Theme & Questions for the Week

Bible Passage: **<u>From Matthew 3:1-12</u>** (NT, Page 2-3)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand." **3** For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,
"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"
4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food
was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were
going out to him, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **7** But when
he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood
of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit in keeping with
repentance. **9** And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you,
God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **10** Even now the axe is laid to the root
of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose
sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing
fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the
chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

1. Who is John the Baptist and what is his primary role?

2. What is important about repentance? Should it be a part of our daily walk of faith?

3. Why might John have worn camel's hair and leather, and ate natural foods?

4. What warning does John give for those who think they're better than everyone else?

5. What is the difference between John's baptism, and the baptism that Jesus instituted?

6. What hope does this passage give us?