Introduction:
This week’s message was on baptism, titled ‘Water You’re Waiting For’. Do you understand what baptism is and where it came from? What’s the value of baptism? Is it a big deal?

Questions:
When it comes to your faith, do you tend to jump right in and go for it or do you tend to hold back to wait and see? How does that relate to baptism?

As we look at baptism, why is it important that John the Baptist was an outsider preaching in the wilderness vs. in the temple? What was the simple message that John preached? How was the Kingdom of Heaven near? Matthew 3:1-2

Why did the people respond so well to John's message? What was the result of John's call to repent? What was the problem with the people confessing their sins? Why was being baptized such a strong symbol? Matthew 3:3-6

What was the response of the Pharisees and Sadducees to John's teaching? Is it surprising that they came to see what all the excitement was about? How do people respond to a call to repent today?
Two types of Christians

- The ones that jump right in
- The ones that hold back and wait (for many, this is the case with baptism)

John the Baptist was challenging the religious authorities and calling people to repent and turn to God. People were hungry for truth and John preached truth from God's Word so that people responded. The religious leaders were not pleased with this new teaching that challenged their power and authority. John pressed for them to prove they had repented and turned from their sin.

Jesus was baptized by John and that pleased God. Immediately following His baptism, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Why was it important that Jesus allowed John to baptize Him? What can you learn from the fact that right after He was baptized Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan for 40 days? Should you be surprised by opposition after you have stepped out in faith by being baptized? Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 4:1

What are the 3 reasons that baptism is such a big deal? What is the value of baptism?

**Key Takeaway:** Baptism is a strong way for you to prove to others that you have been changed. Baptism is a natural response to confessing your sins, repenting, and turning to God.

**Summary:**

- Two types of Christians
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- John the Baptist was challenging the religious authorities and calling people to repent and turn to God.
- People were hungry for truth and John preached truth from God's Word so that people responded.
- The religious leaders were not pleased with this new teaching that challenged their power and authority.
- John pressed for them to prove they had repented and turned from their sin.
- Jesus was baptized by John and that pleased God. Immediately following His baptism, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days.
- Why is Baptism such a big deal?
  - Outward expression of inward grace
  - Bears witness to those around you
  - Reminder to you that you're loved