

LIFE APP

June 27-28, 2020



JORDAN RIVER

John 1:19-27 NIV: Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

Normally most families plan to take a "Vacation" during the summertime, so this new series is going to focus on places of interest found in Scripture. These are places that millions of tourists flock to every year in Israel, because of the historical and religious importance of each location. The first place we're going to visit is the Jordan River, a beautiful site that is found repeatedly in Scripture because of its central location and because many important Biblical events took place in which this River was involved. The event we're looking at today is the baptism of Jesus which represents the launching point of His earthly ministry and gives us many examples to follow as we follow Him.

Read Luke 3:1-8

1A) According to verses 1-3, list the important points - dates, people, location, etc. that reveal when this took place and what was happening?

1B) In verse 3, what are we told that was different about John's preaching?

2A) According to verses 4-6, what prophet is quoted to describe what John was doing and why - what was the purpose of his preaching?

2B) What was the message of John the Baptist? Verses 7-8

Read Matthew 3:1-8

3) Compare how Matthew described what was happening. What new information do you find?

Read Matthew 3:11-17:

4A) What did John explain about the difference in his ministry and the ministry that was coming through Jesus Christ? Verses 11-12

4B) PERSONAL: What is the most meaningful thing to you about the baptism of Jesus?

5A) How does Romans 6:4 confirm the idea that we need to imitate and follow the example of Jesus through baptism?

5B) PERSONAL: Have you been baptized? Share your personal experience and what it means to you and if you have not been baptized, please pray about imitating Jesus as soon as possible.

6) Just as baptism initiated the ministry of Jesus, our ministry should be initiated as well. Look at the following verses to see what we are to do as part of our ministry every day.

John 13:34-35:

John 8:31-32:

Matthew 16:24:

7A) Another important part of our daily ministry is to “illuminate” or shine the light of Christ. Look at the following verses to discover what that looks like as we follow the examples of Jesus.

Matthew 5:14-16:

Matthew 28:19-20:

Luke 19:10:

7B) PERSONAL: What action steps do you need to take? Do you need to imitate Jesus and be baptized? Think about scheduling this event soon.

If you’ve already been baptized, do you need to initiate a way to serve in ministry? What areas of ministry in your church, in your family, and in your community could you become involved in?

Consider new ways that you can illuminate and shine the Light of Christ more brightly as you interact with others every day.

ACT: The Jordan River is important to us because of its Biblical significance and all the events that took place there, but following Jesus in Baptism, Ministry, and Shining His True Light to the world we live in, gives us reason to get up and get going every day. We have the privilege of sharing this Good News with others and should take every opportunity we’re given to tell others about the Jordan River and the Amazing miracles that took place in that location. It truly is a beautiful, meaningful place to visit on “Vacation” that can change the way we live life every day!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe other events that took place at the Jordan River.

Monday:

Numbers 22:1 NLT

Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.

Tuesday:

Deuteronomy 3:25-27 NLT

Please let me cross the Jordan to see the wonderful land on the other side, the beautiful hill country and the Lebanon mountains.' "But the Lord was angry with me because of you, and he would not listen to me. 'That's enough!' he declared. 'Speak of it no more. But go up to Pisgah Peak, and look over the land in every direction. Take a good look, but you may not cross the Jordan River.'

Wednesday:

Joshua 1:1-2 NLT

After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.

Thursday:

Joshua 3:12-16 NLT

"Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. The priests will carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall." So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.

Friday:

2 Kings 2:7-8 NLT

Fifty men from the group of prophets also went and watched from a distance as Elijah and Elisha stopped beside the Jordan River. Then Elijah folded his cloak together and struck the water with it. The river divided, and the two of them went across on dry ground!

Saturday:

2 Kings 5:13-14 NLT

But his officers tried to reason with him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn't you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, 'Go and wash and be cured!'" So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!

Sunday:

2 Kings 6:3-7 NLT

"Please come with us," someone suggested. "I will," he said. So he went with them. When they arrived at the Jordan, they began cutting down trees. But as one of them was cutting a tree, his ax head fell into the river. "Oh, sir!" he cried. "It was a borrowed ax!" "Where did it fall?" the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the ax head floated to the surface. "Grab it," Elisha said. And the man reached out and grabbed it.



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