

Lesson 3: Desert Prophet, John the Baptist



God's Word

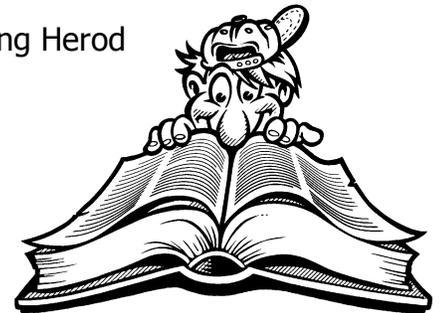
- † An _____ announced to Zechariah that his _____ Elisabeth would have a _____ even in their old age.
- † As an adult their son _____ preached in the Judean desert, "_____ the kingdom of heaven is near."
- † While he was preaching in the desert _____ came to be _____ by John in the Jordan River.
- † Like the OT prophets _____ was not always popular, so King Herod had him _____, put in prison and _____.

Major Point:

After Malachi there was no *Prophet* in Israel or Judah for about 400 years, but then John the Baptist arrived. John was a cousin to Jesus and he lived a unique life. Like the OT prophets God used him to tell people that they needed to do a better job following Him. John also announced that promised Messiah had arrived and with him God's Kingdom.

Major Passages:

Luke 1:12-13
 Matthew 3:1-2
 *Mark 1:9
 Matthew 14:3,10



Team Time

1. How does John the Baptist respond to seeing Jesus in John 1:19-34? How does John show that he understands his role in comparison to Jesus? What does he say is the difference between what he and Jesus baptize with?
2. As the previous question shows John the Baptist's role was to pave the way for Jesus. Once Jesus arrived John pretty much faded away. Do you think this was an easy role for him to fulfill? How might you have handled it?
3. Read Matthew 3:13-17. How does John the Baptist respond when Jesus asks him to be baptized? Why do you think he answers this way? What does it say about the type of person John was that Jesus chose him for this important task? Close in prayer asking God to prepare each of you for important tasks in your life.

Family Time

Y Read together this week's handout and answer the following questions:

1. Read "John the Baptist" and answer the Life Question on the page. Also, what made John "something new" to the people of his time?

2. Read carefully Matthew 14:3-12. Did King Heron have the right to do what he did to John? Why or why not? What did John confront Herod for? How does this story show that doing things God's way may not always be popular?

3. Read Luke 1:5-25 & 57-66. What does this section say about how Zechariah and Elizabeth handled the news that they would have a child? What caused them to doubt? How is God's power shown in the birth of John the Baptist? Close in prayer thanking God for sometimes using his power to do the "impossible".

Memory Work

This week's memory work is to memorize the verse of the week (Mark 1:9) from the front of this lesson and books 4-5 of the New Testament.

This is to verify that I completed the **family fitness** and **Memory Work** portion of this week's Confirmation lesson with my student.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____