

Read: Isaiah 40:1-5 & Matthew 3:1-6

## **Connect Questions:**

- 1. Why is Hope so critical for humanity? For us? How did John the Baptist usher in Hope? How can we?
- 2. In what ways is our world broken? What about your life? How can we invite God to move in the brokenness?

- 3. In what ways was God's move through John the Baptist surprising? How has God moved in surprising ways in and around your life?
- 4. What would true repentance look like for you? How can our hearts be "leveled and made straight"? How can we point others to Hope in Christ?

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:3 NKJV** <sup>3</sup> The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.



Title: Making Way For HOPE

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5 (Matthew 3:1-6)

We Need Hope...We Need to Usher In Hope Like John

1. <u>In Times of Brokenness</u> (v. 1-2)

Isaiah's Time...Isaiah 39:5-6...A very difficult time!

"Speak comfort" ... "Warfare has ended" ... "Iniquity is pardoned"

How in this Context? ... The Advent of Messiah!

The First Century...<u>Internationally</u>...<u>Politically</u>...<u>Spiritually</u>

A Crux Moment! "Doubled"...Colossians 2:14-15

HOPE!

2. In Surprising Ways (v. 3-5)

Fulfilled in John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-6)

A unique character!

- -Wilderness/Desert
- -Jordan River
- -Baptism? Acts 19:1-5...Matthew 3:4-6...Romans 6:3-4

Repentance

3. Paths Made Level & Straight (v. 3-5)

John knew his role...Luke 1:76-77

Preparing the way for The King!

Roads v. Hearts

The Voice in the Wilderness