

John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus—Mark 1:1-8
→**Bible Point**— We prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Key Verse—“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

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Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- **Refer to the chart you made as you read Mark 1:1-8. Choose one of the things you wrote in the second column as a Daily Challenge.**
- **If you uncovered any barriers you've placed in your heart that make it closed off to Jesus, continue to pray about those barriers this week and ask God to help your attitude be open to Jesus.**
- As you make preparations for Christmas, pray regularly that God will prepare your heart for the season.

Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about a relationship with Jesus.

Monday—Luke 15:3-10

- How does this passage help you see yourself through God's eyes? What has God done to prepare for a relationship with you?

Tuesday—2 Corinthians 7:10

- What's the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? How can you be sure your sense of guilt is godly sorrow? What have you been holding onto with worldly sorrow?

Wednesday—Jeremiah 15:19

- How can repentance bring about restoration? What would restoration look like in your life right now?

Thursday—2 Peter 3:9

- In what ways does God's patience encourage you? What part can you play in preparing other people's hearts for Jesus?

Friday—Romans 2:5-8

- What do you think of the statement that God will repay us for what we've done? How can your actions reveal a heart for God?

Saturday—Acts 26:20

- What signs are there in your life that you've repented? In what ways do you need God to keep working on your life?

Talk Topics

- What are some things you've done to prepare for a relationship with Jesus?

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- What would you change about your habits or lifestyle this week if you knew Jesus was coming to stay at your house as a guest?

- How can your life reflect that Jesus is a permanent resident in your heart?