

Today's lesson will be a brief look at John the Baptist. From his birth to how he lived and what he did.

Early life Luke 1: John the Baptist was born to a priest named Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth.

Adult Life/ ministry

All 4 gospels have a section dedicated to describing John the Baptist; some give more details than others.

Luke 3, Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-8, John 1:6-34

Common themes.

- Isaiah's prophecy: Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:2-3, Luke 3:4-6, John:23
- Physical description/ food: Matthew 3:4, Mark 1:6
- His message (repentance of sins): Matthew 3:6,11 Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3
- Calling out the Pharisees: Matthew 3:7-10, Luke 3:7-9
- Who is John: John 1:19-23
- Type of baptism (water vs. Holy Spirit and fire): Matthew 3:11-12, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:16, John 1:26-27, 33-34

John Baptizes Jesus: Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22

John is arrested: Matthew 14:3-5, Mark 6:17, Luke 3:18-20

John is killed: Matthew 14:5-12

Throughout the Gospels, we see John proclaiming (telling people) about the coming Savior. His message was to repent of your sins. Turn away from what you know is wrong and prepare for the Savior to come. I think it's really cool that all of the gospels give us details about John the Baptist and his life. All people should know the message that John was teaching. It is the beginning of salvation.

Repent and turn away from your sin (acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of a savior, in need of forgiveness). Jesus is the one who offers the forgiveness of our sins. His death paid the debt we owed.

John came before Jesus to prepare people to receive the teachings of Jesus. He pointed them to the Savior and said Be ready for Him.

God calls us to do the same thing. As Christians, we are called to go out and tell people about Jesus. It's not our job to force them to believe; it's our job to point them to Jesus. There are so many cool things about John the Baptist, but just like John told the people to prepare to meet Jesus, we are called to do the same thing. As we begin our series, prepare to learn and dig into the Gospels.

Small group questions

Lower Elementary

1. Who was John the Baptist?
2. How was he related to Jesus?
3. What did John teach people?
4. What did John do?
5. What can we learn from John the Baptist?
6. How can we be like John the Baptist in our community?

Upper Elementary

1. Who were John the Baptist's parents?
2. What prophet wrote about John the Baptist? (Bonus points if you can find the prophecy)
3. What was John doing? (What was he saying to people)
4. Why were John's clothing and diet listed? Why does that detail matter?
5. Why was John arrested?
6. How can you be like John to those around you?

Activity 1: Coloring Page/Activity

Activity 2: Proclaim

John the Baptist used his voice to point people to repentance (turning away from their sins) in preparation for Jesus arrival. We are called to tell people about the good news of salvation while we wait for Jesus' return.

Pick a student to be the proclaimer. Line the rest of the students up shoulder to shoulder, about 3-5 ft away from the proclaimer. The proclaimer will then give the group instructions. (Simon Says style/ rules, but "proclaimer says") The proclaimer will quietly whisper their instructions to the group. (Don't let the rest of the kids know this part; it's only for the proclaimer. Leaders should be able to hear the instructions. If no one follows the instructions, they are out. After a few minutes, or if everyone is out. Ask what the problem is. **Why is everyone failing/ getting out?** Give the student the megaphone and have them speak at a normal volume. (No need to scream)

The lesson: When our voices are quiet, no one will hear about salvation. When we speak up, speak boldly, speak loudly. We are like John, preparing the world for the return of Jesus.

Activity 3: Sword Drills

**Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, Matthew 3:1-2, Mark 1:2-4, Psalm 96:2-3, Deuteronomy 6:6-7
Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 2:9, Romans 10:14-15**

**GOD
WITH
US**

DIGGING DEEPER

October 4th, 2026 

1. Luke 1:5-7 What were the names of the priest and his wife? Were they righteous?
2. Did they have any children at this time?
3. Luke 1:11-13 What did the angel tell Zacharias? Who does this remind you of in the Old Testament?
4. Luke 1:39-41 When Mary the mother of Jesus went to see Elizabeth, what did Elizabeth's baby do?
5. Mark 1:6 What did John wear and what did he eat? Is he your kind of guy?
6. Luke 3:2-3 What came to John, the son of Zechariah? What was John preaching to all the people?
7. Luke 3:4 is the same as Isaiah 40:3. Isaiah was written about 700 years before Luke. How is this possible?
8. Luke 3:4: Who was John preparing a way for?
9. Luke 3:15-16 At first, the people thought John could be who? What did John tell them?
10. John 1:35-36 When John and his 2 disciples saw Jesus, what did John call Him?
11. Matthew 3:16-17 What happened when John baptized Jesus? What does this tell us about the Trinity of God?
12. Mark 6:17 Why did John get arrested?
13. Matthew 11:2-5 What did John ask about Jesus from Jail? What did Jesus tell him?