

# Family Devotional

From December 4, 2016

Read: Matthew 3:1-12

Reflect:

John the Baptist lived out in the wilderness all by himself. He liked to wear camel's hair outfits with a leather belt. He also ate locusts and wild honey! Could you imagine having locusts and wild honey for dinner?

When most people saw John the Baptist they would probably think that he was a pretty strange guy. He didn't fit into what everyone would have thought of whenever they thought of a "man of God."

They may have thought of the Pharisees with all of their long robes and expensive things. But just as Jesus was born into a lowly manger, God used John the Baptist to announce that His ministry was about to begin.

Read: Romans 12:1-2

John did not conform to the "pattern of this world," like the verse from Romans says and so was able to be used greatly by God to bring in the time and ministry of Jesus. God gave John the Baptist courage and the right words to stand up to Pharisees who were there going through the motions of baptism, but their hearts were not really ready to repent. Remember that God is always looking at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

Jesus is looking for people and children who are willing to serve Him whole-heartedly. God wants us to serve Him with all of the gifts that He has blessed us with. It is natural to be concerned about what others might think about us, but we shouldn't let that stop us from obeying God.

- What would you do if someone thought you were strange because you followed Jesus?
- Has this ever happened to you? How did you feel?

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate 1 Samuel 16:7b this week.

*"...man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond:

"Dear God, Thank you for giving us people like John the Baptist who are a great example and encouragement. Help us to follow you and to not be concerned what others think about us .....Amen!"