

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

## THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

## THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

## EDITORIAL STAFF

- **Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin**, Publisher
- **Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce**, Editor
- **Dr. Kabrina Bass**, Lessons
- **A.L. Stanfield**, Copy Editor
- **O. Dotson**, Graphic Designer

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

• I believe in God the Father  
• Almighty, maker of heaven  
• and earth and in Jesus Christ,  
• His only Son, our Lord who  
• was conceived by the Holy  
• Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
• suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
• was crucified, dead and buried;  
• the third day He arose from the  
• dead, He ascended into heaven  
• and sitteth on the right hand of  
• God the Father Almighty; from  
• thence He shall come to judge  
• the quick and the dead. I believe  
• in the Holy Spirit, the Church  
• Universal, the communion of  
• the saints, the forgiveness of  
• sins, the resurrection of the  
• body, and the life everlasting.



## THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

• I believe my A.M.E. Church  
• School must grow and grow; and  
• that I must make it a top priority  
• to make it so. Every member a  
• Christian, every Christian a work-  
• er, every worker trained so that a  
• worker need not be ashamed. This  
• we ask in Jesus' name.

## ZECHARIAH HEARS FROM GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:5-23

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:8-20

Key Verse: *The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John." Luke 1:13*

### Luke 1:8-20 (NRSV)

8 Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty,

9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense.

10 Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him.

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never

drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

19 The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

20 But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

---

---

## VOCABULARY

---

---

- **Angel** – Messenger, a class of being that is a servant of the Lord and functions as a messenger.
- **Lots** – Implying divine choice; to be selected by a decision based on the casting of lots with the possible implication of reflecting divine choice.
- **Division/Section** – A priestly work group; persons who perform certain daily duties in the temple at Jerusalem.
- **Priest** – To serve; one who performs religious rites and duties on behalf of others.
- **Incense** – An aromatic substance that is burned for the sweet smelling smoke.
- **Elijah** – A Hebrew (Old Testament) prophet.
- **Gabriel** – An archangel.

## INTRODUCTION

**A**s a young girl, Sophia believed that she would become a great physician one day. Sophia wanted to help people feel better and live fulfilled lives. She told her parents that she would study hard, make good grades, and strive for a balanced life of academics, extracurricular, social, and spiritual focus. God was important in Sophia's life, and she believed as long as she kept God first in all her endeavors, she could achieve anything her heart desired.

One morning, Sophia was sitting at the breakfast table with her parents. She said to her mother, “Mom, one day I’m going to discover a way to help people stay healthy, I promise.” Her mom looked at her with a smile and said, “With the Lord’s help, you’ll do the impossible.” Sophia smiled as she knew in her heart that she had what it would take to create medical miracles.

Sophia completed her primary education and enrolled in college. She loved biology and the study of DNA. Because of her love for the subject, Sophia read as much as she could on genetics and how genetics impacts the human body. In undergraduate school, Sophia was part of a global science team working on the human genome; in the competition the team finished in first place. Sophia completed her undergraduate work and began her journey to medical school.

Medical school was challenging, but a challenge Sophia met head-on. She continued her research in genetics, and when she completed her medical degree, she was one of two women to receive recognition for their genetic work. At her graduation, her mom smiled and said to her, “A promise kept.” Sophia and her research team opened the door to how human genetics can be traced to medical conditions for early diagnosis. Her research is one of the most incredible advances in modern medicine today; the advances have helped to revolutionize how people are treated for hereditary diseases early.

*How does it feel to keep a promise? How does it feel when someone breaks a promise? How does it feel when you are able to keep a promise?*

## BIBLE STORY

**Z**echariah was chosen by lots to go into the temple to burn the incense. An angel appeared before him and told him that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would be parents to a son. The angel told Zechariah that his son would be filled with God's spirit like the prophet Elijah. Zechariah struggled with the message because he and his wife were past childbearing years and thought it impossible for the two of them to have a child. Zechariah questioned the angel as to how he would know that the angel's promise was possible.

The angel replied by giving his name and assignment, "I am Gabriel," and, "I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news." Gabriel told Zechariah that he would not be able to speak until the child was born, which would be the sign that the angel's words were true. It happened to Zechariah because he did not believe.

## LIFE APPLICATION

**H**ow do we make decisions? In the Bible, people had to make difficult decisions, and they chose to "cast lots" for their answers. The "casting of lots" was also used when a decision was needed to select something or someone. In our lesson today, the priests cast lots to determine who would go into the temple to offer the sacrifice of incense and the lot fell on Zechariah. What are your thoughts on how the other priests selected Zechariah? Consider, if the selection of Zechariah was not only by the falling of the lots, is there anything else that could have resulted in his selection? Wonder about choices you've made in the past and times when you were selected to do something you believe was unnecessary or not something you desired to do. As you consider those times

when you reflect, can you identify how that opportunity impacted something you would do later? What are your thoughts about the choices we make? Are we free, or does God guide us?

