

Lesson Five: John the Baptist

Unlock with Questions

1. Who is a “wild man” or “wild woman” whom you know personally? A fun story is allowed! :-)
 2. What does deep devotion to a person look like to you?
 3. Have you ever had a friend leave you to become friends with someone else?
 4. Can you state the mission of your life in one sentence?
 5. Which do you think is more important: knowing who you **are** or knowing who you are **not**?
-

Unlock New Thoughts

THEMES OF JOHN'S LIFE:

Prophecy -

Family -

Ministry -

Insecurity -

Infamy -

Unlock the Scriptures

Describe a time in your life when you've doubted something or someone important. How has God used wilderness experience in your training as a Christian? Are you drawn to solitude? How do you listen to God - how does He teach you directly?

Read Matthew 3:1-17.

How do you describe John's appearance?

What shocks you about how he related to people?

Look up **Romans 6:4**. How does the imagery about baptism explain John's passion for repentance?

How are you [not] like him in speaking to people who are curious about living as an authentic Christian?

What does “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance” look like in your life? Is there one thing you need to repent of today? What fruit would you expect to come from that change?

The Jews took great security from the fact that Abraham (Genesis 12-25) was their spiritual father and physical/family lineage. God often pictured Israel as a vine with a strong root system

that started with Abraham. How does that give you insight into verses 9 and 10? What was the point of the Jews' claim to Abraham?

This was an agrarian society, so John uses an agricultural image to help them understand what is going on. If you want to understand verses 10 and 12 more fully, use your phone or tablet to look up what happens on a threshing floor. Our internet connection is called "CSPC Guest."

What is John's main message?

How does this impact you, right now, at this very moment in your life?

What does REPENTANCE mean? (Feel free to look it up.)

What do you think John meant in verse 11?

Now, in preparation for **Insecurity** and **Infamy**, please read [Luke 7:18-35](#) and [Mark 6:14-29](#) with your table. there is no rush; read for understanding, not speed.

Lock It In

Insecurity - [Luke 7:18-35](#) "Are You the One, or should we expect someone else?"
"Now ... exercise your faith. Believe."

Infamy - [Mark 6:14-29](#) Beheaded.

Lock It Down:

What aspect of John's life has moved you the most?

What major lessons have you learned from his life?

Apply to yourself this quote: "He must increase, I must decrease."

Is your life warped by the bitterness of holding a grudge as Salome's mother Herodias' was?
What are you going to do about it?

In one sentence, describe John the Baptist.

Bonus Features: More Resources; Conversation Starters at the Table or in the Car

How do we prepare for a special guest at our home? (John prepared the way for Jesus.)

Think about how you exercise physically. How do you exercise spiritually?

In what ways can you decrease in order to let Jesus increase in your life at _____ (school, work, etc)?

Tell the story of Herod, Herodias, Salome, and John the Baptist. See what happens.