

Digging Deeper

Read the following verses to learn more about John the Baptist:

(His birth)

Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

(His ministry and arrest)

Matthew 3:1-17; 4:12; 11:7-12

Luke 3:1-20; 7:24-35

Mark 1:2-11, 14; 9:11-14

John 1:6-35; 3:27-30; 5:33-36

(His doubts about Jesus)

Matthew 11:2-6

Luke 7:18-23

(His execution)

Matthew 14:1-12

Mark 6:14-29

Luke 9:7-9

Closing Prayer

Close with prayer for the spiritual needs of your family, your spiritual family, and people everywhere.

A Savior Comes

Let Us Prepare His Way!

Connection Group Study Guide
For the week of December 10 – December 16

Mark 1:1-8

Preparing the Way for the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Getting to Know Me

What kind of preparations do you or your family traditionally make for Christmas?

Into the Bible

Read Mark 1:1-8

What does the first verse tell us about Mark? About Jesus? About the purpose of this book?

According to the prophets Isaiah and Malachi, what was God's plan concerning the arrival of His Messiah? (vv. 2-3)

How do you think Isaiah's initial audience would have understood the message: "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him"? Given what we know about John, what was the actual meaning? (vv. 3-4)

What significance might God have intended with John's ministry being conducted in a wilderness?

Read Luke 8:27 and compare with v. 7

What kind of a man was John?

How are repentance and humility related?

What does verse 8 mean?

Connecting

When you see the words "*BREAKING NEWS*" on TV how does that make you feel? How does the news which Mark has to tell us compare with the news we see on TV?

In what two, major ways are you able to prepare the way for your coming Savior?

Was John a popular man? What kind of outcome did his ministry have? How do you think it would have felt to be John and to be tasked with his ministry? How does it feel to be you, and to be tasked with your ministry?

What relationship is there between your Baptism and your ability to prepare the way for the Lord?