

Youth



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the video's and slides listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ John the Baptist

Read Mark 1:4-11 and show the Brick Testament slides from the web site.

Use these questions to facilitate discussion.

- What do we know about John the Baptist from this passage? What would you think of someone like that today? Would you listen to someone who behaved so strangely? Why or why not?
- Why did people come to hear John's message? Why might Jesus have chosen him to perform Jesus' baptism?

✓ Baptism

Watch the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

- Do you think Jesus needed to be baptized? Why or why not? Would Jesus have been any less holy without going through the baptism? Why or why not?
- What does it say about Jesus that he submitted to John's teaching?
- What does baptism mean to you? Do you think it is important? Why or why not?

✓ Motives

Show the "Why did you get Baptized?" video clip.

- If you have been baptized, how would you answer the question posed in this clip? Did any of their answers in this clip resonate with you? Why?
- What are some of the good and/or bad reasons to be baptized? How do these compare with the reasons John and Jesus gave about baptism?

✓ Meaning

Show the "How does your church practice baptism?" video clip.

- How would you answer this question about your own church? What value do you find in your

church's baptismal ritual? How might this ritual help you feel accepted and united with your church family?

- Do you think the method is as important as the meaning? Why or why not?
- If you have been baptized, what do you remember about the experience? Was it meaningful to you? Why or why not?
- How was Jesus's baptism similar or different from your own? How does your own baptism affect your relationship with Christ? How might baptism help you grow closer to God?

By Don Breeden

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