

Women in the Word
Luke 3 & 7 – John the Baptist
September 19, 2013



1. List some specific ways that God has used certain people in your life to point you toward Him.

In what ways has God used you to point others toward Him?

2. Read Luke 1:8-17 to be reminded of the circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptist. What responsibilities would John fulfill during his lifetime according to the angel?

After reading Luke 1:15, how might we know that John would be able to accomplish his mighty purposes?

How do we see John already fulfilling his purpose when we read Luke 1:39-44?

3. We learn in Luke 1:17 that John the Baptist would come in the spirit and power of Elijah. Read one story involving Elijah in 1 Kings 18:36-39. Elijah called on God to display His power by accepting Elijah's sacrifice. What character traits did Elijah possess that we would expect to see in John the Baptist hundreds of years later?

What was the result of Elijah's ministry to the people of Israel in this story that would also be witnessed in John the Baptist's ministry to Israel?

Before John's public ministry began, what can we learn about him in Luke 1:80?

4. Read Luke 3:1-6. What took place that motivated John the Baptist to begin his public ministry according to verse 2?

How would you describe John's ministry after reading verse 3?

How did Isaiah prophetically describe John's ministry years earlier according to verses 4-6?

5. After reading Luke 3:7-14, what can we assume about some of the people who came to John the Baptist to be baptized? Where were they placing their hope?

What was John's desire for these people according to verse 8?

6. Read Luke 3:15-18. List all of the differences between Jesus and John the Baptist in these verses.

How do we see some of these differences acted out when witnessing the baptism of Jesus in John 1:29-34 and Luke 3:21-22?

7. Read Luke 3:19-20. What do you learn about John the Baptist in these verses?

Read Luke 7:18-20. What might be some possible reasons that the imprisoned John the Baptist needed affirmation from Jesus that He was the promised Messiah?

Read Isaiah 35:5,6 and Isaiah 61:1 along with Luke 7:21-22. What are some of the truths that point to the true identity of Jesus Christ?

8. In the midst of trials that seem to imprison us, what would Jesus say to us when we question who He is as we suffer? Read Luke 7:23 with John 14:6-11.

What realities about Jesus should give us the strength to endure our hardships, and in what ways might we seek these truths?

9. Read Luke 7:24-30. List all of the ways that Jesus described John the Baptist.

How does Luke 7:28 encourage you? How does Colossians 1:22 explain this verse?

10. Read Luke 7:31-35. What is Jesus attempting to teach the religious leaders about themselves with these illustrations?

Have they accepted the divine calling and ministry of John the Baptist?

Read Luke 7:35 again. How does spiritual wisdom in your life lead others toward Jesus?

11. Do you have a personal prayer request to share with your small group?

HOPE IN THE WILDERNESS

The Wanderings

Israel in the Old Testament
Israel during the Intertestamental Period
Israel in the New Testament

Israel had a history of being spiritually _____ but God would not abandon them.

The Voice of Hope Luke 1:76-80, 3:1-33, 7:16-28

JOHN'S PURPOSE-

To bring God's people back to God
To prepare God's people for the arrival of the coming Messiah

JOHN'S MINISTRY-

To Preach Boldly

John prepared the paths of hearts to _____ the ministry of the Messiah.

To Baptize Boldly

John's baptism was an outward sign of an _____ turning from sin.

JOHN'S PRIVILEGE-

To introduce the world to its Savior

JOHN'S CONFUSION-

To be assured that Jesus was the promised Messiah

Jesus' _____ and _____ perfectly fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah.

Inviting Hope on our Life Journey

We go to the right Person
We ask the right questions
We give the gift of hope to those who are journeying alongside us
Hope indwells the hearts of those who _____ that Jesus is who He said He was

I COR.13:13

AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

MALACHI 3:1

“SEE, I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER, WHO WILL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME. THEN SUDDENLY THE LORD YOU ARE SEEKING WILL COME TO HIS TEMPLE; THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT, WHOM YOU DESIRE, WILL COME,” SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.

GALATIANS 4:4

BUT WHEN THE TIME HAD FULLY COME, GOD SENT HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER LAW, TO REDEEM THOSE UNDER LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE FULL RIGHTS AS SONS.

JOHN 14:6

“I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

EPHESIANS 2:12

REMEMBER THAT ONCE YOU WERE SEPARATE FROM CHRIST....FOREIGNERS TO THE COVENANT OF THE PROMISE, WITHOUT HOPE AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD.

PSALM 62:5

FIND REST, O MY SOUL, IN GOD ALONE; MY HOPE COMES FROM HIM. HE ALONE IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION; HE IS MY FORTRESS, I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

JOB 13:15

THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET I WILL HOPE IN HIM.

HEBREWS 3:12,13

SEE TO IT THAT NONE OF YOU HAS A SINFUL, UNBELIEVING HEART THAT TURNS AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD. BUT ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER DAILY, AS LONG AS IT IS CALLED TODAY, SO THAT NONE OF YOU MAY BE HARDENED BY SIN’S DECEITFULNESS.