

Bible Study: Life of John the Baptist

Purpose: We looked at the birth, life, and death of John the Baptist and how he lived for God. He was a little peculiar in method and approach, but loved the Lord. He proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and was the first martyr for Him. This should be an encouragement to those who believe in Jesus, that they can have great impact for Him. He lived extreme Christianity, without regard for societal norms or judgment of others. Therefore, we shouldn't feel ashamed of the gospel, but announce Jesus publicly.

LUKE 1:5-25 ~ The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold.

- Q:** Why did the angel tell Zechariah to keep John from wine and strong drink?
- Q:** Does this remind you of any other Biblical people we've talked about?
- Q:** How/Why was John filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth?
- Q:** Why was Zechariah unable to speak after talking with the angel?
- Q:** What did Elizabeth mean when he said the Lord has lifted his disgrace?

LUKE 1:57-66 ~ The Birth of John the Baptist.

- Q:** Why didn't Elizabeth let the relatives name him Junior?
- Q:** Why did Zechariah back her up on this? Why the writing tablet?
- Q:** What would you be thinking if you were one of their neighbors?
- Q:** The whole country heard. Think people took a special interest in John's life?

MATTHEW 3:1-17 ~ John's Proclamation & Baptism of Jesus.

- Q:** Was John a conventional sort of guy? Why was he so bizarre?
- Q:** Should we judge people by their appearance? Who can God use?
- Q:** What did he mean when talking about children of Abraham?
- Q:** What does John mean by the Baptism of fire?
- Q:** Why does John object at first to baptizing Jesus?
- Q:** Since Jesus is righteous already, why did he want to be baptized?
- Q:** What do you think people felt seeing all 3 of the Trinity?

JOHN 3:22-30 ~ John's Disciples Get Jealous.

- Q:** What were John's disciples worried about?
- Q:** Why did he have to reassure them of the identity of Jesus?
- Q:** Was John too proud to yield to the plan of God?

MATTHEW 11:7-15 ~ Jesus Praises John the Baptist

- Q:** Why does Jesus confirm what John is saying and doing?
- Q:** What does he mean when he talks of those born of women?
- Q:** What does Jesus mean that the violent take heaven by force?
- Q:** Who is this Elijah guy is compared to John?

MATTHEW 14:1-12 ~ The Death of John the Baptist.

- Q:** Was John intimidated by people of authority?
- Q:** Is God calling us to be so bold as to tell people how it is?
- Q:** What can we learn from the life and death of John the Baptist?