

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, November 30th, 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: A People Prepared for the Lord

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 29; Isaiah 40:1-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-6

Sermon Focus: John's cry in the wilderness invites us to prepare the way of the Lord in our own hearts. It means getting our house in order and doing whatever is necessary to align ourselves with God's will. Advent begins in longing and repentance—a clearing of the carnal clutter that hinders God's arrival. Advent is not for passive waiting; it's for active preparation. In the first message of our series, Pastor David invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord as we journey through Advent to Christmas.

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

1. Begin by reading Matthew 3:1-6. Based on what we know about John the Baptist, think about the sort of man that God set apart to be the voice crying out in the wilderness. John was a prophet calling people to repent of their sins and prepare for the coming of the Lord. Do you hear anyone doing this today? Are there any prophets among us calling us to prepare the way for the Lord?
2. The wilderness is a reoccurring theme in the biblical story and in the journey of the believer. It's in the wilderness that we escape from bondage and retreat to hear and learn from God. It can be a time of testing, but also a time of rest. We can choose to go into the wilderness, but often we are led there by God. Share any "wilderness moments" from your life. How did God use the wilderness to prepare the way for more of the Lord and deepen your faith in him?
3. In what ways does the pace, pressure, or noise of the holiday season make it difficult to clear space for Christ? What simple practices—silence, repentance, generosity, slowing down—might help you "prepare the way of the Lord" this Advent? How are you planning to create space each week to meet with God?
4. Ask yourself, "What paths in my heart or daily life need to be made straight so I can more fully welcome the presence of Christ this Advent?" In other words, is there anything that you need to give to God so that your heart can remain open to receiving more of his presence this Advent-Christmas? Be specific.
5. LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION: How is the Spirit inviting you to embody this message among your family, friends, and neighbors? What might it look like to show people that you are creating space for Christ and preparing the way for the Lord? How can you do that in a way that invites others to do the same?

After your discussion, please close your time together in prayer.