

SPEAK



Advent Bible Study Week 3: John the Baptist Seeding Change

This is the third of 4 Bible studies for Advent, tied loosely in to SPEAK's Seeding Change campaign for justice in the global food system, designed to get you thinking on your own or discussing with a group. It's not a test, there's no 'correct' answers!

Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you as you read.

Have a look through **Matthew 3:1-12** and **Luke 3:1-18**

What strikes you as you read these passages?

Food for thought:

What does John's lifestyle and diet reveal of his character? Is this relevant to his ministry?

How is John encouraging transparency?

Where is there a lack of transparency, honesty and integrity in the global food system? In you?

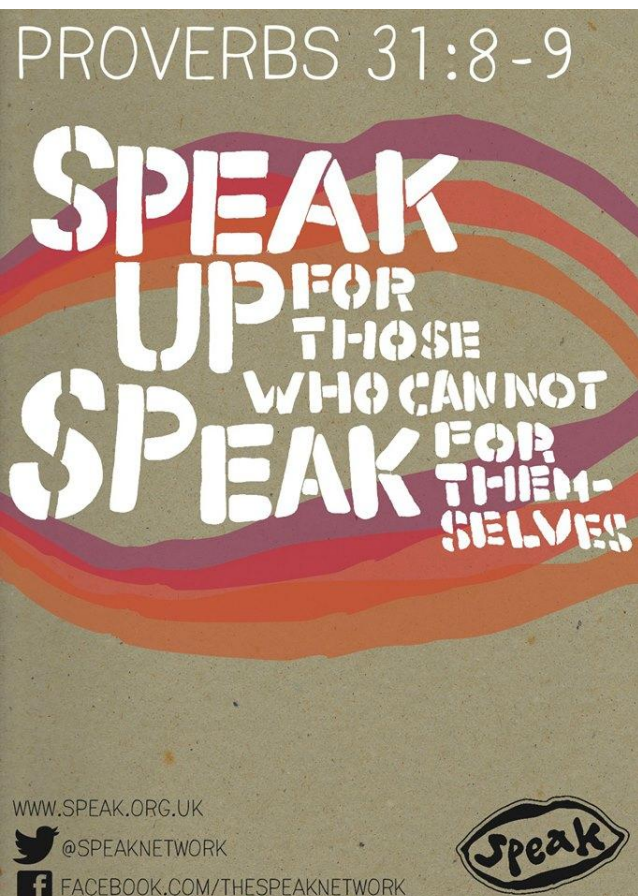
What's the difference between John's baptising and Jesus' baptising 'with fire'?

How can we develop honesty, integrity and courage in our campaigning?

What does John's message of levelling valleys and straightening roads before the coming Kingdom mean?

In what way was John waiting for Jesus? What difference has He made in this context?

How will you respond to what you've learnt?



Notes:

- John is evidently living a simple lifestyle off the land
- He shows honesty and integrity both when challenging power and admitting his own weakness
- He preaches forgiveness to those who actively repent, with a changed heart and actions and not just outward baptism – but harsh words of warning for those whose outward holiness is not matched by inner transformation
- He recognises that Jesus brings judgement as well as forgiveness, and that He sees the heart and is not fooled by the superficial

Want more?

Take a look at Luke 7:18-35, 11:37-44, 16:14-15 and Matthew 23

www.speak.org.uk/campaigns/seeding-change

