



Preparing
Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8
Second Sunday of Advent
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
December 8, 2024

John the Baptist preparing the way for Christ.

1. Selected by God to prepare the way for Christ.
(Isaiah 40:1-5; Mark 1:1-4; Luke 1:5-24, 76-79)
2. Served God in preparing the way for Christ.
(Mark 1:4-5, 7-8)
3. Sacrificed to prepare the way for Christ.
(Mark 1:4, 6, 14; Matthew 4:12; 14:1-12; Luke 7:18-35; John 1:15, 19-34)

Our preparing the way for Christ.

1. Selected by God to prepare the way for Christ.
(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8; 10:42-43; Romans 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 9:16; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:8-12)
2. Serve God in preparing the way for Christ.
(Acts 9:15-20; Romans 1:15; 15:18; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:2; 4:5; 1 John 3:18)
3. Sacrifice to prepare the way for Christ.
(Acts 5:41; 9:16; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, 16-18; Philippians 3:8-11; 2 Timothy 2:3; 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. John the Baptist was a unique man with a unique role and also an excellent example for us. God promised this special person and role about 700 years before John was born. He was clearly selected by God for his role of preparing the way, preparing people for the Messiah (see Isaiah 40:1-5; Mark 1:1-4). He served God faithfully, and also made sacrifices to carry out God's call, including giving his life. Thank God for John the Baptist, for his faithful and sacrificial service.

Tuesday. In a different way from John, we also are called to prepare the way for Christ. Every believer has been selected by God for this mission, to be His witness. Do you really see yourself in this way?

Wednesday. We, like John the Baptist, are to be faithful in serving God to prepare the way for Christ. We do this through both Christ-like living and talking about Him with others. What have you done, what are you going to do to show and tell others about Christ during this season?

Thursday. Like John the Baptist, we truly prepare the way for Christ, in part, through sacrifice and even suffering. How are you sacrificing to prepare the way for Christ in this season? What are you sacrificing so others can hear of Him and receive Him? Are you prepared to suffer for Christ in this season?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we will move on from *Waiting* and *Preparing* to *Rejoicing*. Think about joy and rejoicing in this season to help you get ready for our worship on Sunday.