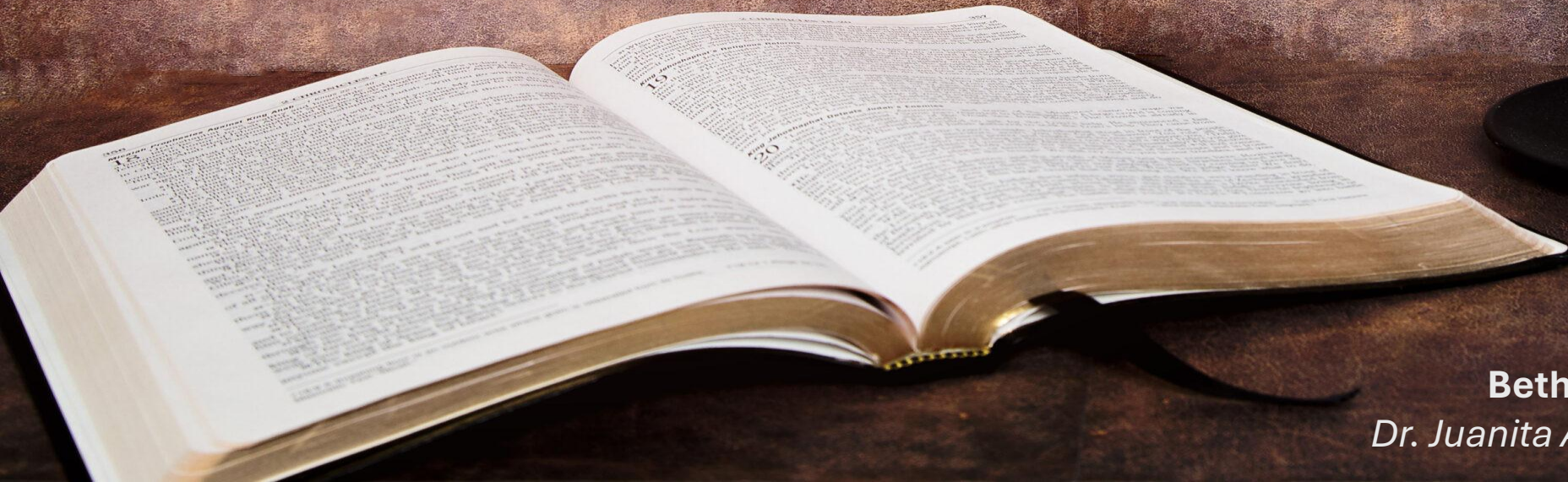


Grace in the Desert: John the Baptist's Call
Luke 3:1-6 NIV

Advent

B I B L E S T U D Y

Wednesday, December 10, 2025



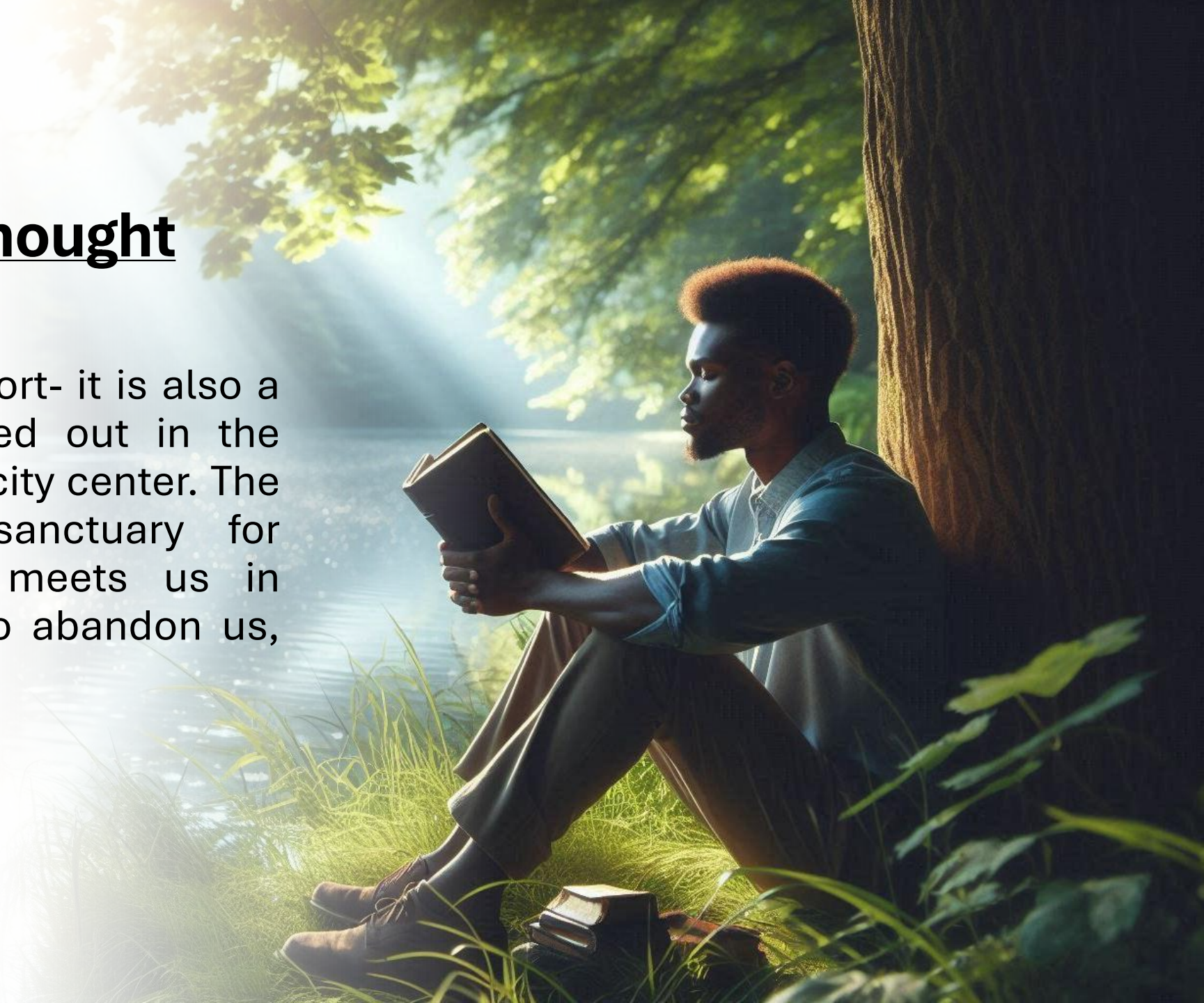
Bethesda Baptist Church
Dr. Juanita A. W. Harrison, Senior Pastor

Luke 3-1-6 NIV

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

Devotional Thought

Grace is not just comfort- it is also a call. John's voice cried out in the wilderness, not in the city center. The desert became a sanctuary for transformation. God meets us in desolate places not to abandon us, but to prepare us.



Reflection

In what wilderness are you hearing God's call to prepare your heart?

Grace often refines us before it reveals us.

Repentance is a gift of grace- it clears the way.

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- John's message was one of repentance, which is not punishment, but preparation.
 - Grace makes us aware of the need to change so that we can receive more of God.

God levels valleys and mountains- He makes a path where there is none.



- The prophecy in Isaiah, quoted by John, shows how grace removes barriers.
- What seems like an impassable obstacle is no match for God's reconstructive love.

Preparation precedes glory- God moves in hearts that are ready.

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- Before Christ is revealed, hearts must be softened.
 - Grace tills the soil of the soul, making it fertile for His glory to grow.

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned vertically, with fingers pointing upwards. The skin tone is light. The background is dark and out of focus. The text 'LET US' is overlaid on the left side of the hands, and 'PRAY' is overlaid vertically on the right side of the hands.

LET US

PRAY

Lord, let my wilderness become a womb of purpose. Teach me to welcome Your grace, even when it confronts me.