UNIT 20 — SESSION 1

ONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL

MAIN POINT.

Our lives must elevate Jesus instead of ourselves.

1 MATTHEW 3:1-6

WE ELEVATE JESUS WHEN WE REPENT.

- **WHAT WAS JOHN'S FIRST WORD TO THE CROWDS? WOULD HIS MESSAGE ATTRACT CROWDS TODAY? WHAT MESSAGES ATTRACT PEOPLE NOW?**
- **DESCRIBE JOHN'S LIFESTYLE. WHY DID HE LIVE THIS WAY? SHOULD WE?**
- **WHAT IS THE *KINGDOM OF HEAVEN*? WHERE IS IT? HOW DID IT "COME NEAR" (V. 2)?**

2 MATTHEW 3:7-12

WE ELEVATE JESUS WHEN WE'RE AUTHENTIC.

- **WHAT IS JOHN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS? DOES IT SURPRISE YOU? EXPLAIN.**
- **WHAT DOES JOHN MEAN IN VERSE 8? HOW CAN OUR LIVES CONTRADICT THAT WE FOLLOW JESUS? WHY HAS THIS BECOME "NORMAL" FOR BELIEVERS?**
- **WHAT DOES JOHN SAY WON'T MAKE PEOPLE RIGHT WITH GOD (V. 9)? WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO PEOPLE POINT TO TODAY TO SAY THEY'RE RIGHT WITH GOD?**

THEOLOGY CONNECTION | REPENTANCE

Repentance is a response to God's gracious call to salvation. It includes a genuine sorrow for one's sin (Luke 5:1-11), a turning away from one's sin toward Christ (Acts 26:15-20), and a life that reflects lasting change and transformation (Ps. 119:57-60). This is the human response to God's salvation, in other words, how we turn to Him and accept what He's done for us.

CHRIST CONNECTION

John the Baptist said he wasn't the groom; he was the friend of the groom. As the friend, it was his responsibility to decrease in status and to elevate Jesus. Jesus is the Groom from above who came to give His life for His bride—those who receive His Word and believe in Him.

THE WRAP-UP IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU LET IT BECOME NORMAL TO LIVE LIKE THE WORLD? WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE SO THAT YOU LIVE AS A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN?

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