

Season 4 Study 1: John the Baptist

THE BIG YEAR

A Journey through God's Word

As we start our study in the New Testament, is there anything you've found to be particularly encouraging as you've been reading God's Word?

1. Why do Christians get baptized? What does it signify, and why does it matter for believers?

READ JOHN 1:6-8 & 15; MARK 1:6

2. Who was John the Baptist, and what crucial role did he play in the gospel story?
3. Why did John live in the wilderness, with such a strange diet and wardrobe?

READ LUKE 3:1-9

4. According to vs 3, what type of baptism did John proclaim? What does this mean, and how is it different from the type of baptism we experience today as Christians?
5. Summarize the warnings in vs 7-9. Why did John bring such a harsh warning? Who was he addressing?

READ LUKE 3:10-20

6. Explain the counsel John gives in vs 11-14. Is John suggesting that people can earn salvation, or favour from God, through good works and repentance of sin?
7. Understandably, some of the people think John might be the Messiah. But what does he say about the One to come (vs 16-17)?
8. What kind of baptism will the Messiah bring? What does that mean? (vs 16-17)
9. Why did Herod imprison John? (vs 19-20)

READ JOHN 3:22-30

10. What do you think John's disciples were really concerned about (vs 26)?
11. What metaphor does John use to describe his ministry in vs 29? How was his ministry 'completed'?
12. What does John mean by his statement in vs 30? Should this also be our goal?
13. In what ways is John's life an example for us to follow?

"I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Luke 3:16)