

Prepare the Way for the Lord Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 14th, 2025



Sermon Series Summary

This Advent season, we'll journey with John the Baptist—the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. Through his message of repentance, grace, and renewal, we'll discover what it means to prepare our hearts for Christ's arrival and to live as witnesses of his light. Each week invites us deeper into the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent, leading to the celebration of Christ's birth and the call to let his life increase in us. Join us for this Advent-Christmas series, as we prepare the way for the Lord—then go forth as a people ready to follow Jesus and share his light with the world.

Sermon Title: The Fruit of Repentance

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:8; Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:10-14, 19:1-10

Sermon Focus: According to the message and ministry of John the Baptist, true repentance bears visible fruit and is demonstrated by our good works. When we truly repent, there will be noticeable differences. John calls for ethical transformation—sharing, fairness, integrity, generosity, and justice. Advent is not only about waiting for the Savior but choosing to live like citizens of His kingdom now. In the third message of our series, Pastor David invites us to bear the fruit of repentance by way of the Spirit.

Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading Matthew 3:1-12. What stands out to you in this passage of Scripture? What do you hear the Spirit speaking through it to us today?
2. What examples of “fruit” does John give in Luke 3:10-14, and what do these examples reveal about God’s priorities for His people?
3. Which of John’s categories—generosity, justice, fairness, mercy, or integrity—speaks most strongly to you right now, and why? And how can the church grow in these areas to prepare the way for the Lord’s coming?
4. Read Luke 19:1-10. Think about how Zacchaeus is a model of repentance that bears fruit: he welcomes Jesus into his life; he responds with joy, not mere duty; he makes specific, practical changes; he embraces costly obedience; he actively seeks to heal past wrongs; his life becomes a testimony to the saving power of Jesus. What needs to happen in a person’s heart to change like this?
5. Repentance is more than confession—it is visible change. The Spirit wants to transform the way we think, live, love, speak, spend, treat others, etc. How have you seen repentance in someone you know? What changes have you seen? Also, how have you seen repentance produce visible changes in your own life?
6. LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION: At the end of the message, Pastor David gave the following suggestions for one practical action step you can choose to take in order to bear the fruit of repentance this Advent-Christmas:

Generosity: Give to someone in need (a neighbor, coworker, ministry, or stranger) in a way that stretches you.

Justice: Make one decision that advocates for someone vulnerable—speaking up, offering support, or correcting a wrong.

Integrity: Choose a situation this week to tell the truth gently but clearly; admit a mistake or make something right that is wrong.

Mercy/Compassion: Forgive someone who has hurt or offended you—see them through God’s eyes and show them kindness this week.

What is one practical fruit-bearing action you feel called to take this week, and how can the group support or pray for you as you take that step?