Lesson 1: Preparedness

Today's Bible Story

God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. At the Jordan River, John was proclaiming God's message and baptizing people who came to be forgiven. When the religious leaders in Jerusalem heard about it, they sent some of their people to ask John who he was.

John told them plainly, "I am not the Messiah." Then when they asked him if he was Elijah, he said, "No, I am not!" When they asked if he was God's prophet, he also said no. Finally, they said, "Who are you then? We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us. Tell us who you are!"

John answered with the words of the prophet Isaiah, from the Bible, "I am the one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" John told them, "I use water to baptize people. But someone greater than me is coming. Even though I came first, I am not good enough to untie his sandals."

The next day, when John saw Jesus himself coming toward him, he said: "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I told you about when I told you that someone more important will come. He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born."

John explained: "At first, I didn't know who he was. But then I saw the Spirit come down on him like a dove from heaven. The one who sent me to baptize with water had told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and stay on someone. Then you will know that he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen, and I tell you that he is the Son of God!"



From John 1:19-34

Bible Rhyme

At the Jordan, John baptized.
The leaders there were all surprised.
"Who are you?" they asked of John.
"Are you the long-expected one?"

"No," said John, "I'm not that one.
"Someone greater soon will come.
"Listen closely. This I say:
"We must all prepare his way."

When John saw Jesus in the crowd,
he said, "Here is the Lamb of God!"
John told them all so they would hear it:
"He's the one who has God's Spirit!"

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In the crossword puzzle below, find words from today's Bible story.



Across:

2. Religious leaders came from the capital city of _____.
3. They asked John if he was the _____, the anointed one.
5. John was baptizing at the _____ River.
8. They also asked John if he was the _____ of God.
10. John quoted the words of the prophet _____.
12. John said Jesus would "take away the sins of the _____."
13. Members of a group known as the _____ questioned John's identity.
15. John told the people that someone _____ was coming.
16. John said he was not worthy to untie Jesus' _____.

Down:

1. A _____ was a religious leader who served at the temple in Jerusalem.
4. John called Jesus the "_____ _____ _____" — foreshadowing that Jesus would give his life as a sacrifice.
6. When the _____ _____ descended and stayed on Jesus, John knew this was the One sent by God.
7. John said, "I _____ you with water, but one who is greater is coming."
9. John wore clothes of camel's hair and leather, just like the prophet _____ from the Old Testament.
11. The Bible predicted that John would come to cry out in the desert, "_____ the way of the Lord."
14. John let people know that Jesus is not only the Lamb of God, he is also the _____ of God.

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