

STRONG WOMEN, MIGHTY MEN

Part 5.0 John the Baptizer Gospel books

- John's life had CONNECTION to God Matthew 11:11
- His unique BIRTH situation Luke 1:5-80
 - His unique LIFESTYLE Mark 1:1-8
 - His unique PERSONALITY Matthew 11:18

John's life had PURPOSE

- He was a 'PREPARER' for Jesus
Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 4:5; Matthew 3:2
- He was a 'PROPHET' of God's people John 1:6-13
- He was a 'PAIN' to the self-righteous Matthew 3:7-12

John's life had a SERVICE to provide

- His happy chore was BAPTIZING people Matthew 3:5-6
- His joyful heart PROMOTED Jesus John 3:25-30
- His loyalty to God's TRUTH cost him his life Mark 6:17-29

Life Group Questions – November 3rd, 2019

Matthew 11:9-11 *'But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,*

'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

QUICK REVIEW

1. What areas of your life do you consider to be evidence that you are living life by bold faith? Compare when you first began to step out in this area of faith to how you look at it today.
2. Are you available to the Holy Spirit 24/7? How does a Spirit-led life create hunger in others to know Jesus as well?

MY STORY

1. An *ambassador* is "an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country." What are the responsibilities of this diplomat? Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. Compare and contrast the conventional classification and the biblical meaning, especially with regards to the term "reconciliation."
2. How are you an ambassador for Christ? How and where have you planted the seeds of reconciliation to God (evangelism)? Who have you been continually praying for? In what other ways have you "made straight the paths of the Lord"?
3. Discuss your personal testimony. Did it involve confession and repentance? Who prepared the way for you? Have you ever made a public profession of your faith? What happened?

GOING DEEP

1. What was John the Baptist's message? How can we prepare our hearts to receive Christ? What does it mean to have an unassuming nature?
2. Read Matthew 11:2-6. How is it that John the Baptist was not sure that Jesus was the Messiah? (see Luke 4:16-19) How is that truth applicable in our lives? What should we then do?
3. How does God use various personality types to advance His Kingdom? (see Abigail, Deborah, Gideon and John the Baptist) How is God leading you to a place where you have not yet been with Him?
4. While we can never know with certainty, why do you think John the Baptist lived in the wilderness? How can this change your faith journey?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?