

A Spirit-Filled Christmas

Preparing the Way

Why didn't Jesus just come? Why did God need to send a forerunner to prepare the way for Jesus?

- 64% of Luke chapter 1 is focused on the birth of John the Baptist not of Jesus.
- 20-30% of the combined testimony of Matthew, Luke, and John focus on the birth of John the Baptist (not Jesus).

God's ways in the world:

- God prefers partnership with humanity over independent divine activity
- God is interested in and committed to the process not just the results

Big idea: The Spirit of God prepares the way for us to discover Jesus (and He loves to use people in the process).

The Spirit of God prepares the way to experience more of Jesus by:

1. Empowering the proclamation of God's Good News (1 Thessalonians 1:5)
2. Convicting of sin (John 16:8)
3. Illuminating the truth (John 16:13)
4. Testifying about Jesus (John 16:14)
5. Drawing people to Jesus (John 6:44)
6. Producing spiritual rebirth and renewal (Titus 3:5)
7. Giving peace and reassurance (Romans 8:16)
8. Revealing our great hope (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Reflect:

- How is the Spirit preparing you to discover Jesus?
- How does He want to use you to help prepare the way for others?



DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

How surprised are you when you hear really smart, thinking people recognize Christianity's enduring relevance? To what extent have you struggled with questions and doubts about the Christian faith?

How would you explain the emphasis on John the Baptist amidst the birth accounts of Jesus in Matthew, Luke, and John? Why is there so much focus on him and not just Jesus?

Read Luke 1:5-17. What do you learn about John's role here?

Why do you think God prefers partnership with humanity over independent divine activity?

Pick one of the things the Spirit of God does to help us experience more of Jesus from the list below. Read the verses out loud, then discuss why it's important and how people might experience this.

1. Empowering the proclamation of God's Good News (1 Thessalonians 1:5)
2. Convicting of sin (John 16:8)
3. Illuminating the truth (John 16:13)
4. Testifying about Jesus (John 16:14)
5. Drawing people to Jesus (John 6:44)
6. Producing spiritual rebirth and renewal (Titus 3:5)
7. Giving peace and reassurance (Romans 8:16)
8. Revealing our great hope (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

How might God's Spirit be preparing you to experience more of Jesus?

How might he want to use you to help prepare the way for others to discover Jesus?



