

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church Beaumont**  
**Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit**  
**Sunday School Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon**  
**Lesson # 3 December 13, 2022, to December 18, 2022**  
**Teacher: Deacon Charles Blackmon**

**Unit 1: God Prepares the way**  
**Subject: John Prepares the Way.**  
**Print passage: Luke 3:2-6,15-18**

**Key Verse: He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3, NIV).**

**Key Terms**

**Good News: The good news of the coming of the Messiah the gospel.**

**Repentance: A change of mind, change in the inner person.**

**Winnowing fork: a simple wooden pitchfork used to throw up the grain against the wind.**

**Introduction:**

John the Baptizer was anointed and appointed by God to be the chief messenger who would usher in Christ's ministry and present Him as the Messiah. Because of the importance of John's message and ministry, he is a prominent personality in the four gospels. Including Luke's gospel, John is celebrated in Mark as the gospel that was written first (Mark 1:2-8), (Matthew 3:1-11) and (John 1:6-8, 19-30). All four gospels make it clear that John recognized his role as forerunner of Christ, An essential function of John's ministry was to baptize "with water" those who accepted his message of repentance. John also preached in the wilderness wearing clothes made of camel's hair, and feasting on locust and wild honey (Matthew 3:3-4).

**Topic 1:**

- **He Preached the World (Luke 3:2-6)**

John was called to the ministry from his mother's womb (Luke 1:13b). In Luke 3:2 God's appointed time for John to step into ministry had arrived. John had received the word of God to his people. John began his ministry not in the cities, but in the countryside. The theme of John's message was the "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3)." Repentance is a change of mind, heart, and purpose—a turning from sin and turning to God. Many people often ask for forgiveness but seldom repent. John preached "a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." The term remission includes forgiveness, but it is more than forgiveness. In the Greek language, the word remission is defined as "a release; a dismissal (a-fe-sez)." John commanded all people to repent, no matter who you are. In Luke 3: 4 John's role as the forerunner of Jesus Christ fulfilled prophecy. John was the "voice crying in the wilderness." It indicates John spoke with a strong voice and preached with passion for the people to receive the message and the Messiah. The

statement “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.” John was not just preparing the way for a king; he was paving the way for the King of King’s. Now, Luke 3:5-6 is directed at the people whose hearts need to be prepared to receive Christ and His ministry (Luke 3:5). John is saying “The high and lofty will be humbled, and the lowly will be lifted (Luke 3: 6).” Confirms that Christ is available to all.

## Topic 2:

- He Reached the World (Luke 3:15-18)

In response to those who suspected that he was the Messiah (Luke 3: 15). John announced that One far greater than he was coming. John proclaimed Christ to be the Messiah, without hesitation. He made it clear that he “baptized with water;” that indicated that his baptism was an outward symbol of an inward change, he would baptize with power of the Holy Spirit. John declared that Christ, he was not worthy even to untie the straps of His sandals (Luke 3:16). John’s baptism was symbolic; Christ baptism would be transformational. John’s baptism was external; Christ’s baptism would be internal (Luke 3:17). Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor. The fan was the large, wide wooden shovel that they would use to take the wheat and throw the wheat in the air. the wind would carry off the chaff, and the wheat would fall back down onto the floor. This was the way of thrashing the wheat. John’s message that included repentance, baptism, remission of sin, and magnifying the Messiah (Luke 3:18). And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.