

Learning Objective

To know who John the Baptist was and why he was important in Jesus life.

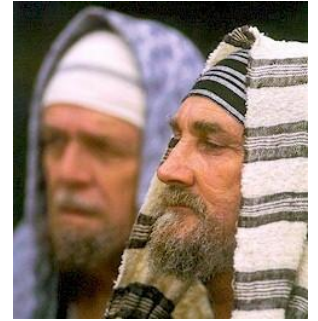
Read through the PowerPoint and then answer the following questions.

Tasks

- 1. Who was John the Baptist and what was his important job?**
- 2. What was the message that John the Baptist preached so passionately.?**
- 3. Why was John the Baptist so important in Jesus' life?**
- 4. Why was the baptism of Jesus significant?**
- 5. Why do you think people are still baptised today?**

Waiting for the Messiah

- At the time of Jesus, Jewish people were waiting hopefully for the arrival of the promised Messiah. They hoped that this Messiah would free them from the Romans.
- The Jews would thought they would know who the Messiah was because a messenger would come before him.
- John the Baptist had a very important job. He helped prepare the way for Jesus. He helped the people of Israel to see that they had to prepare their hearts ready for the coming of Christ. He was the messenger!



John the Baptist had an urgent Message

- John was Jesus' cousin.
- John was a little strange, he chose to live in the desert. He wore camel hair for clothes. He ate locusts and honey to survive.
- People were intrigued by John and large crowds would gather to hear him speak.
- John was passionate about the need for people to give up their past wickedness and make a fresh start and could be quite rude to people who he thought needed to change their ways.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch
?v=sM90zBhg0DQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM90zBhg0DQ)

A clip from Jesus of Nazareth
John the Baptist preaches his message

- Because he preached with such conviction and urgency, many people wondered if he could be the Messiah.
- John denied this and said that he was just a messenger sent to prepare them.



...A voice crying in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.” Isaiah

- John thought people should do something special to show that they wanted to lead a Godly and good life.
- Making promises wasn't enough - it had to be public and symbolic. He asked people to be baptised.
- The word 'baptised' comes from the Greek meaning 'immersing'; an act of cleansing in water.



Repentance + Baptism


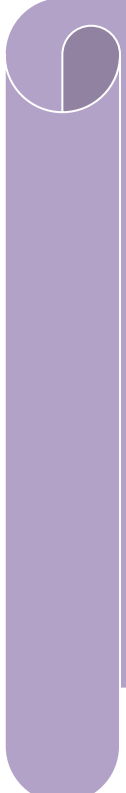
- The idea that people can say sorry for their sins is known as repentance. It means that people promise to try and change their thoughts, words and actions to be forgiven.
- We show that we are sorry, repent for wrong choices in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- John used to take people to the river Jordan and duck them under the water as a sign that they had changed. The water was symbolic it showed that they had literally **washed away** their sins.
- John believed that if people made this promise publicly, they were far more likely to stick to their promise to try and be better people. Because John Baptised so many people he became known as John the Baptist.



The sacrament of Reconciliation



The sacrament of Baptism



“I baptise you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the holy spirit instead.”

- Look very carefully at the Bible quotation.
- These Baptised people had already been ‘saved’ from their sin so what was John trying to tell people?



- One day Jesus came to his cousin John and asked to be baptised. John knew that there was something very special about Jesus and said that he wasn't even good enough to touch Jesus' feet.
- John was reluctant to Baptise Jesus - a good man without sin and said, "I should be Baptised by you!" Jesus told him to Baptise him though so he went ahead with it.
 - Matthew 3.13

[http://www.youtube.com/watch](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVXBCfdrF8)
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- Why do you think that Jesus insisted on being Baptised?

- When Jesus came up from the water John heard the Voice of God saying: *"This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- The Bible says that God's spirit of peace came in the form of a white dove.
- This event has great significance in Jesus' life because from that moment – Jesus realised that he was God's chosen one – and that he had his own message to bring to human kind.