Are we too busy to hear from God? Zechariah was in the temple minding his own business, and the angel appeared with a message. Have there been times in your life that God guided you to do something or envision something in the future? How did you respond? Were you like Zechariah questioning if it were possible, or did you merely believe? Why do we question God's messages? What is it that causes us to doubt the impossible?

### SUMMARY

**Z**echariah went into the temple to burn incense for the Lord as one of God's priests. He encounters an angel that gives him news that he, Zechariah, believes impossible. He questions the message, and the Lord silences his voice. There are so many things going on in life, and none are predictable. We currently live in an age where change is inevitable, and somehow, we have to move with change or be overcome by it. Zechariah struggled with the message that he and his wife would be parents because they were old. Some believe they were in their 60s or 70s when they received the message. The Bible doesn't tell us their exact age; but, Zechariah's reference infers beyond childbearing years.

The lesson reminds us that there is nothing impossible with God. God can speak to us as youth and continue to speak to and guide us as older adults. Our responsibility is to believe and obey. Some would question, "How do I know it is God speaking?" Scripture reminds us that we can only hear God when we know God. Therefore, we know it is God because we know God's Word (2

Tim. 3:16-17); we can hear God (Acts 9:4-7); others can confirm what we heard from God (Exodus 18:14-19); we have dreams and visions (Acts 18:9); something within us knows that it is God (John 14:26). In any event, we are forced to change when these experiences occur because there is no other way (Acts 16:6-8).

**CLOSING DEVOTION**

“**A**nd this is the confidence that we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of him” (1 John 5:14-15 NIV). Lord, thank you for Zechariah and Gabriel’s story. We know you are dispatching your messengers today; help us, Lord, to receive the message and to be obedient to your Word. Help us to seek you in all that we do and in all that we endeavor to do. Thank you for the Word, thank you for the teacher, and Lord, thank you for a heart to desire you more in my life. Amen.

**ACTIVITY SHEET**

The Angel’s Appearance – What does the encounter with angels tell us about them?

<p><b>Zechariah’s angel encounter (Luke 1:8-20)</b></p> <p>What do we know about the angel?</p> <p>How did Zechariah respond?</p>	<p><b>Mary’s angel encounter (Luke 1:26-38)</b></p> <p>What do we know about the angel?</p> <p>How did Mary respond?</p>
---	--

**Joseph in a dream  
(Matthew 1:20-25)**

What do we know about the angel?

How did Joseph respond?

**Responses to the angel's  
appearance**

Why do you think the Bible says "fear not" when an angel appears? (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:13)

Why do you think Zechariah responded the way he did when the angel appeared (Luke 1:12)?

How did Mary respond to the angel's greeting (Luke 1:29)?



ZECHARIAH SPEAKS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:57-80

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:57-66, 76-79

Key Verse: *Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Luke 1:64*

## Luke 1:57-66, 76-79 (NRSV)

**Luke 1:57-66**

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.

60 But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."

61 They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."

62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.

63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed.

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.

66 All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

**76-79**

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

---

---

## VOCABULARY

---

---

- **Circumcise** – The cutting off of the foreskin of the male member, symbolic of adherence to an agreement and hence identification with a certain group.
- **Sign** – A gesture to someone by means of part of the body, especially by means of the head or hands, to motion, to nod, or to beckon.
- **Redeemed** – To release or set free, with the implied analogy to the process of freeing a slave, to liberate, to deliver.
- **Salvation** – The state of having been saved.
- **Covenant**– Promise in a solemn agreement; the verbal content of an agreement between two specifying reciprocal benefits and responsibilities.
- 

### INTRODUCTION

The story of our name is fascinating. Do you know the story of your name? Tamar Ruth Jefferson decided to research her family's history and to begin her journey by asking family members about the Jefferson name. She wanted to know the origin of their name and the historical significance of the family name. Research started with her interviewing immediate family and then moved on from what they shared to further research on the name. Tamar spent hours learning about the patriarchal history of her name. What a fantastic journey!

Amazed by her discovery, Tamar learned that her surname (last name) is most common in the Cayman Islands and England, Haiti, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Jamaica, Grenada, Bermuda, and the British Virgin Islands. Further research determined that the name Jefferson is most popular in the United States, specifically in the District of Columbia and some of the southern states of Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, and Arkansas. Research also found Tamar's family name in the United Kingdom in northern England. The name was also discovered in the southern border regions of Scotland, in the Redcar and Cleveland district, where it is believed that the surname originated, and also in areas of North Yorkshire, Durham, Cumbria, and Northumberland in England, and Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.

