

Life Group Homework

For the week of April 28, 2019

MY STORY

1. What is your favorite kind of potato dish and why?
2. What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 3:1-16 (NLT)

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ² "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

³ *The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,*

*"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming!
Clear the road for him!'"*

⁴ *John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶ And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.*

⁷ *But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?" ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.*

⁹ *Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰ Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.*

¹¹ *"I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."*

¹³ *Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"*

¹⁵ *But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.*

¹⁶ *After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."*

4. What are the two parts of John's message?
5. What does it mean to repent?
6. How is repentance more than just feeling sorry for one's actions?
7. Who did John call snakes and why? What did he tell them to do?
8. Why would the Pharisees and Sadducees think that they didn't need to repent?
9. What is John's warning to the Pharisees and Sadducees?

This week in Sunday's message Pastor Craig told us that John was the bridge between the Old Covenant and the New. He instituted baptism, which was readily understood as a form of cleansing.

A fun note about the similarities between John and Elijah comes from

2 Kings 1:8 (ESV):

⁸ *They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."*

10. What did John and Elijah have in common?
11. Why would John's choice of clothing have been significant to the people of his day?

TAKING IT HOME

12. Are there things in your life that you need to repent of and then move toward Jesus? If so, are you willing to share with the group?
13. What can you do differently this week to truly repent?

14. This Sunday Pastor Craig shared the analogy about unrepentant sin being like murky water. Can you relate to this, and if so, how?
15. In verses 13-17 what was John's response to Jesus about being baptized?
16. What is Jesus' response to John, and why is it important?
17. What does Jesus say the purpose of baptism is?
18. According to this passage, is baptism required for salvation?
19. Share with the group in two minutes or less about your baptism. (If you have not been baptized yet, share why if you feel comfortable doing so.)

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Matthew Chapter 3:1-16 and think about the following questions:

20. Is there anything in my life that I need to repent from?
21. Is there anything that you need to shift in your heart to truly have repentance?
22. If you haven't been baptized yet, prayerfully ask God the reasons why. If you have further questions about why we should be baptized, please email Pastor Justin at justino@baysidech.com

Jesus

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

April 28, 2019

Matthew 3:1-6 (NLT)

Baptism:

- What is it?
- *Why* behind the *What*?
- What it's not... Saving.

Baptism is the public declaration a heart has asked for forgiveness and received the grace/mercy of God.

Matthew 3:1-17

Key Verse:

"In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ² "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

Matthew 3:1-2

One Main Point:

- **God wants me to see His kingdom clearer.**
 - Repentance in its Old Testament meaning.

Challenge:

- What's in your way? What is clouding your water?
- What could I set aside to see God clearer?

**Write your name on the communication card if you want to be put on the baptism list.

NEXT WEEK: What do battles reveal? Matthew 4:1-11