

In the Wilderness - Week Seven

Main Idea

Like John the Baptist, we are called to live with an urgency to prepare the way for people in our life to find the hope we have in Jesus.

Starter

When you look back at 2022, who is someone (not a pastor) that God has used to make the biggest difference in your relationship with Jesus?

Discuss

What are some challenges you expect to experience in your family celebration of Christmas this year? How are you preparing yourself to face those challenges?

Scripture

Read the last words of the Old Testament in [Malachi 4:1-6](#) and discuss:

- Put yourself in the shoes of someone who lived before Jesus arrived. How would you feel if these were the last words you had from God in your Bible?
- Have someone read [Mark 1:1-6](#) and someone else read [Luke 1:13-17](#). Then, discuss:
 - In view of the last words of the Old Testament, what is most striking to you about John the Baptist's calling to prepare the way for Jesus' arrival?

Have someone read [2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2](#) and discuss:

- How does this passage encourage or challenge you?
- What would it look like for you to follow John the Baptist's example and be more devoted to preparing the way for people in your life to find Jesus?

Apply

Break up into groups of 2-3 to share:

1. One truth God wants you to take away from today's discussion.
2. One challenge in your family we can pray for.
3. One step you could take to prepare the way for someone to know Jesus better this Christmas.

Spend time praying for the courage to follow Jesus in midst of your family challenges and to prepare the way for people to know Jesus as their Savior and King. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in your heart, your family, and our church this Christmas.