

Witness

Lesson 3, John 1: 6-8, 19-51 Women's Bible Study, February 1-2, 2017

Witness: a person who is present at an occurrence and able to testify to what took place

John the Baptist: “. . . sent from God. . . . He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all [people] might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.” John 1: 6-8

Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1: 5-25 and 67-80)

- Parents were Zechariah and Elizabeth.
- Angel Gabriel: “. . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1: 15-17
- Zechariah: “. . . for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him. . . .” Luke 1: 76-77
- John was related to Jesus.

John's Testimony about Himself

- Not the Messiah
- Not Elijah (Malachi 4: 5)
- Not the Prophet (Deut. 18: 15-22)
- John: “*I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’*” John 1: 23 and Isaiah 40: 3
- John: “*I’m not worthy to untie the thongs of his sandals.*” John 1: 27

John's Testimony about Jesus

- “*The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*” John 1: 29
- “*The Son of God*” John 1: 34
- John is eyewitness: he saw “*the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.*” John 1: 32
- John says he “*would not have known him [Jesus]*” John 1: 33
- William Barclay: “*What John is saying is not that he did not know who Jesus was, but that he did not know what Jesus was.*” (**The Gospel of John**, p. 82)
- John heard a voice from heaven: “*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*” Matt. 3: 17 and Mark 1: 11
- Reflection on testimony that Jesus is “*The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*” John 1: 29
- John's purpose: to testify to what he knows about Jesus so that “*through him all [people] might believe.*” John 1: 7

First Disciples' Testimony about Jesus

- Andrew: *"The Messiah"* John 1: 41
- Philip: *"the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph"* John 1: 45
- Nathanael: *"the Son of God, the King of Israel"* John 1: 49

How Can We Be a Witness for Jesus?

- *"a voice calling in the desert [in our families and in Winston-Salem], 'Make straight the way for the Lord'"*
- What obstacles do we need to clear out of our lives so Jesus can come in?
- How can we be a witness for Jesus today?