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Week of November 8, 2026

I. The Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12)

1. _____ requires a fundamental _____ of our lives.

2. The arrival of God's kingdom means that everyone must _____ with the _____ of His _____.

3. The _____ God _____ is the _____ only God can _____.

Prepare the Way

II. The Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

1. The Lord who comes _____ _____ us before He _____ _____ us.

2. The Lord who comes is the _____ who _____.

Memory Verse

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
Matthew 3:11

MY NEXT STEP IS TO. . .

- ○ Trust Jesus and begin following Him as my Lord and Savior for the first time today.
- ○ Memorize Matthew 3:11.
- ○ Identify an area of my life where I need to repent and take a concrete step toward obedience.
- ○ Ask God to reveal where I've been relying on my own strength rather than depending on His Spirit to transform me.
- ○ Get the most out of this Sunday's teaching by attending my Life Group this week.

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I. The Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12)

1. Repentance requires a fundamental reorientation of our lives.

2. The arrival of God's kingdom means that everyone must reckon with the reality of His reign.

3. The transformation God requires is the transformation only God can accomplish.

Prepare the Way

II. The Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

1. The Lord who comes stands with us before He judges over us.

2. The Lord who comes is the King who serves.

Memory Verse

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
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Discussion Questions - Week #7

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW
Thinking back to the weekend sermon, “Prepare the Way,” summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

Do you plan to take any practical steps this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED
When you hear the word “wilderness,” what comes to mind? Adventure, danger, isolation, beauty, or something else?

If you had to spend a week in the wilderness with only three items, what would you bring?

DIGGING DEEPER
1. Throughout Scripture, God calls His people to turn away from sin and return to Him. But genuine transformation requires more than a change in outward behavior. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises to cleanse His people, give them a new heart, and place His Spirit within them, enabling them to live in obedience to Him.

Read Ezekiel 36:22–32.

In verses 22–23, why does God say He will act on behalf of Israel? What does this reveal about His character and purposes?

As you read verses 24–27, what stands out to you about the things God promises to do for His people?

In verse 26, God promises to replace hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. What do you think these images represent? How might a hardened heart reveal itself in our lives today?

According to verse 27, what role does the Holy Spirit play in enabling God’s people to obey Him? How is this different from simply trying harder to be good?

If God has given us new hearts and placed His Spirit within us, why do Christians still struggle with sin and disobedience?

Where in your life do you most need God’s transforming work? What would it look like to depend more fully on His Spirit in that area?

2. Baptism plays an important role throughout the New Testament. While John the Baptist called people to repentance in preparation for the coming Messiah, Christian baptism points to something even greater: our identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection. In Romans 6, Paul explains how our union with Christ changes the way we live.

Read Romans 6:1–14.

According to verses 3–4, what does baptism signify about our relationship with Jesus Christ?

If someone said, “I believe in Jesus, so why do I need to get baptized?” how would you respond?

Paul says that we have been united with Christ in both His death and resurrection. What does this mean, and why is it significant for the Christian life?

In verses 6–7, Paul describes our old self as having been crucified with Christ so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. What does it mean to be freed from sin’s power?

In verses 11–13, Paul calls believers to consider themselves dead to sin but alive to God. What might this look like in our everyday choices and priorities?

What is one area of your life where you need to more fully embrace your new identity in Christ and live in the freedom He has made possible?

FOR PRACTICE
Set aside 10–15 minutes this week to prayerfully reflect on an area of your life that may not be fully aligned with Jesus and His kingdom. Ask God to reveal where you need to repent, and invite the Holy Spirit to transform your heart and help you take one practical step toward obedience.

SHARE IT
Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS
Ongoing conflict in the Middle East continues to bring suffering and uncertainty to millions of people across the region. Pray for peace and reconciliation, wisdom for political leaders, and protection and provision for civilians caught in the violence. Ask God to comfort those who are grieving, bring healing to those who are suffering, and strengthen local churches and Christian workers as they care for those in need and share the hope of Christ.