

Fulfilled

HIS PROMISE KEPT. OUR LONGING MET.

OPENING UP

Share some of the things that you did to get ready for Christmas (either the actual 25th or the day you celebrated with your family).

TEXT**Preparing for the King | Matthew 3:1-6**

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Isaiah 40:3

³A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: Let's Get Ready to Receive King Jesus

1. Listen to God's message. (Matthew 3:1-3)
2. Humble yourself in repentance. (Matthew 3:1-6)

DISCUSSION



- Matthew 3:1-3 tells us about John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare God's people for Christ's coming. How have you prepared your heart this holiday season to celebrate the coming of Jesus?
- John's job was to bring God's message to his people. It was up to the people to listen to what he had to say. Who has God used to bring a message to you? How did you know it was from God? Did you listen to the message right away?
- Reread Matthew 3:1-2. What does obedience to this message look like? What does it mean to repent and why would repentance be important in preparing for Jesus?
- Turn to Isaiah 66:2 and have someone read it out loud. What does humility look like? How did Christ model that for us and how can we come to him with humility in this season?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Most of you have spent a lot of time preparing for Christmas. You've cooked, cleaned, shopped, wrapped and decorated. But don't forget to spend time preparing your heart too! Take time this week to listen to what God is saying to you and humbly respond to Him. What is He calling you to do? Where or how do you need to repent?

As you prepared and celebrated Christmas, did you share the true message of the season with anyone? Consider sharing your own experience of repentance and faith this week with a friend who doesn't know Jesus so that they can see the message of Christ lived out in your real life. Pray for God to give you courage and an opportunity to share with someone who may need to hear your story.

CLOSING PRAYER



Thank you, Lord, for Christmas. Thank you for the reminder that You sent Jesus to live with us and to save us from our sin. Help us to receive the gift You've given us in Your Son. Help us to respond to the message of truth you've placed in our lives. Open our eyes to see the people you've placed in our path that need that message too. Give us the courage to share and the wisdom to know when to do so. We love you and we are so thankful that while we were still sinners, you chose to give us King Jesus. Amen.