

**Getting into Our Lives** .....Group time - 20 minutes

1. How did God bring you to repentance so you could receive and follow King Jesus?
  
2. What continuing role should repentance have the Christian life? What are some effective ways to keep this focus?
  
3. Why are self-righteous attitudes and behaviors so easy to develop? How do we fight against them?
  
4. What does our culture think about “repentance”? How can we better communicate the life-giving beauty of repentance to others?

**Getting Out the Gospel** .....Group time - 5 minutes

Identify who you would like to share the gospel with this Fall. You can list out specific names or a general group of people that you come into regular contact with. These will be who you specifically pray for during the “Reach” section below.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

**Getting into Prayer** .....Group time - 10 minutes

**Reach:** Ask God to bring His message of repentance to the unbelieving people in your family, church, community and world.

**Growth:** Ask God to show you your sin and to help you live in a position of repentance producing its fruit and fighting off self-righteousness. Ask God to do this work across our church as well.

**Empower:** Ask God to raise up more “voices in the wilderness” and multiply the message of repentance and the urgency and willingness to share it with the lost. And ask Him to “start with me.”

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**Prepare the Way**  
*Matthew 3:1-12*

**I. Preparing for the Kingdom** (Matthew 3:1-6)

**II. Threatened by the Kingdom** (Matthew 3:7-10)

**III. Two Baptisms** (Matthew 3:11-12)

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***I never knew:***                      ***I need to change:***                      ***I should share:***

# GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of September 10, 2017

## Getting Started .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. If there are new people in your group, do brief introductions with each person sharing something they did over the Summer.
2. Take a few minutes as a group to look over the *Growth Group Covenant*. (Your leader will have it at your first meeting).
3. How do you prepare your home for visiting relatives? What would you do different if it was a celebrity or world leader?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting into God's Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read Matthew 3:1-6

1. What are your initial impressions about John?
2. In ancient times the arrival of a king required special preparation. A herald would be sent ahead to prepare the road the king would travel on. How is John preparing "the way of the Lord"? Why is that message necessary?
3. How did people respond to John's message?

### Read Matthew 3:7-10

4. Not only did ordinary people come to hear John, but also some Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees. What does John say to them? Why does he speak to them so harshly?
5. John calls on them to produce "fruit in keeping with repentance." Give examples of the kind of fruit you think John has in mind.

### Read Matthew 3:11-12

6. What differences does John highlight between his baptism and the baptism of the one "who is coming"?

7. How does verse 12 help us understand Jesus' roles as King? How should this inform and grow our sense of urgency in sharing the gospel message?

### Read Acts 2:36-41

8. After Jesus' death and resurrection, what role does repentance play in the Christian life? See also: 2 Peter 3:8-9; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10