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# Matthew Chapter 3

## 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever seen a street preacher on a corner with a big cross yelling and telling everyone that they are sinners and they need to repent? How did you feel when you see and hear someone like that? Does it make you want to confess your sins and try hard to be better? Why/why not?

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- b. Who is the most interesting person you have ever met? What is it that makes them so interesting?

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## 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter John the Baptist steps onto the scene. He was preaching in the wilderness instead of in a church. He was telling people to repent because God was coming soon. He wore clothes made of camel hair and he ate locusts and wild honey. Some people think the locusts were bugs and others think they were a plant. In either case he ate weird food, wore strange clothes and preached in an unconventional place.

Why do you think people came from all over to listen to him?

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Would you go and listen to someone fitting this description today?

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What is the difference between one of today's street preachers and John the Baptist?

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How would you feel if someone like this came and started arguing with the pastor and head elder at your church? Who's side would you take? How would you know who is right and who is wrong?

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If you look at the other passages (especially Luke 1) you will see that the reason John the Baptist was such a powerful and successful preacher, wasn't because of anything great about himself, but because he was specially chosen by God to give that message. Everything about John the Baptist was miraculous in some way: The prophecies that foretold his birth, the way his father was told that he would be born, the fact that his mother was so old and yet conceived, and the way he lived with such dedication to God and his mission. He was one of the most unselfish people that ever walked the planet.

Do you think that with so many miracles surrounding John's life there was any way he could mess it up? Do you think he was forced to be good or did he have a choice?

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Why do you think it was so important for the Holy Spirit to not only fill John's life, but the lives of his parents as well?

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Does this show in any way the importance of family worship and attending church together? Why/why not?

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### 3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

**Choose one or two:**

- a. Sit down and talk to your parents about your spiritual life. Talk to them about the spiritual influences in your life like church, Sabbath school, family prayer times and worship. Talk about what you can do together as a family to be more spiritual and what you can each do individually as well. Make a list of 3 goals that can help your family grow closer to Jesus.
- b. Search the internet and your local Christian bookstore for tools that can help families to grow closer to Jesus and be better witnesses to each other and those they meet.

### 4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to fill your home and each person who lives there. Ask Jesus to help you think of Him more often, to remember the lessons you've learned from scripture and to help each of you to be kinder to each other and more helpful