

Lesson 3 **The Ministry of John the Baptist**

Objective: To learn that to repent means we are sorry for our sins, sorry enough to want to stop doing them (sins).

Background: A "herald" (or forerunner), in the ancient time, was a man who announces the news of the coming visit of a king and make people ready for the occasion. John the Baptist was the "herald" sent by God, as foretold by Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3) , to prepare the hearts of the people to receive Jesus the Savior and the Messiah meaning "Christ-King".

Instruction: Read Luke 1:5-25; 57-80; Luke 3:1-17 once before you study Luke 3:1-14. Please act out John's ministry: 3:1-14 in class.

Let's Think: **Suppose** you were sent to interview John the Baptist with the following questions. How would he answer your questions?

1. Mr. Baptist can you tell us why you preach in the wilderness and not inside a building such as a "synagogue"? Read carefully Luke 1:80)

2. Mr. Baptist, is your ministry sponsored and supported by any religious group or and "V.I.P" (very important person)? Why is your message (words) so powerful? (Read carefully Luke 3:2, also Hebrews 4:12-13).

3. Sir. why do you call people to repent (to turn around and sin no more) and be baptized? (Read Luke 3:7 carefully – "wrath" means "judgment").

4. By the way, Sir, what will happen if a person really and truly repents? (Luke 3:3 also 1John 1:8,9)

5. Mr. Baptist, does "repentance" (to repent) simply mean to say "I am sorry"? For example, a boy was caught lying to his parents. After he said "I am sorry" to his parents, the boy kept telling lies. Now did that boy really and truly "repent" , Mr. Baptist? Explain (Read Luke 3:10-14 carefully.)

6. How would you answer Mr. Baptist if, at the end of the interview, he should ask you: My child, have you been dishonest? Lying? cheating? disobeying your parents? doing things which you know you shouldn't be doing? Do you know what God wants you to do? Would you obey God? If so, write down how you would obey God.

Let's Remember: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)