

*Biblical Drama based on John 1:19-34*

*Character Parts: Narrators 1-5, John, Isaiah, Believer, Priest, Pharisee, the Father, Jesus (non-speaking)*

Narrator 1: In the days when Jesus was still a young man, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming God's message.

John: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Narrator 2: John was the one that the prophet Isaiah wrote about many years before. Isaiah had foretold that God would send a messenger.

Isaiah: A voice will cry out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Narrator 3: John wore clothing made of camel's hair, and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. The people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Believer: I am sorry for what I have done.

John: (*baptizing*) Now you are forgiven.

Narrator 4: The religious leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and temple helpers to find out who John was.

Priest: Are you the Messiah — the "Anointed One" promised by God?

John: No. I am not the Messiah.

Pharisee: Are you the prophet Elijah, come back to life? You dress like he did.

John: No, I am not!

Priest: Are you the Prophet of God?

John: No!

Pharisee: Who are you then? We have to give an

answer to the ones who sent us. Tell us who you are!

John: I am the one the prophet Isaiah spoke about in the Bible when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord!"

Pharisee: Why are you baptizing people, if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?

John: I use water to baptize people. But someone is coming whom you don't know. Even though I came before him, I am not good enough to untie his sandals.

Narrator 5: John said this as he was baptizing east of the Jordan River in Bethany. The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him.

*(Jesus enters)*

John: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! he is the one I told you about when I said that someone important would come. He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born. But I came to baptize you with water, so that everyone in Israel would see him.

Believer: How do you know that he is the one?

John: I saw the Spirit come down on him like a dove from heaven, and stay on him. Before this I didn't know who he was. But the one who sent me to baptize with water told me this would happen.

God the Father: You will see the Spirit come down and stay on someone. Then you will know that he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John: I saw this happen, and I tell you that this man is the Son of God.