

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 5. John the Baptist



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Mark 1 :1-5,7,8

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in Isaiah the prophet "I will send my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way, a voice of one calling in the desert. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

And so, John came, baptising and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All the people of Judea and Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan river. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I ... I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

**LOOKING FURTHER:** The birth of John the Baptist: Luke 1:57-80

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

Good news, the good news that Jesus, the Son of God has come, that Jesus is God's anointed one, the long-awaited Saviour. Jesus himself is good news and proclaims good news.

The fulfilment of prophecy, of 600 years of hoping and waiting for God to act.

The messenger is John, a voice calling in the desert, preparing the way for Jesus.

John preaches that we should turn away from all that hurts and destroys, and gives an invitation to come back to God. The people respond, longing for forgiveness, confessing their sins and are baptised with water. John points to Jesus, Jesus who baptises us with the Holy Spirit, who helps us turn away from those things that separate us from God. Baptism is an outward sign of cleansing and an inward pouring of the Holy Spirit. It is a fresh start.

This fresh start is available for all of us. Jesus through his life, death and resurrection has taken our sins upon Himself and restored us to a right relationship with God. We are beloved children and given the help of the Holy Spirit.

We all make mistakes, messing up happens. As we continue on our Christian journey, it is helpful to pray each day the prayer that Jesus taught us, the Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven....

### Reflections:

- Can you think of any good news that you have heard ?
- How can we be like Jesus and be good news to others through kind and loving acts?
- Thinking about our Christian life, who has helped us ?
- What does it mean for us to be restored to a right relationship with God?
- Thinking about a fresh start, what would that look like in reality?
- We all mess up, how easy do you find it to be kind to yourself?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.



Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.