

News Story Summary

In October of this year, Xi Jinping of China payed a visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II. In advance of the visit, the Royal Horse Guards began busily preparing. Approximately 90 horses were included in the escort itself. Horses had been put through a six-week build up program. The Band (which would be mounted) also prepared so they could play both national anthems to perfection. Preparations were made for flags to fly and for the public to be able to witness the spectacular occasion.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “United Kingdom Prepares for Visit of Xi Jinping”.)

Focus Attention

Share information from the news story. Invite learners to recall name other preparations that had to take place before Xi Jinping arrived on his four day visit.

Explain that today’s session is about preparation for the arrival of the most important leader of all, Jesus; John the Baptist was sent to lead out in these preparations. Ask rhetorically: *Was a royal guard put into place for Him to inspect? Was an elaborate vehicle prepared for His transportation? Was gourmet food prepared for His sustenance? Did droves of people come out to witness the spectacular event? No, no, no, and no. So what preparations **were** to be made for such an important event?*

Challenge the group to look for the preparations made as Jesus was about to begin His ministry on earth.

Challenge

Remind the group of the preparations made for the visit of the President Xi of China to the United Kingdom. Encourage the group to evaluate their own hearts and determine whether they are properly prepared to provide a home for the King of Kings. Ask: *Have you repented of known sin? Are you producing fruit that would portray Christ to the world? Are you depending on their Christian heritage for salvation, rather than your own personal relationship with Christ?* Lead in prayer and invite the group to ask Christ to reveal to them how their hearts can become palaces fit for a King. Offer to be available to visit with anyone wanting to know more about becoming a Christian.