

What is God saying?

- What is God saying about...

- What am I going to do about it?

Digging Deep

It's Down Not Up

- What are we to make of the absence of stories between Nazareth and John the Baptist?

The Geographical Context

- In the Wilderness of Judea (along the Jordan River)
 - The Space between Deuteronomy and Joshua

 - Exile and the Return Home

The Message of John the Baptizer

- Repent

- The Kingdom of Heaven

- Has come near

- John the Baptist and Isaiah's Prophecy

- Salvation Is NOT...

The Religious Backlash

- Who are the Pharisees?
- Who are the Sadducees?
- What's John's beef?

Pointing to Someone Else

- One who baptizes with Holy Spirit - see Titus 3:4-7
- One who baptizes with fire
 - Deuteronomy 4:23-24
 - 1 Kings 18:16ff
 - Luke 9:51-56
 - Hebrews 12:28-29

Questions to Dig Deeper

- Is your first thought of salvation about you going to heaven or Jesus coming to earth? Explain your answer.
- What would be different about our lives if we were more focused on Jesus coming to earth rather than us leaving earth?
- What would be different about our lives if we believed Jesus was coming soon?
- Is the image of Jesus as judge comforting or challenging? Why?

Final Questions