

Week 2: Repentance and Preparation

Theme: Turning Our Hearts Back to God

Key Scripture: John 1:19–28; Matthew 3:1–12

Focus: John the Baptist prepares the way

Teaching: Repentance is not just feeling sorry—it’s turning toward God. John’s message challenges us to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

John 1:19–28 and Matthew 3:1–12 focus our attention on preparation rather than arrival. Before Jesus begins His public ministry, God sends John the Baptist to awaken hearts and clear the way.

In both passages, John refuses to draw attention to himself. He denies being the Messiah and points instead to the One who is coming after him. His humility reminds us that repentance begins when we stop centring ourselves and start making room for Christ. John understands his role clearly: he is a voice, not the Word; a witness, not the Saviour.

Matthew 3 sharpens this call by revealing that repentance is more than words—it must bear fruit. John confronts religious pride and warns against assuming closeness to God based on heritage or appearance. True preparation involves a changed heart that leads to changed living.

Together, these passages teach that encountering Jesus requires readiness. Repentance clears away self-reliance, pride, and distraction so that Christ can be truly received. Preparing the way for the Lord is not about perfection, but about humility, honesty, and a willingness to turn fully toward God.

Discussion Questions:

- What does repentance really mean?
- Why do you think preparation matters before transformation?
- What distractions keep us from fully turning to God?

Scripture Engagement Questions:

1. How would you define repentance based on John the Baptist’s message?
2. Why do you think repentance often comes before renewal?
3. What are some modern-day “obstacles” that keep people from turning to God?
4. How does humility play a role in genuine repentance?
5. What fruit should repentance produce in a believer’s life?
6. Why do religious people sometimes struggle more with repentance than others?
7. What might God be calling you personally to turn away from this season?

Reflection/Prayer: Silent prayer asking God to reveal anything that needs to change.