



# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## New Testament 1

### Law/Gospel

Sin hardens my heart against God, and I try to earn my salvation. **God's Word works in my hardened heart, causing me to repent and believe in the Savior.**

### Bible Words

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!  
John 1:29

### Bible Facts

Consider these facts.  
Joshua followed Moses; Joshua's name means "one who saves."  
Elisha followed Elijah; Elisha's name means "one who saves."  
Jesus followed John the Baptist; Jesus' name means "one who saves."

## John Prepares the Way

Matthew 3:1–12

**J**ohn the Baptist's message, work, and appearance certainly attracted attention. People from Jerusalem, Judea, and the area around the Jordan River came to see John and to receive the Baptism he offered.

John proclaimed "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4). By compelling the people to repent, turn away from their sins, and turn back to God, John prepared the people to receive Jesus Christ and His message.

Those who did not receive John's Baptism, including Pharisees and other religious leaders, rejected God's purpose for them (Luke 7:29–30). Jesus' teaching confused, befuddled, and angered them. Ultimately, they felt jealous of the crowds that followed Jesus and threatened by His popularity. They feared He would take away their positions and power.

## The Wilderness

John the Baptist lived and preached in the Desert of Judea. This rugged and uninhabited region stretched about twenty miles from Jerusalem to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

The wilderness was important in Jewish worship. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest offered a special sacrifice. Placing his hands on the head of a goat, he confessed the sins of all Israelites. This transferred the people's sins to the "scapegoat," which was then removed from the temple and sent to the wilderness to die.

John the Baptist introduced Jesus by saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, took all of our sins on Himself, died on the cross, and rose again, crushing sin, death, and the power of the devil.

## Prayer

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Amen.*

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