



# CHRIST ENCOUNTERS

**I've Got Questions**

COMPANION STUDY  
GUIDE



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BY DONNA WOOLAM

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# Study Guide: Christ Encounters

## Episode 3: I've Got Questions

This guide is designed to review and deepen understanding of the core themes and details presented in the sermon "I've Got Questions." It includes a short-answer quiz to test comprehension, an answer key, a series of essay questions for deeper reflection, and a glossary of key terms.

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Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences, drawing exclusively from the livestream and video recorded on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

What was the central message John the Baptist preached in the region around the Jordan?

According to the Donna, what is the familial and supernatural relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus?

How did God provide a definitive sign to John that Jesus was the Messiah during the baptism?

Why was John the Baptist imprisoned by Herod?

What specific question did John, from prison, send his disciples to ask Jesus?

How did Jesus respond to the messengers sent by John the Baptist?

Which Old Testament prophet is cited as foretelling the ministry of the forerunner, and what was the prophecy?

Donna describes John as someone who was careful to be led by God rather than his own perceptions. What evidence from the text supports this?

According to Donna, what lesson can be learned from Jesus's non-judgmental response to John's questions from prison?

In what way does Donna parallel the role of John the Baptist with the role of modern believers?

## Answer Key

- John the Baptist's central message was a "baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." He came to declare and preach about the coming of the Messiah, fulfilling the prophecy to "prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."
- John and Jesus were cousins, as their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary, were related. The speaker suggests this was both a familial relationship, where they likely saw each other as children, and a supernatural one, highlighted by John leaping in his mother's womb upon hearing Mary's voice.
- God had told John that the one upon whom he saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and remaining on Him would be the Messiah. John bore witness that he saw this exact sign happen to Jesus, confirming that Jesus was the Son of God who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.
- John the Baptist was imprisoned because he preached against Herod and his wife, Herodias. He called them out for living in sin and opposed to the law, which angered Herodias, who then plotted to have him arrested and killed.
- From prison, John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the coming one or do we look for another?" This question arose despite his previous certainties and confirmations.

- Jesus did not ridicule John's question. Instead, he performed many miracles in front of John's disciples and told them, "Go and tell John the things you've seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them."
- The prophet Isaiah is cited, specifically from Isaiah chapter 40. The prophecy was of "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," who would prepare the way for the Lord and make His paths straight.
- Donna notes that at Jesus's baptism, John waited for the specific confirmation God had promised (the descending dove) rather than acting on his own assumptions. Furthermore, when in doubt in prison, he sought direct clarification from Jesus instead of relying on his emotions or circumstances.
- The lesson is that it does not bother the Lord when believers have questions, seek clarity, or struggle with misunderstanding. Jesus did not rebuke John for his doubt but instead provided him with proof, showing that God wants His followers to know the truth and be sure in their faith.
- Donna parallels John the Baptist's role as a forerunner for Jesus's first coming with the role of modern believers. Believers today are also called to be forerunners, declaring the gospel and occupying the kingdom in preparation for Jesus's second coming.

## **Digging Deeper**

Instructions: The following questions are designed for deeper reflection and longer-form answers. Use the video material to construct a thorough and thoughtful response.

- Analyze the apparent contradiction between John's unwavering confidence in his calling in the wilderness and his questioning of Jesus's identity from prison. Based on the source material, what does this progression reveal about the nature of faith, doubt, and the importance of seeking confirmation?
  
- Donna describes John as "uncompromising" and living a life that was likely seen as "quirky." Discuss how John's lifestyle (wearing skins, eating locusts and wild honey) and his confrontational message to the religious ruling class exemplified his commitment to his divine call over social acceptance.

- Explore the significance of the baptism of Jesus as a pivotal event in the narrative. How did this event serve as a public confirmation of Jesus's identity for Israel and a personal confirmation for John, solidifying his role as the forerunner?
  
- Donna draws an analogy between the challenge of discerning God's voice today amidst a multitude of online "prophets" and preachers, and John's careful reliance on God for truth. Using the examples from John's life presented in the text, construct an argument for why being "grounded in the Word of God" is essential for modern believers.

- Discuss the theme of martyrdom as presented in the source, beginning with John's beheading. How does Donna connect John's fate to the ongoing experience of believers who "give up their life for the gospel," both through literal persecution and the daily act of being "crucified with Christ"?



## Glossary of Key Terms

**Baptism of Repentance:** The act preached by John the Baptist "for the remission of sins" to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah.

**Forerunner:** One who goes before the Messiah to prepare the way. The text identifies John the Baptist as fulfilling this role prophesied in Isaiah.

**Herod:** The ruler who had John the Baptist arrested and put in prison.

**Herodias:** Herod's wife, who was angered by John's public condemnation of her sinful marriage and instigated his arrest.

**Holy Spirit:** The divine presence that gives life and power. It descended upon Jesus like a dove, confirming His identity to John, and is said to teach believers what to say in times of trial.

**Isaiah:** An Old Testament prophet whose book (specifically chapter 40) is quoted as foretelling the coming of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying in the wilderness."

**John the Baptist:** The cousin of Jesus and son of Elizabeth and Zechariah. He was called by God to be the forerunner to the Messiah, preaching repentance and baptizing in the wilderness.

**Martyr:** A person who gives up their life for the gospel of the kingdom. John the Baptist is presented as a martyr whose life was taken because he preached the truth.

**Messiah:** The prophesied "coming one" whom John was preparing the way for. Jesus is identified as this figure.

**Scandalized:** An alternate term for "offended." Jesus is quoted as saying, "blessed is he who is not offended because of me," in response to John's doubts.

**Tiberius Caesar:** The Roman emperor mentioned in Luke chapter 3. The 15th year of his reign is used to provide a specific historical timeframe for the beginning of John the Baptist's public ministry.