



Discussion questions for personal or growth group use:

Reading: Mark 1:1-11

Question 1: Can you recall your own baptism or a moment where you were filled by the Holy Spirit? What was it like?

Question 2: In his prophecy in Luke, Zechariah uses the phrase to describe John the Baptist – ‘you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation, through the forgiveness of their sins.’ (Luke 1:76-77) What do you think that means? How does it refer to John’s ministry as we read it in Mark 1?

Question 3: James referred to John’s message being one to encourage the people (and us) to prepare our hearts for Jesus. What do you think that means? How might you need to prepare your heart for him?

Question 4: As Jesus comes back up out of the water, the words of God his father are heard – ‘you are my son, whom I love, with whom I am well pleased’. How do you think Jesus would have felt hearing those words? How does hearing them make you feel?

Question 5: In the decision made in baptism, we choose to turn away from evil and turn to Christ. James Referenced Romans 6:2 here which describes our dying to sin. What does dying to sin mean? What does it mean for you?