


# JESUS AND THE NEW COVENANT

## UNIT ONE: THE WAY IS PREPARED

### Lesson 6:

### Find Out Facts about John the Baptist

#### CONTENT:

1. John was the 'fore-runner' of Jesus who was sent to 'prepare the way' for him, calling people to repent.
2. He was the last and greatest of the prophets, and was likened by Jesus to Elijah.
3. He was filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth.
4. He witnessed to Christ, calling him the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' and the one who would 'baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'
5. Jesus in turn praised John, calling him 'more than a prophet'
6. John suffered imprisonment and death at the hand of King Herod, because he spoke up for what is right.
-  7. We, too are called to be like John: to point others to Jesus and to speak up bravely for what is right.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read the early part of the Gospels where John is mentioned and write down any of his words that you feel are inspirational or important.

**REFERENCES:** Matthew 3:2,4; 11:7-11; 17:12-13. Mark6:17-29. Luke1:41-44, 76, 77; 3:16. John 1:29. CCC 523; 535-37; 608; 696; 717-720.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Handouts; One Bible per student.

#### I. STARTER:

- Have you ever been interviewed by anyone?... Or have you ever interviewed someone?... Have you at least watched someone being interviewed, perhaps on TV? [*Students share*]
- What is the purpose of an interview? What is gained by conducting an interview? [*We gain information about a certain subject from that person's point of view or experience.*]  
Eg. Victims of a flood are interviewed for a news channel, so that the world can get to know what they are actually experiencing. OR An expert on stocks and shares is interviewed by a TV anchor on what stocks to buy and what to avoid.

#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Today we are going to find out as much as we can about a very important person in the story of salvation. That person is John the Baptist. We will do this by interviewing certain people who knew him personally: his parents, his followers.. even his murderer!
- Of course these people are dead and gone, but we will conduct the interview by looking up the Bible and finding out what we can from there. The relevant Bible references are given in your handouts to help you. You can write the actual words from the Bible or if it seems better, write the answers in your own words.

*[Give out handouts at this point and allow students to work in silence. After about 20 minutes review the answers the students have written, making sure all the points in the 'CONTENT' are covered.]*

#### III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Let us reflect for a few minutes on the life of John the Baptist. He was praised so highly by Jesus. Ask God for the grace to be like him: to point others to Jesus, rather than draw attention to ourselves; to speak out about what is right, even if we have to suffer for it. [*Students pray in silence*]

**HOME ASSIGNMENT:** Read the early part of the Gospels where John the Baptist is mentioned and look for any of his words that you feel are inspirational or important. Write these in the handout in the space given. We will share them with each other next class.