Tamar was excited to share the research discovered with her family and know that her surname was international. She couldn't wait to dig deeper and discover through which of these origin stories did her family descend. With this discovery in mind, Tamar has plans to secure a DNA analysis and have one of her older male ancestors participate. To sum up, she believes her family's origin will provide for a rich history of their family's journey.

*What's the story of your family's name? What level of importance would you place on knowing the origin of your family's name?*

### BIBLE STORY

Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The people in the town said her son should be named Zechariah, his father's name. Elizabeth disagreed and informed everyone that her son would be named John. The town didn't understand why she would name her son John when no one in her family carried that name.

Elizabeth's husband Zechariah was mute, so the people asked him what Elizabeth should name the child. He asked for a tablet to write the child's names. The tablet read, "John," and immediately Zechariah began to speak and praise God. Everyone was astonished by what he wrote.

The people could not believe their ears! Zechariah, who was mute for months (unable to speak since his wife became pregnant ~ 9 months), was now speaking and praising God with his voice. The message spread fast throughout the hills of Judea, and people wondered, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to share the prophesy with the people. He praised God for the redemption of Israel (God's people), and how God had raised up a horn for salvation through the house of David. He furthered proclaimed that his son would make way for the Lord. *(And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him.)*

### LIFE APPLICATION

**T**he birth of a child is a time filled with hope for a family. Last week, the angel told Zechariah he would have a son and this week a son is born to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Although everyone around them believe that their son should be named after his father, Zechariah, both he and Elizabeth know their son is to be named John. How hard is it to go against the popular opinion? Have there been times when you knew what you should do even though everyone around you believes you should do something else? A good example of this takes place in *Colin, Black and*

*White*, a series about the life of Colin Kaepernick, an American athlete. Colin knew he wanted to play football, yet his coach and parents wanted him to play baseball. Colin would probably have done well as a baseball player, but he refused to follow the crowd and he became a great quarterback for the NFL. In 2020, when he took a knee for injustice, he was removed from the NFL. There is often great cost for going against the popular beliefs of others.

*How do we stand firm on our beliefs when a majority of people believe we should do something different from what we believe to be right? How does Elizabeth and Zechariah's story help us in determining how to be bold and speak our truth when others doubt?*

### SUMMARY

Elizabeth and Zechariah knew their son's name when others doubted its validity. We know the angel visited Zechariah regarding the child's naming, and based on scripture, Zechariah had informed Elizabeth of the child's name. Once Zechariah had affirmed the child's name, he was restored by the spirit of the Lord and could speak again. Zechariah not only spoke, but he rejoiced.

The song of Zechariah is one of four songs recorded in scripture about the infant boys to be born. Mary's song (Luke 1:46-56); Zechariah's song (Luke 1:67-79); The angel's song (Luke 2:13-14); and Simeon's song (Luke 2:29-32); Jesus' and John's birth were no surprise; the angels foretold them. Zechariah's song, however, prophesies the significance of John's birth. He lets everyone know that John's destiny is to prepare the way of the Lord. Zechariah fully understood his son's purpose and ministry. He was bold to declare it before the people at the naming cer-

emony. Zechariah's prophecy also reminds the people of God's promises long ago and proclaims their fulfillment. Imagine the amazement of the people as they heard the voice of Zechariah, a priest, after nine months of silence and the audacity of the prophecy which he spoke.

*We, too, have been redeemed. How do we tell others about the good news found in the birth of Jesus Christ? What is the message today to others about Jesus' gift of salvation to the world?*

### CLOSING DEVOTION

**T**hank you, God, for the message of Zechariah in the 21st century that we, too, have been redeemed. Jesus' birth was for our salvation. When we face challenges in our society, please help each of us to be courageous to speak the truth and share the good news with others. Remind us to speak boldly to others about God's promises toward creation, that there shall be a return for the church, and we are to be ready. Help us, Lord, be ready to speak God's truth to the world and be bold witnesses of God's promises.

### ACTIVITY SHEET

**C**ompare Mary's and Zechariah's songs which proclaim the future of their newborn child.

#### Mary's Song

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation

to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

### **Zechariah’s Song**

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—

<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”



## JOHN THE BAPTIST

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 3:1-20; JOHN 1

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 3:2b-6, 15-18

*Key Verse: John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Luke 3:16*

### Luke 3:2b-6, 15-18 (NRSV)

#### Luke 3:2b-6

2b ...the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

#### 15-18

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

---

---

## VOCABULARY

---

---

- **Repentance** – A change of mind which results in a change of life(style); to change one's way of life as the result of a complete change of thought and attitude and regard to sin and righteousness.
- **Winnowing** – A fork-like shovel for throwing grain in air and letting the wind separate the chaff.
- **Messiah** – A title for the anointed one, God's special choice; proper name for Jesus of Nazareth.
- **Baptize** – To ceremonially cleanse, with the visible agent of water, to show purity and initiation into Christ through repentance.
- **Holy Spirit** – A title for the third person of the Trinity, literally "spirit," the unseen one; the invisibility of God; breath as having an independent existence.
- **Threshing Floor** – A surface of hard dirt or stone for beating or trampling grain heads.
- **Chaff** – Grain husks; the husks of grain.

