

The Ministry of John the Baptist

Lesson aim: To examine the testimony of John that Jesus is the Christ

John's public ministry launched--Mk. 1:1; Lk. 3:1-2

1. *What evidence does Luke offer to demonstrate that the story of the gospel is rooted in history?*

His person, proclamation and baptism--Mt. 3:1-6; Mk. 1:2-6; Lk. 3:3-6 (cf. again Jn. 1:6-8, 15)

1. *What is significant about the lifestyle and dress of John?*
2. *Summarize John's message to the people.*

His message to the Pharisees, Sadducees, tax gatherers and soldiers--Mt. 3:7-10; Lk. 3:7-14

1. *What points does John make about the repentance God commands of men?*
2. *What misconception did the Jews have about salvation? Can you think of modern examples of this kind of thinking?*

His description of Christ--Mt. 3:11-12; Mk. 1:7-8; Lk. 3:15-18

1. *What did John testify about the greatness of Jesus?*
2. *What does it mean to "baptize one with fire"? "With the Holy Spirit"? How were these promises fulfilled?*

John baptizes Jesus--Mt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-23

1. *For what reason was Jesus baptized? Should people today be baptized for the same reason as Christ was?*
2. *Was Jesus immersed? Why or why not?*
3. *What testimony did the Father give about Jesus?*

Research challenge:



Based on the historical information in Luke 3:1-2 in what year would one put the beginning of John's ministry? Give reasons for your answer.