

Repentance as "Turning Toward"

Repentance is not just sorrow for sin

An active turning toward God's new work

**God helps us to find life in seemingly dead
areas**

John the Baptist

Uncomfortable Prophet

**John's radical message and lifestyle
(camel's hair, locusts) as intentionally
disruptive, preparing people for the
Messiah's powerful arrival**

The Coming King

**The passage points to Jesus
(the one coming after John)
who will baptize with the Holy Spirit
and fire, separating wheat
(the faithful) from chaff (the wicked).**

Hope in the Wilderness

**connects the wilderness setting of
John the Baptist to places of
barrenness in our lives, suggesting
God nurtures new growth even there**

"Reclaiming Repentance"

A central idea is to reclaim the power of repentance as a positive, hopeful action, not just a negative one.