

# **CALVARY CHAPEL OAKDALE**



**2025-2026**

## **FAMOUS BIBLE CHARACTERS** **OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**SEPTEMBER, 2025**

**This Month's THEME:**

**JOHN THE BAPTIST: THE FORERUNNER.**

**WEEKLY THEMES THIS MONTH:**

**Week 1:** John was fully human in the womb.

**Week 2:** We are to tell the world about Jesus.

**Week 3:** We are to give all glory to God.

**Week 4:** We are to be willing to be mistreated for Jesus.

**Week 5:** We are never to doubt the Lord.

**(5<sup>th</sup> Weekly devotion for months with 5 Wednesdays)**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Mark 1:4** – John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.



**Full verse for:**  
**Armor Bearers & Knights**

**Mark 1:4** – John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching.



**Short verse for:**  
**Page & Squires**

## Lesson #1 - John was fully human in the womb.

Text: Luke 1:41 - And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."

Read: Luke 1:39-48.

### Devotional:

The Lord promised the world He would send a forerunner to prepare the world for Jesus' arrival. In fact, it was so important to the Lord that He sent the angel Gabriel to John the Baptist's Father, Zacharias, to tell him John was coming. This angel Gabriel was also sent to Mary to tell her she would bear the Messiah, Jesus. Well, in the book of Luke we get to see a scene where Elizabeth was six months into her pregnancy with John the Baptist when Mary came to visit her. Mary had just been told she was to be pregnant with the Savior, who was to be called Jesus. Well, when Mary was very newly pregnant with Jesus, she went to the home of Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John. And when she arrived, we are told the babe, John the Baptist, leaped in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived. That means a baby of about 6 months into a 9-month pregnancy actually leaped at the presence of Mary who was carrying a brand-new baby in her womb.

The Bible also tells us the word the Lord uses for babies in the womb is the very same word as a child outside the womb. The word "babe" in Luke 1:41 of John the Baptist is also used of children outside the womb like in Luke 2:12, which says, "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

So, it is important we see babies in the womb exactly the same as a baby or child outside the womb.

### Thoughts from the Lesson:

Did we know God sees a baby in the womb the very same way He sees a child who's been born?

### Questions for Application:

- How do we see babies in the womb, like John the Baptist?
- Have we settled how God sees babies as humans in the womb?
- Do we care for life as our Lord does?

## **Lesson #2 - We are to tell the world about Jesus.**

**Text:** Mark 1:2-4 - "As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

**Read:** Mark 1:1-8.

### **Devotional:**

Ellie was with some friends at school one day and they told her about Jesus and about how she needed to trust in Him to be forgiven of her sins to be able to be with God in heaven forever.

Well, after hearing that, she humbled herself and realized she did need to put her faith in Jesus and prayed to invite Him into her life.

And then she asked her friends, "Why didn't you tell me about Jesus and my need for Him earlier?"

Well, her friends almost laughed at her and said, "Ellie, we've been telling you about Jesus for weeks now. For some reason, it took time for you to finally humble yourself and realize what we've been telling you is true. Some people hear this message many times and are never willing to be humble and to admit they need Jesus."

Ellie's friends also told her, "In the Bible, God was so concerned that we tell people about their need for Jesus that God gave prophets to tell us a Savior who would come in the future. And prophets even spoke of a man, named John the Baptist, who would come before Jesus to tell the world the Savior was alive and on the earth. So, God has gone to tremendous lengths to tell people a Savior is coming.

### **Thoughts from the Lesson:**

We are all called to be a little bit like John the Baptist. John spoke of a Savior who was going to come. But we get to tell people a Savior has come and He loves them and will save anyone believes in Him.

### **Questions for Application:**

- Have we told people they can repent & believe in Jesus?
- Have we ever told people what Jesus has done for them?
- Do we want to tell people what Jesus has done for them?

## Lesson #3 - We are to give all glory to God.

Text: John 3:30-31 - "He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all."

Read: John 3:22-31.

### Devotional:

The world we live in today seems to be in love with the thought of being well-known and having a lot of followers on social media. Some people will go to great lengths to get more people to "follow" them.

The Bible tells us a few things about a great man of God, known as John the Baptist. And early in his ministry, we're told John was very well-known. Matthew 3:5 even says, "Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him." So, John had a great many people interested in following him and what he had to say.

Well, John's main ministry was to point all people to Jesus, the coming Messiah. And once Jesus came along, a whole lot of attention began to quickly shift to people following Jesus instead of himself.

