



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 1:1-8

God sent John the Baptist into the desert to prepare the way for the life-changing message of Jesus. John the Baptist's story is your story too. In the same way John made the way for Jesus, God is calling you to prepare the hearts of those who are hurting and broken to receive the love of Jesus. We are the bearers of the good news that Jesus changes the dying to living, the broken to beautiful and the lonely to loved. If you are a follower of Jesus, then you have everything you need to point people to him. Like he did with John the Baptist, God is asking you to go to the wasteland of people's lives because he is ready to pass through there. Begin to believe, then be the radical who points those in the desert toward the fulfilling love of Jesus.

Pray

Jesus, I hear you calling me into the desert to prepare the way and point people to you. Help me overcome my fears of getting out of my comfort zone; help me be bold and courageous—even radical—when it comes to telling other people about your wonderful, life-changing love. Help me live the story of John the Baptist. Amen

Getting Started

- Has there ever been a time in your life that you wanted to speak out for something, but you were too scared to do it? Describe what happened.
- You most likely heard about Jesus from someone else in your life; who in your life was bold enough to tell you about Jesus?

Digging Deeper

1. "Comfortable people don't follow Jesus." Do you agree or disagree and why?
2. Are you satisfied with where you are in your faith walk? Why or why not?
3. Read Mark 1:1-8. Discuss the life of John the Baptist.
4. Why does someone have to be prepared to see Jesus?
5. What does "preparing the way" look like in our modern lives?
6. Where are the wastelands (or desert) that God is calling you to go to prepare the way? Are you going? If not, what is stopping you from going?

Living Jesus

The work of Jesus in you should change you in such a radical, extraordinary way that you can no longer accept staying the same. He can change all hopelessness into hope - if we let him. And once you really let him into your life, anything other than you being the "new you" and living for Jesus is you being the dead you. Let go of your dead, comfortable life and start being the radical who isn't afraid to love, or help, or point someone to Jesus. This is the bigger story that you were created to live. Be bold and courageous and speak the Truth that wakes people up to their need for God! Live this John the Baptist calling with surprising love and extraordinary courage!

What's Your Story?

Whom have you had the chance to point to Jesus? What desert do you go to in order to prepare the way? Share it with us to help encourage others in their faith walk as well!

>> Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your Jesus story.