

Lesson 6

Who prepared the way for Jesus?

John the Baptist



Luke 1:13-15 – *But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, **and thou shalt call his name John.** And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*

How did John prepare the way for Jesus?





Hilkiah (Bible)

John was a fearless preacher. He was not afraid **to preach against sin**. John's preaching prepared **the way for Jesus**. It caused many people **to repent of their sins**. When a person repents of their sins, they change their minds about sin. Instead of enjoying it or excusing it, they see their sins as being very bad and displeasing to God. A person who repents of his sins sincerely **wants to stop sinning**.

Something to do:

Study the life of John.
What are some of John's experiences as recorded in the Bible? (Read Matthew 3, 11, and 14.)



A Person Repenting

What does Jesus have to do with John the Baptist?

Jesus said that John the Baptist was the greatest man who ever lived!

Matthew 11:11 – *Verily I [Jesus] say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist...*

Questions for Primary Lesson 6

1. What was John not afraid to preach against?
2. For what did John's preaching prepare?
3. What did John's preaching cause people to do?
4. When a person repents, what does he sincerely want to do?

Do you want Jesus to be able to say good things about you also?

Junior Lesson 6 - The Ministry of John the Baptist

The purpose of the ministry of John the Baptist was to **prepare the way for Jesus Christ**. Surely no man on earth could have a more important purpose in life!

John's life purpose was reflected in his "no-nonsense" life style. He was focused on his job of pointing men and women to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

John did not live a life of luxury. He ate simple, primitive food. He wore simple, austere clothing. He lived outdoors and was dependent on no one.

A person who depends on others can easily be tempted to **compromise** his message in order to please others. John had no one to please but God!

When John saw evil, he preached against it. This caused him naturally to take a stand against **Herod's evil life-style**. John was not afraid of Herod. We need preachers at this time who are not afraid of anyone!

John's desire was to return the heart of the fathers to their children and make ready a people

prepared for the Lord. The ministry of Jesus would only last three years, but John had prepared the people's heart for Jesus, and they were ready to hear His message.



John Lived Alone in the Wilderness

Questions for Junior Lesson 6

1. What was the purpose of the ministry of John the Baptist?
2. Describe John the Baptist's lifestyle.
3. What person will be tempted to compromise his message?
4. What was John's desire?
5. Why did John take a stand against Herod's life-style?
6. How long was John's ministry?

Intermediate and Advanced Lesson 6 – PSYCHOLOGY
The Ministry of John the Baptist

Spiritual Insight: The last words of the Old Testament, recorded in Malachi 4:5-6, are very significant. They read as follows: *Behold, I [God] will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

John the Baptist was not Elijah, but he came in the spirit and the power of Elijah. Elijah's job was to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers." The family relationship is extremely important. One of the signs of the last days is the breakdown of the family. A church is only as strong as its families. It is therefore essential that much of the preaching and teaching of a church should help the families of the church grow closer together.

Intermediate Questions

1. Why was it necessary for John the Baptist to live alone?
2. Why was it necessary for John to take a strong stand against sin?
3. Why did Jesus call John the greatest man born of a woman?
4. Why did Jesus say that the least in the Kingdom of Heaven was greater than John?

Advanced Questions

1. What factors turn the hearts of fathers away from their children?
2. What factors turn the hearts of children away from their fathers?
3. Why would God smite the earth with a curse because of the breakdown of the home?

John Came in the Spirit and Power of Elijah the Prophet.

