

John the Baptist Prepares the Way—[Mark 1:1–8](#)

Topics:

Gospel, Humility, Preparation, Prophecy, Repentance, Witnessing

Open It

1. *How would you prepare for a home visit from your boss or another important person?
2. Why is it important to prepare for the coming of an influential person?
3. What attitudes do most ordinary people have about “very important persons”?

Explore It

1. What do Mark’s first words tell us about his Gospel? ([1:1](#))
2. Who was John the Baptist? ([1:2–3](#))
3. *Who sent the messenger? Why? ([1:2–3](#))
4. How was Isaiah’s prophecy fulfilled? ([1:4](#))
5. *What were the two aspects of John’s ministry? ([1:4](#))
6. What reasons to be baptized did John give the people? ([1:4](#))
7. What had to happen before John could baptize a person? ([1:5](#))

8. When John said, “After me will come one more powerful than I,” to whom was he referring? ([1:7](#))
9. What was John’s attitude toward Jesus? ([1:7](#))
10. *What was the theme of John’s message? ([1:7–8](#))
11. How did Jesus’ baptism differ from John’s? ([1:8](#))

Get It

1. What is your reaction to the fact that Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled?
2. In what ways can we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us?
3. How can Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit make a difference in our lives?
4. *What does the message of Jesus offer to people?
5. What usually prevents us from being Christ’s witnesses?
6. How can a person’s witness reflect humility and respect for Jesus?
7. How can we ensure that our lives focus attention on Christ, and not on ourselves?
8. *In what ways can you prepare others for Christ?

Apply It

1. *What step could you take this week toward becoming a better witness for Christ?
2. With whom can you share God's promise of forgiveness of sins? How?
3. How can you encourage other Christians to be witnesses for Christ?