

REPENT, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR

Matthew 3:1-17

Key Verse: 3:2

1. Read verses 1-3. Where did John the Baptist preach? What was his message? What does it mean to repent? What does it mean that the kingdom of heaven is near? What was John's mission? (3; Isa 40:3) Why is it important that his mission is rooted in God's word?
2. Read verses 4-6. What does John's lifestyle show about him? How did the people respond to him? What does this show about them? How did John's baptism prepare the way for Jesus?
3. Read verses 7-10. Why did John rebuke the religious leaders? What were they proud of? Why was this pride groundless? What evidence of real faith does God seek in his people? What happens to those who do not repent?
4. Read verses 11-12. How did John witness to Jesus? What is the difference in John's baptism and the baptism of Jesus? What does it mean that Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit? With fire?
5. Read verses 13-15. Why did Jesus come to be baptized by John? What does "to fulfill all righteousness" mean? What does this show about Jesus? Read verses 16-17. What happened? How did God witness to Jesus? Why was God pleased with Jesus?