And, because of that, John's following began to shrink more and more over time. In fact, in John 3:26, some people went to John and said, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

So, John had a decision to make. Would he try to do things to regain some of the attention he had previously drawn? Or would he encourage even more to stop coming to him and to follow Jesus?

Thankfully, we know how John responded. He chose to tell people they should give all their attention to Jesus. He told them, "He [speaking of Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." So, John was content to give all glory to Jesus and to let his followers go.

### Thoughts from the Lesson:

Do we want Jesus to get the attention He deserves and not us?

### Questions for Application:

- Do we do all we do to bring glory to God and not to us?
- Did we know we were born to give God glory [Isaiah 43:7]?
- Have we settled how much greater Jesus is than us?

## **Lesson #4 - We are to be willing to be mistreated for Jesus.**

**Text:** Luke 3:19-20 - "But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison."

**Read:** Luke 3:16-20.

### **Devotional:**

Hank was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and he had just put his faith in Jesus as his very own Savior. And he was very grateful he had a new-found confidence he was forgiven of his sins and would be in heaven one day with the Lord.

Well, Hank was so full of joy he was saved and experiencing God's peace that he realized he should tell others so they can have the same joy he was experiencing. So, he began to share his new-found faith with some classmates at school. And, to his surprise, some of the kids he shared with made fun of him for believing in Jesus.

So, he went to his dad and asked, "Dad, why do some people think it is foolish to believe in Jesus?"

And his father said, "Hank, many people who don't know the Lord, just don't think they need God. Some even think people who say they need Jesus are weak or foolish. So, some make fun of them or mock them." Then his father said, "Hank, 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us that all people who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. John the Baptist was even thrown in prison for talking about how people needed to Jesus to be saved. So, Hank, you are not alone and you will face people mocking you because they just don't realize how great God is and how much they need Him."

### **Thoughts from the Lesson:**

Hank decided that day to keep talking about the Lord whether people made fun of him or not.

### **Questions for Application:**

- Have we ever experienced people making fun of us for believing in Jesus?
- Have we decided we will not be ashamed of God & His love?
- Have we asked God to help us be more bold for Him?

## **Lesson #5 - We are never to doubt the Lord.**

**Text:** Luke 7:19 - "And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?""

**Read:** Luke 7:19-29.

### **Devotional:**

Mikey had wonderful parents who loved Jesus with all their hearts. And they helped Mikey see his need for Jesus at a very young age. But when he was a teenager, his father got very sick with cancer and he and his sisters thought they were about to lose their father. And that was the first time in his life Mikey faced a very deep trial.

Mikey began to have moments when he wondered WHY the Lord was allowing his father to be so sick and wondered if the Lord could or would heal his father. So, Mikey went to his youth pastor and confessed he was beginning to wonder if God was as great as his parents had been telling him He was.

That was when his pastor shared a little bit about Daniel who was ripped from his parents as a teenager and was forced to go and live in Babylon, hundreds of miles away, and to serve the evil king, Nebuchadnezzar, who had conquered the people of Judah.

Well, Daniel decided to trust the Lord through his very long trial. And because of his faith in God, he ended up doing great things for God and helping people realize God was much more powerful than Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon and all their false gods and that God could do anything.

So, Mikey took some time to pray and decided he could and would trust God with his dad's life and health just like Daniel had.

### **Thoughts from the Lesson:**

John the Baptist even had a time he asked if Jesus was the Messiah after having told people Jesus was the Messiah who came to take away the sins of the world. So, even John doubted the Lord at times.

### **Questions for Application:**

- Do we trust God when things are good and when they're bad?
- Have we ever had doubts about God's faithfulness to us?
- Can we remember times we know God's been faithful to us?

## What are the age groups for WFC?



### Pages

(3 years old - Kindergarten)



### Squires

(1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)



### Armor Bearers

(4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

(Jr. High students can join the Armor Bearers  
or attend the adult service.)

**Note:** All age groups determined by child's age on 9/1 ea. yr.

## What awards can the children earn?

Three special pins can be earned each year and are awarded to the children as follows:

1. Sword Pin: For memorizing 6 verses during the WFC calendar year.
2. Helmet of Salvation Pin: For bringing 3 different friends to an evening during the calendar year.
3. Armor Pin: For attending 2/3 of the evenings or more.

## Is there a cost for the club?

No! The club is free. The t-shirts are \$20 each.