

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

*“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)*

### Objectives

*Knowledge of God’s Will*

John’s baptism and messages were a call to repentance and to bear fruit worthy of repentance.

*Knowledge of God*

God is a living God who fulfills His plans according to His will.

*Good Work*

Truly repent by confessing our sins and bearing fruit; stand firm in both our beliefs and our faith in God.

### A. His Background (Lk 1:6–17; 57–59)

Zacharias and Elizabeth are described as a simple, faithful couple. Elizabeth was descended from the family of Aaron.

### B. His Life and Character

1. **A life of simplicity:** John lived very simply, with rough clothing and food. He was also an upright man, and many sought him for teachings on how to live their lives before God.
2. **A life of boldness:** When the multitudes came to John for baptism, he spoke boldly of their hypocrisy, calling them a “brood of vipers” (Lk 3:7). He also rebuked King Herod and refused to waver in his righteousness despite the threat to his life.
3. **A life of humility:** John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah and understood that his role was to point people towards Jesus, not himself (Lk 3:15–16).

### C. His Role

John’s mission was to declare God’s message of repentance to prepare the people’s hearts for Jesus. Just as Elijah swayed their hearts back to God, John also carried out a powerful ministry.

1. **His work:** At that time, “the word of God came to John [and] he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Lk 3:2–3).
2. **His baptism:** John’s baptism of repentance prepared the people for Christ’s coming. To be saved, the people had to be baptized once more for the remission of sins in Jesus’ name.

### D. His Doubts

Even with his great faith and role, John was still human. His life was full of troubles, and with them came doubts. Likewise, we have no guarantee of a long life or great deeds as God’s children.

### E. His Beheading (Mt 14:1–12)

During the celebration that Herod held in his household, with the request that his wife Herodias’ daughter made, John’s life came to an abrupt and tragic ending.

### Life Application

1. **Repentance (Mt 3:2):** The Greek word for “repent” means “to change one’s mind.”
  - a. *Confess your sin:* No one likes admitting they were wrong but denying our sin does not help us.
  - b. *Let the truth be our guide:* Examine ourselves constantly using the Bible as our moral standard.
  - c. *Fast and pray:* Sin and repentance often go hand in hand with fasting and prayer.
  - d. *Walk in the light:* True repentance requires a change of heart and actions in our daily lives.
2. **Bear Fruits Worthy of Repentance (Lk 3:7–14):** We must give freely, take only what is ours, deal with others truthfully and peacefully, and be content, fully trusting that God will provide.

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Junior 1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 3 – Student Handout

## Lesson 3 Homework Assignment

### John the Baptist

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (John 3:30):

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1. What kind of mindset is the memory verse teaching us to have?
2. What characteristics can we see in John the Baptist's life?
3. Pick one of the above characteristics and briefly explain how we can see it in John's life.
4. What was the difference between John's baptism and the baptism Jesus' disciples performed?
5. What are the steps to repentance? Briefly explain each.
6. What action can you take this week to begin to bear fruit worthy of repentance?