

# “Second Week of Advent: Preparation”

Christ Community Church

Pastor Denny Johnson

December 6, 2009

Intro: John 1:6-8: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.”

## 1. John’s Pedigree (Luke 1)

A. Priestly Line: Zechariah and Elizabeth (vv. 5-14))

B. Prophetic line (vv. 15-22)

C. Miraculous birth (vv 23ff)

## 2. John’s Prophetic Fulfillment

A. The Forerunner (Luke 3:4-6)

B. The Prophecy of Malachi 4:5

C. Confirmed by angel Gabriel (Luke 1:16-17)

D. Affirmed by his father (Luke 1:76-80)

## 3. John’s Purpose

A. To bear witness to the light that all might believe (John 1:7)

B. To reveal the messiah to Israel (John 1:31)

C. To make ready for the Lord a people prepared (Luke 1:17)

#### 4. John's Preaching

A. Repent and be baptized (Mark 1:4, 7-8)

B. Bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Luke 3:7-17)

#### 5. John's Prominence

A. John's understanding of who he was (John 1:19-23)

B. Jesus' understanding of who John was (Matt 11:7-18)

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#### **Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How Acquainted were you with John the Baptist and how much thought have you given him in relation to the Christmas story?
2. In Matt 11:11, Jesus said that there was no one born among women who was greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. Who are the least in the kingdom of heaven? What are the implications of this statement for you personally?
3. What do you think about the idea that John had a name and a pre-ordained destiny before he was conceived (also see Eph 1:3-5 and Ps 139:15-16)? Do you believe the same is true about you? How does this affect your attitude toward the circumstances you face each day?
4. Do these truths give you any insights into what God thinks about you? What are they?
5. If you have a different opinion of yourself than God has, who do you think is right?

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