

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

“John the Baptizer”

John 1:19-34 | Pastor Jay Childs | January 21, 2024

1. Read John 1:6 and 1:19-34.
 - Who was John the Baptist?
 - What are some differences between him and the Apostle John?
 - Why does John’s Gospel devote attention to him?

2. Have you been baptized by immersion under water? Why? When?

3. What does the word “baptize” mean in the original Greek?
 - What is the best English translation of the Greek word?
 - How does this impact our understanding of baptism?
 - According to the New Testament, who is supposed to be baptized?
 - For what purpose?
 - Are we to be baptized before or after salvation? Why?

4. Describe and discuss John the Baptist’s denial.
 - Why might he be confused for the long-anticipated Messiah?
 - What were common hopes and expectations about the coming Messiah?

5. Why might John the Baptist be confused for Elijah?
 - In John 1:23, how and why does John the Baptist reference Isaiah 40?

6. Read Matthew 3:1-17.
 - What additional information do we learn about John the Baptist?
 - Why was John the Baptist so hard on the Pharisees? Be specific.

7. What is repentance?
 - What does the fruit of true repentance look like? (cf. Matthew 3:8)
 - What is counterfeit repentance?

8. Why does John the Baptist call Jesus the “Lamb of God”?
 - What does he mean?
 - What role did lambs play in the Old Testament sacrificial system?
 - How is Jesus different from these lambs?
 - What other passages might shed light on this?

9. Who is the last person you shared the gospel with? When? What happened?