



**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Prepare the Way

**Series:** Favorites

**Date:** 08/17/2025

**Preacher:** Stephanie Mutert, Apprenticeship Director

**Scripture:** Luke 3:2–18 (NIV)

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## Opening Prayer

God of justice and joy,

You speak through wilderness voices and invite us to prepare the way.

Help us to hear clearly, respond boldly, and live generously.

Shape our hearts with compassion, our hands with purpose, and our lives with the character of Christ.

May this time of reflection draw us closer to You and to our neighbors.

Amen.

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## Introduction & Context

This week, guest preacher and Apprenticeship Director Stephanie Mutert shared one of her favorite passages: Luke 3:2–18, the story of John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness. John's message is bold, urgent, and practical. He calls people to repent—not with shame, but with purpose. His vision of repentance is not about fear, but about preparation.

Stephanie reminded us that to prepare the way for Jesus, we must be people who share what we have, do our work well, treat people fairly, and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us from the inside out. Her message invited us to look at the "boulders" that block God's path in our world and to take seriously our role in clearing them—because we prepare the way.





## Discussion Questions

### 1. The Invitation of Repentance

John's message of repentance is not just about confession—it's about transformation.

- a. What does "repentance" mean to you?
- b. Have you ever experienced a change of heart or mind that redirected how you lived?

### 2. What Should We Do?

The crowds ask John, "What should we do?" and he gives simple, practical guidance: share, be honest, treat people fairly.

- a. Which of John's instructions most resonates with you?
- b. How might you apply those words in your own neighborhood, workplace, or church community?

### 3. Clearing the Path

Stephanie shared a visual image of followers of Jesus walking ahead of Him, clearing the boulders from the road.

- a. What are some of the "boulders" you see in our culture or community that hinder others from seeing or experiencing Jesus?
- b. Which ones do you feel personally called to help remove?

### 4. Kingdom in the Everyday

Stephanie reminded us that our everyday lives—our jobs, errands, even coffee runs—can be places where we prepare the way.

- a. Where might God be calling you to be more intentional with presence and compassion this week?
- b. How can relationships become your primary tool for kingdom impact?



## Application & Challenge

### Live the Way—Right Where You Are

You don't have to add more to your calendar to live like Jesus. This week, look for a way to live the Kingdom in your existing spaces:

- At work: practice integrity and kindness
- In your neighborhood: share a meal or reach out
- At home: speak with grace and patience

### Identify a “Boulder” and Take a Step

What is one issue—large or small—that blocks the way of God's love in your context? Take one step this week to address it—through advocacy, service, generosity, or presence.

### Pray This Breath Prayer

Inhale: *Jesus, prepare me*

Exhale: *To prepare the way*

Let it center you in your purpose throughout the week.

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## Closing Prayer

God of the wilderness and the way,

You call us to clear paths, share what we have, and live lives that reflect Your Kingdom.

Give us courage like John to speak truth and to act justly. Give us hearts open to the Spirit's leading. May our lives make space for others to see Jesus clearly.

We pray in His name, Amen.

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## Key Takeaway

Preparing the way for Jesus doesn't always look dramatic—it often looks like sharing, listening, and showing up. The Kingdom begins with our everyday lives, transformed by the Spirit.

*This guide was developed from original content with the assistance of ChatGPT.*