

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** John the Baptist**Learning Goals:** Through independent study and analysis of the biblical material, students should be introduced to the character of John the Baptist and understand his roll as the one who “prepared the way” for Jesus.**Question:** How do we “prepare the way for Jesus” in our lives?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Read Luke 3:1-20 and Matthew 3:1-12 and answer the following questions:

1. Who were John’s parents? (see Luke 1)
Elizabeth and Zechariah (Luke 1:5)
2. According to the prophecy that John’s father spoke over him at his birth (Luke 1:76-79), what is John’s role in God’s larger plan?
To prepare the way for the coming Messiah (Luke 1:76)
3. When did John’s ministry begin? What Gentile leaders were in charge?
In the fifteenth year of Tiberius. Other leaders include Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip Trachonitis, Lysanias (Luke 3:1)
4. Where was John when God’s call to begin his ministry came?
In the wilderness (Luke 3:2)
5. What prophecy did John’s ministry fulfill according to Luke? *(Be sure to include the exact verses from the Old Testament)*
John was the prophet preparing the way for the Lord according to Isaiah 40:3-5 (Luke 3:4)
6. What did John wear? *(What other prophetic figure is connected to this type of clothing? See 2 Kings 1:5-8.)*
A garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist (Matthew 3:4); Elijah the Tishbite (2 Kings 1:8)
7. What did John eat?
Locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4)
8. What was the content of John’s message? *(One sentence summary - see Matthew 3:1-3)*
“Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand” (Matthew 3:2)
9. In Matthew 3:7-12, John rejects the idea that a person can enter the kingdom because of their ancestry. According to John, what does a person need to do to enter the kingdom? *(Tell me what the Bible says, not you “know” it says.)*
“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matthew 3:8)

10. What was John doing to the people who repented?

He baptizes those that repent (Matthew 3:6, 11)

11. In Luke's version of the story, John tells us that Jesus will bring a different kind of baptism. What will it be? Why is it significant that Luke includes this detail?

Jesus will come and baptize the people with the Holy Spirit; Luke places a special emphasis on the presence and role of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16)

12. John's ministry was to prepare the way for Jesus. Read John 3:25-30. How does John describe his ministry in John 3:30?

Jesus must increase as John decreases (John 3:30)

13. What were the companions of John called in John 3:25? What exactly does this word mean?

Disciples; a follower of a teacher

14. With what Jewish leader did John come into conflict with in Luke 3:18-20? How did this leader respond? What eventually happened to John (see Matthew 14:1-12)?

Herod the Tetrarch (Herod the Great's son); Herod threw John in prison and eventually beheaded him (Luke 3:18-20; Matthew 14:10)