

York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 5th December 2021

The Birth of HOPE, Prepared for HOPE
Matthew 3:1-12

Prepared for
HOPE



JOHN THE BAPTIST

These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.



YORK STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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GETTING STARTED

Q1. Is there an area of your life that you feel you are prepared for? What does being prepared look like for this area? E.g. paperwork, organised, space, planned, booked, etc.

Q2. Is there something that you have thought you had prepared for, only to realise that you were not really prepared? E.g. picturing the wrong weather and dressing inappropriately for the conditions.

Q3. Do you have a prepared daily routine that honours Christ? A devotional time, a prayer, a pattern?

INTO THE WORD

Read Matthew 3:1-2

Q4. What does 'repentance' or being 'sorry or remorseful' look like in actions? John has an urgency about his message, how do we act when it comes to the Kingdom of Heaven? Why?

Read Matthew 3:3-6

Q5. John prepared the way for Jesus in showing a 'different' way to live, besides his clothes and food. He showed that you can live for God in baptism and repentance. God looks at the heart, and John allowed people's hearts to be turned to God, preparing the way for what was to come.

Can you remember when you first gave your heart to Christ? Or if you have not made that decision, what questions do you still have, or what is stopping you?

GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 3:7-12

Q6. John's baptism was with water, Jesus' was to be with the Holy Spirit and fire. Water only covers the surface of us when we are baptised, the Holy Spirit (like fire) penetrates all of us, it consumes us, it infuses every part of us.

How then are we different after accepting Jesus and being baptised than we were before? How do we prepare for each day to allow the Holy Spirit to lead every aspect of our lives? What areas of your life may need adjusting to align with the actions of repentance in living for Jesus and not for self?

Q7. Baptism signifies the start of your spiritual journey. Have you been baptised? Do you need to once again ask the Holy Spirit to consume you in order to live for HOPE each and every day?

Pray

Invite the Spirit to show yourself or the group what you can do this week to prepare for the Holy Spirit to lead you. What areas need to change, and what opportunities have we not considered? Ask that God would prepare you for His tasks, His leading, and His will this week.