

Perspectives - John the Baptist

House Church Outline

Opening

Announcements

Intro

We are finishing up our Perspectives series this week by taking a look at the life of John the Baptist. John lived during the same time period as Jesus, being born just six months before Jesus to his parents Elizabeth and Zachariah who were unable to have children. This all changed in Luke 1 when God sent an angel to speak to Zechariah. *Luke 1:13 says, "But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John."* From the beginning of his life, and even before he was born, John was chosen by God to have a special ministry, specifically to fulfill the prophecies in the Old Testament that someone would go before Christ to prepare the way of the Lord. His ministry would be to turn the hearts of Israel back to the Lord and prepare them to receive the Messiah. Tonight we'll take a look at some moments in John's life to see what his perspective on Jesus was.

Bible Study

John and Jesus had a unique and special relationship that began when they were both in their mother's wombs and continued throughout their lives. The most unique and special moment in their relationship was probably the time when John had the privilege to baptize Jesus. Nobody else in Scripture could ever say they had the chance to do that!

Have someone read Matthew 3:11-15.

- What do you learn about John's perspective of Jesus from verse 11?
- Why do you think John tried to turn Jesus away from being baptized by him?
- Do you think John's perspective of Jesus changed after he baptized him? Why or why not? How so?

Another unique and special aspect of John and Jesus' relationship was the mutual respect and honor they had for one another. These verses take place while John was in prison. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, but in this moment of human weakness he has doubts. Jesus could have been offended that his close friend would even question who he truly was, but instead of getting upset, let's read what Jesus' response was.

Have someone read Luke 7:18-28.

- Why do you think John's perspective of Jesus changed at this moment?
- What do you learn about Jesus' perspective of John from verses 24-28?
- What do you think John's response was to Jesus' perspective of him?

One characteristic of John that stands out is his humility. In these next few verses we see that both John and Jesus are doing the same type of ministry work like baptizing people, however John's friends get upset about this. Let's look at how John responds to them.

Have someone read John 3:22-30.

- Why do you think John's disciples were so upset about Jesus' ministry?
- What do you learn about John's perspective of Jesus from these verses?
- What does verse 30 mean to you? How can you practically live that out?

Response:

Now that we've looked at these stories about John's perspective and relationship with Jesus, we want to look at our own perspective and relationship with Jesus.

- How has your perspective of Jesus changed after our discussion?
- What is one thing that you've learned from our discussion that you would like to apply to your life this week?

Pray together.