

Make His Paths Straight



Luke 3:2–9 · This week: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 04, "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," on Gospel Library**

START

In the ancient Near East, a road could be cleared and leveled before a king came. John the Baptist said he was a voice in the wilderness, calling people to make the Lord's way straight (John 1:23).

READ TOGETHER

The word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness (Luke 3:2). He preached "the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Luke 3:3).

LUKE 3:4–6

⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; ⁶And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Luke quoted Isaiah to describe John's work. "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight" (Luke 3:5; Isaiah 40:3–4). Repentance is road work. We fill in what is missing, bring down our pride, and straighten what has gone crooked.

President Russell M. Nelson taught that the Greek word for repentance points to a change of mind, knowledge, and spirit. He also said this about how it happens. "*Repentance is not an event; it is a process.*"

President Russell M. Nelson, "We Can Do Better and Be Better," General conference, April 2019

The road has a purpose. "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:6). We straighten the road so the King can come in.

John's call was for everyone, including people who thought they were already fine. He told them to stop counting on Abraham as their father (Luke 3:8). Each of us has some road work to do.

TALK ABOUT IT

John said valleys get filled, hills come down, and crooked roads get straightened. Which picture fits a change you want to make, and how can the Savior help?

TAKE TO CHURCH

John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord the way workers prepare a road for a king. Repentance straightens our road so the Savior can come into our lives.