

Regeneration: Born of God

Listen carefully to John the Baptist and who he was telling people about.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were **born**, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:6-13, CSB)

1. Do you know who John the Baptist is?

2. Do you know who John the Baptist describes as the Light?

3. Who is “born of God?” What does that mean?

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Teacher Notes

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Carefully read the passage to the student as a story yet keeping in mind that this was a historical account. The apostle John is recording this like a reporter reporting an event with some Old Testament background information.

1. Do you know who John the Baptist is?

Inform the student: when you don't know about a person in the Bible, a Bible dictionary is a trustworthy source of information. This reference is also available online, which you can access with your phone.

John the Baptist was the last Old Testament prophet, who preached a message of repentance, announced the coming of the Messiah, and baptized Jesus in the Jordan river.

2. Do you know who John the Baptist describes as the Light?

Introduce the student to imagery and figures of speech. A figure of speech is a word or phrase that is used in a non-literal way to visually / vividly convey an idea to the hearer.

John the Baptist uses "light" to describe Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, light was used in the context of salvation – "light to open blind eyes" and "bring salvation to the world" (Isa 42:6-7; 49:6; 52:10).

3. Who is "born of God?" What does that mean?

Many Jews saw themselves as being the natural children of God; however, John the Baptist made a point to say that many did not receive Jesus.

Those that received Jesus were those "born of God" and became Christians. Only those who believe in Jesus were considered born of God, which placed an emphasis is on a spiritual relationship by receiving a new origin of birth.

Regeneration begins with a spiritual relationship with God by receiving a new origin of birth: being "born of God."