

## JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

Matthew 3:1-17

Key Verse: 3:2

"...and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.'"

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read verses 1-3. Where did John the Baptist preach? What was his message? What was the holy mission God had given him through Isaiah? (3; Isa 40:3) What does it mean to repent? What does it mean that the kingdom of heaven is near?
2. Read verse 4-6. What does John's lifestyle show about him? How did the people respond to him? What does this show about them? What did baptism by John mean?
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 did he believe about Jesus?
5. Read verses 13-15. Why did Jesus insist on being baptized by John? What does this show about him? Read verses 16-17. What happened? How did God witness to Jesus? Why did God give him the Holy Spirit at this time? Why was God pleased with Jesus?