### INTRODUCTION

**T**here was a significant storm in the city. The wind ravaged the area, trees fell, roof shingles flew, and waters flooded. People were terrified; how in the world would they survive this storm? Many people who had second levels to their homes had moved

to the upper levels hoping that the flooding water would not consume their dwelling; it was chaotic.

Matt, a young military captain, had returned home from service. He had been looking for a place to relocate, and then the storm came. Matt wondered who would help the people through this crisis.

He had experienced storms during his service time, so he was familiar with what needed to be done to help people. Matt was well prepared for the storm because of his experience.

As soon as the storm calmed down, Matt was busy on the phone contacting family members to see how they had weathered the storm. He found out some of the elderly family members needed help at their homes as they could not clear the debris that had overtaken their houses. Some of his younger family members were scared and didn't know what to do.

Matt visited his neighbors and assessed their situation. He called the local first responders and provided them with an assessment of the area and instructions on what was immediately needed.

Matt's experience and his concern for neighbors and family reduced the amount of time that the first responders would have taken to support their neighborhood. Matt's quick response to the tragedy got results. Local responders immediately dispatched volunteers, food, clothing, and other resources to those affected areas.

*What is a leader? What are some of the characteristics of a good leader? What actions by Matt would you identify as actions of a leader?*

### BIBLE STORY

**A**nnas and Caiaphas were two high priests during the time of John the Baptist. It was during the time of their priesthood that the Word of God came to John the Baptist in the wilderness. John's ministry sent him through all of Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John's preaching sounded like the prophecy of the prophet Isaiah found in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah wrote that there would be the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make way for him." Isaiah wrote how the paths would be straight, the valley filled, mountains and hills lowered. He stated that crooked roads would be straightened and all the people will see God's salvation.

The people heard John's preaching and wondered in their hearts if John might be the Messiah. John answered, "I baptize you with water but one more powerful than I will come." John further stated that the one to come was so powerful that he, John, would not be worthy to untie the straps of his sandals. He said that John would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire. John spoke of how the winnowing fork would be in his hand to clear the threshing floor and he would gather the wheat into the barn, but the stalk would be burned with an unquenchable fire. John used many words to exhort the people and proclaim the good news to them.

### LIFE APPLICATION

**J**ohn preached everywhere he could to compel individuals to prepare for the Messiah, God's promise. John's preaching was

so powerful that many believed that he was the Messiah and were curious if they should be looking for someone else. How powerful is your witness about Jesus as Lord and Savior? John's reference to the threshing floor was a reference to the separation of the wheat, the seed that was able to produce, and the chaff, which was useless for production. He stated that the chaff would be bundled up and burned with an unquenchable fire. John wanted people to know the importance of being prepared for God's promised Messiah.

Many people followed John's teaching which led him to have many followers. Many of you have followers on social media. Why are they following you? What message are you sharing with your followers? Are you exhorting them to prepare for the promises of God?

### SUMMARY

**J**ohn received the Word from God to go and spread the good news of the coming Messiah. He was obedient and went everywhere preaching repentance to all he met and exhorting them to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

Although others thought that John was the Messiah promised in the scriptures, he was intentional to explain that his preaching was in no comparison to the one to come, Jesus Christ. He promised that the one to come possessed more power than he to the point that John stated he wasn't even worthy to lace the sandals on Jesus' feet.

We have an opportunity today to share the good news through

multiple medias. We are living in a global, connected world where we can share the gospel beyond our geographical location and reach the world. Imagine if today, every person reading and studying today's lesson would use the hashtag #threshingfloor2022 and share the message "Jesus Is the Good News," how many connections would we receive? How many people would we touch? How many people would be curious to know more? How much does it take to make something go viral? How much are you willing to do to make the good news viral?

### **CLOSING DEVOTION**

**L**ord, give us the courage to make the good news of Jesus Christ go viral. Touch our hearts and empower our minds to reach the world for the message that Jesus came to save us from our sins. Lord, we thank you for the threshing floor to separate the seeds from the chaff. Let us be seeds of the good news that grows and reproduces more seeds. Amen.

### **ACTIVITY SHEET**

Create an acronym for "REPENT."  
on following page

R  
E  
P  
E  
N  
T

John preached the baptism of repentance.

**Repentance** is to change one's mind that results in a change of one's actions. Biblical repentance is to change one's mind about Jesus Christ and to recognize that Jesus is Lord and Christ. True repentance is to change one's mind from a rejection of Christ to a faith in Christ.