

CHAPTER ONE VERSES & EVENTS

COLORING BOOK ALL-STAR

TODAY'S VERSES

MARK 1:6
LUKE 1:8-20
LUKE 1:39-45
LUKE 3:1-22
LUKE 14:6-12

JOHN 1:29
MATTHEW 11:2-6
MATTHEW 3:17
LUKE 3:7
MATTHEW 3:14

LUKE 3:10
HABAKKUK 1:4
MATTHEW 11:16-19
ISAIAH 35:3-6
MATTHEW 3:16-17

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

Please keep the children's ministry in your prayers this week as they leave for camp today.

**EKIDS! AWAY
AT CAMP**

**YOUTH BBQ
FUNDRAISER**

Support the youth ministry, next Sunday from 10:30a to 1p, pick up a Tri Tip Sandwich, Chips & Drink for \$8 and help send kids to camp! Purchase your tickets today!

The whole family is invited to Bob Jones trail on Saturday, July 11th for a day in the sun and exercise. Meet at Element to carpool at 9am or at the Trail Head at 10am.

**BOB JONES
TRAIL**



JOHN THE
BAPTIZER



JOHN THE BAPTIZER

Read Luke 3:1-22

Welcome to Element's first week of a new series, the Coloring Book All-Stars! In this series, we will be looking at the most famous heroes of the Bible, the ones you would find in the coloring books.

Today we start with John the Baptizer— not John the Baptist. Often times when people read the Bible they will use upward comparisons, this means we tend to deify the people in the Bible giving them legendary status. However, when we do this we often neglect to look at their flaws and forget they are human. By understanding the “All-Stars” flaws we will hopefully gain a better understanding of God's grace which will allow us to understand how Jesus is also working in our lives just like He was working in theirs.

What is the most disappointed you have been in life? Why?

Has a disappointment you have suffered ever turned out to be a good thing?

John is often portrayed as someone in the Bible who is not like us at all. We find ourselves thinking he was completely full of faith and had no doubts about the person and ministry of Jesus. John is truly the first person to publicly recognize Jesus as the son of God. *John 1:29 “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

However, John still becomes disappointed with Jesus and questions what Jesus is doing. *Matthew 11:2-3 “Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”*

At the heart of all disappointment lies an unmet expectation.

What do you expect from God?

Have you ever felt disappointed by God? When?

Why do you think disappointments with God hurt more than the day to day disappointments?

Like John, we often fail to understand what God is doing, we want God to do what we want. John the Baptist is not a super hero, he is a lot like us in the sense that, like John, we are disappointed with Jesus because we do not see what He is really doing. It turns out that we have been laboring under a misunderstanding.

- Jesus came for us, but that does not mean that He came to please us.
- Jesus came for us, but He does not answer to us.
- Jesus came for us, but He will not subject Himself to our agenda, no matter how good we think that agenda might be.

When we are disappointed we often seek an explanation. We often think clarification will make us feel better. Jesus does not offer an explanation, He offers us something far superior, Jesus offers us Himself...and this is the heart of the Gospel. When it comes to disappointment, there is no other remedy than Jesus. The longer we hold onto disappointment, and not realize Jesus is holding us, disappointment will wrap itself around our hearts. The tighter we hold on to dissatisfaction, the tighter it will grip us. The only way to free ourselves is to let go of it and bow ourselves to Christ.

Why do you think John the Baptizer is remembered?

John had a courage and humility to ask Jesus the hard questions when he faced disappointment. John's core conviction, when centered on Jesus, was that everyone has a need to have their sin dealt with. John acknowledged that we are all sinful, but called us to repent.

What would John the Baptizer tell you to repent of?

Jesus is the one who will cleanse, renew, heal, and draw us to God; Jesus can use us despite our disappointment in Him.

