**PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD**

Luke 3:1-20

Key Verse 3:3 “He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

1. What do the names of the political and religious leaders whom Luke mentions tell us about the political situation in the time of John? (1, 20) About the religious situation? (cf. John 18:13-14)

2. Where and why did John preach a message of repentance? (2-3) What does it mean to repent? (cf. Acts 3:19) Why did many people respond to John’s stern message of repentance? (7)

3. What does Isaiah 40:3-5, quoted in verses 4-6, tell us about John’s ministry? How does repentance prepare people’s hearts to see God’s salvation?

4. How did John challenge the crowds coming out to be baptized by him? (7-9; cf. Isaiah 29:13)? What does it mean to produce fruit in keeping with repentance? What examples can we find in verses 10-14 and how can we apply it to ourselves?

5. Why did John need to clarify his identity? (15) How did John turn their attention to Jesus and his ministry? (16-17)

6. Why did Herod put John in prison? (19-20)