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John the Baptist



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

John the Baptist was not the apostle who wrote the gospel of John.
He was a prophet.

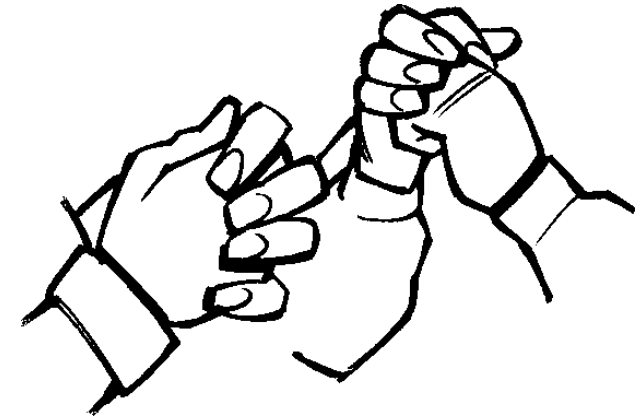
John the Baptist had three ministries:

1. He prepared people for the Lord's coming.
2. He baptized the Lord Jesus, and presented Him to God's people.
3. He was the voice that called out in the desert, and still urgently calls us to repentance.

John's message is for today. *"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!"* God calls people of all nations to repent.
(Luke 24:46-48, Acts 11:18, Acts 17:30)



- Help the people to pray (even if, at first, they only repeat phrases after you).



- If people willfully reject Christ after hearing the gospel clearly, seek others who respond.
- Take other members of your congregation with you to show them how to tell others about Christ.

PRACTICAL WORK

- Pray that God will open people's minds and that they will respond to the gospel.
- Continue to evangelize the heads of households, presenting the basic truths of the Gospel several times to each one.
(Use the Best News course, or other evangelistic method that repeatedly clarifies the saving power of the Lord's death and resurrection.)
- Call people with love and urgency to repent believe and be baptized.
- Have heads of households share with their family and friends what they learn, and also invite them to participate in the studies. This is to enable whole families to become Christians together.
- Have all those who are studying the Gospel meet together so that they can get to know one another.

WHAT DID JOHN THE BAPTIST DO?

John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord. He called the people to repent.

John baptized thousands of sinners after they confessed their sins. This baptism signified their repentance.

The baptism of John expressed r_____.

Read Matthew 3:1-17 before continuing.

☐ Mark the box when you have done so.



WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance is the sincere change in our mind and behavior that the Holy Spirit helps to bring about. By God's transforming power we don't just change a few sinful habits, but learn to serve others with genuine unselfish love. The call to repentance is an essential part of evangelism.



4. The Biblical call to all sinners is to r_____ and bel_____ in the name of Jesus.
5. Why is the call to repentance so urgent? Because the destiny of people without Christ is: _____.
6. The fire that cannot be put out is a terrible place. To avoid going there we must not only "accept" Christ, we must also sincerely repent. What is repentance?
 - ☐ Putting one's hand up in an evangelistic meeting.
 - ☐ A heartfelt change in our mind and behavior to live for God.
7. It is not necessary to preach a great sermon in order to testify effectively. We need only present Christ with the power of the:
 - ☐ Holy Spirit.
 - ☐ sermon.

SUMMARY TEST

1. John the Baptist's main task was to call the people to
r_____.
2. The people who repented and confessed their sins were
b_____ by John immediately.
3. The Lord Jesus never sinned in His life. Why then, was He
baptized, according to what He said in Matthew 3?
☐ To fulfill all righteousness.
☐ To comply with Jewish customs.



WHY DID JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZE CHRIST?

Jesus never sinned. So why did he have to be baptized? Isn't baptism a sign of repentance from sin?

Christ did not need to be baptized on account of his own sin. Rather, in baptism He expressed his identification with sinners. In the same way, we express our identification with Jesus Christ in repentance and faith when we are baptized.

Through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus, we share in the benefits of his death and resurrection. We receive forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life. Baptism expresses this.



WHAT DID JOHN THE BAPTIST REQUIRE PEOPLE TO DO?

John the Baptist did not invite the people to raise their hands to “accept” Christ. Neither did he invite them to “come forward.” He did not invite them to do anything. He commanded them to repent of their sins. John immediately baptized all those who repented.

Jesus Christ ordered people to repent; His disciples baptized the repentant. The Apostles also preached the message of repentance. On the day of Pentecost, Peter declared:

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

(Acts 2:38)

That day three thousand people obeyed this message and were baptized.

Those that were baptized by John confessed their sins first. When people come to Christ they cannot remember every single sin they have committed, to confess it. It’s enough to acknowledge that we have sinned and to trust Christ for forgiveness and new life.

Note: Some converts have already been baptized. Follow your church’s practice to receive them when they express repentance.

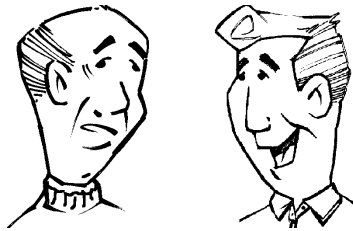
John is the voice in the desert that still calls to us. He calls us with the same urgency today.

God does not invite us. HE COMMANDS US!

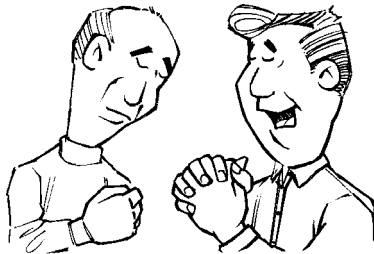
John spoke with God’s authority. He was His messenger. We also are God’s messengers. Like John, we also speak with God’s authority when we proclaim the Word of God.

Let us call the people to r_____ and a new life in Christ. This message is URGENT!

God gives us new life when we believe in His Son. His Holy Spirit comes into our lives and changes us. Would you like Him to come into your life and change you and your family?



I don't know how.



Then repeat these words after me. We will pray together.

Now, Let's Review Matthew 3:1-17.

John prepared the people by commanding them to r _____ and to be b _____.

Baptism expresses our repentance and of our new life in Christ.

It is not enough just to call people to accept Christ. This can result in a false decision. Without repentance and sincere belief, "accepting" Christ has no value.

To affirm their sincere faith in Christ, we must call people to r _____ and to be b _____.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM SIGNIFY?

1. Our repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.
2. The union with Jesus Christ by whose death and resurrection we receive forgiveness, the Holy Spirit and eternal life.

It is not enough just to accept Christ. The Bible says: repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38) Without repentance, there is no salvation. Baptism affirms our repentance.

We are saved only by faith, but this faith results in change. We are born again when Christ gives us new life in the Holy Spirit.

WHY DID JOHN AND THE APOSTLES CALL THE PEOPLE SO URGENTLY?

John said to them: *“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering the wheat into his barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”* (Matthew 3:11-12)

There is nothing more urgent than to escape from the coming fire of God’s judgment. We must convince the unbeliever of the danger to which his sin exposes him.

Let us preach with the conviction of John the Baptist, and with the same urgency. This is an important requisite in order to preach.

The voice of John still calls from the desert: *“REPENT!”* This has been God’s messenger’s constant call. He prepares us to find new life in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Let us witness daily to our relatives, friends and neighbors. If we love them, we will do everything possible to win them to Christ.

We don’t need to preach a great sermon in order to testify effectively. We only need to present Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit.