

# YEAR OF GROWTH

## VIRTUE WEEK 3

### EXAMPLES

#### New Testament:

There are also many examples of men and women of virtue in the New Testament. However, there is no greater example than that of Jesus. We will focus on our Lord and others who help us to understand the nature and action of virtue.

#### Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe virtue. Think back over the previous lessons and Old Testament examples of virtue. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of virtue and prepare to explore Bible examples of virtue.

#### Day Two – Monday

##### **Matthew 3:13-17**

Jesus demonstrated the characteristic of virtue in His baptism. John's baptism required repentance from sin (Matt. 3:1-2, 8). John's baptism demanded confession of sins (Matt. 3:5-6). John's baptism was for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4). Yet Jesus had no sins!

Why, then, was He baptized? Jesus Himself said that it was "to fulfill (satisfy, execute, accomplish) all righteousness." Jesus was baptized because it was the right thing to do. It was right because God commanded it. Thus, Jesus demonstrated virtue by submitting to and obeying all the commands of God.

#### Day Three – Tuesday

##### **John 1:1-14**

Jesus set an example of virtue by coming into this world and living as a man. Jesus is deity, the second person of the Godhead, the Word. As God, He knew that if He came to this world He would be "despised and rejected of men" – hated, viewed as worthless, and abandoned (Isa. 53:3). He knew that He would be crucified for the sins of the world (Heb. 10:4-9; cf. Psa. 40:6-8). He understood the suffering He would endure. Still, He came anyway – because it was necessary for man's salvation; because it was the Father's will; and, because He loved you and me.

Day Four – Wednesday**Luke 22:39-49**

Jesus showed virtue by enduring His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. Clearly, in His humanity, He did not want to suffer the shame and agony of the cross. Yet, He suffered anyway. He knew beforehand of Judas' betrayal, but He did not stop him (John 13:11, 21-30). He could have prevented His arrest, but He did not (Matt. 26:52-54; John 18:4-6). Even though He could have avoided the cross, He endured it because of His virtue.

Day Five – Thursday**Matthew 14:1-5**

John the Baptist is another example of a virtuous man. He was chosen by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. Thus, he preached to them the truth of their need to repent of their sins and change their lives. He preached this message without fear or favoritism – even to Herod himself. John demonstrated virtue and great strength of character when he condemned Herod's adulterous marriage to the ruler himself. In spite of the consequences, John told the truth.

Day Six – Friday**Mark 6:14-29**

Herod teaches about virtue by showing its opposite – cowardice and a lack of conviction. Herod knew that John the Baptist was a just and holy man. In fact, he thought much of John and may have protected him. The word for 'observed' in verse 20 means, "To preserve; to keep in mind, lest it be forgotten." He respected John and even gladly listened to him.

Yet, Herod would not stand up for what he knew to be true. When his wife wanted to kill John, Herod had him unjustly arrested. When she used her daughter to entice Herod, he accepted her request to have John beheaded. Even after John's death Herod lived in fear due to his guilty conscience. In every respect, Herod demonstrated a lack of virtue.

Day Seven – Saturday**Galatians 1:10-17**

Paul is another example of a virtuous man. In spite of how he had lived his life, when he learned the truth of the Gospel, he immediately obeyed it. He did not need to find out what anyone else thought about it – family, friends, neighbors, or role models. Knowing that it was the will of God was enough for Paul (cf. Acts 9:17-18; 22:16; 26:19). He changed his life to conform to this truth. He devoted his life to preaching this truth. Ultimately, he died for this truth.