

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



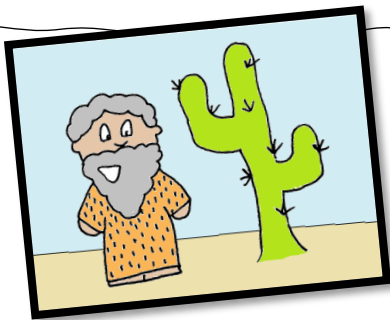
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Mark 1 v 1–8

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of John the Baptist who came to prepare the way for Jesus. Thank you for the reminder that you are gracious to us, that you love and forgive us.

Today would you help us to be messengers for you on the earth sharing your love and kindness with those we meet. Help us to speak to others about Jesus and teach them about his life, death and resurrection.

As we explore the Christmas story together let us not forget that Jesus came to the earth as part of your big plan to save and forgive us all.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think God sent John before Jesus?

Throughout Jesus’ life many things happened which fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament. In this passage we can read about how John fulfilled Old Testament prophecies which said a messenger would come before the promised Saviour.

In Biblical times God’s people would seek forgiveness through the sacrifice of animals, but John encouraged people to repent their sins and to be baptised. John was preparing the way for a new way of receiving forgiveness, through the death and resurrection of Jesus forgiveness would become freely available to all.

Some questions to answer as a family

What is your favourite thing about preparing for Christmas?

What does Baptism look like in our church?

A prayer of love



As we light the second Advent candle, we remember the love of God demonstrated through Jesus.

We thank God that He loved us enough to send his own son to the earth to live and die for us.

We ask for your help this advent as we share your love with those we meet. Help us to be loving in our words and deeds. Amen.



A verse to remember

Isaiah 40 v 3

This is the voice of one who calls out:
"Prepare in the desert the way for the Lord.
Make a straight road in the dry lands for our God."

Read this verse together and then find it in our Bible Passage for the day and in John 1 v 23. John the Baptist used these words from the Old Testament to describe himself, why do you think that is? Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Active Advent

Just as John encouraged people to change their hearts and lives, we can use this advent season to prepare our own hearts and lives before God. Why not take on these challenges during the second week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once.

Dec 6th

Draw a picture of yourself on a piece of paper, pray and ask God to help you draw closer to Him this week.

Dec 7th

Add to the picture to show you using a skill or talent that God has given you. How could you use that skill to serve and worship God today?

Dec 8th

Draw a heart on your picture, pray and ask God to give you a heart more like His, full of love for the world.

Dec 9th

Add a house to your picture, what ways can you think of that you could love and serve others in your household?

Dec 10th

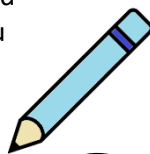
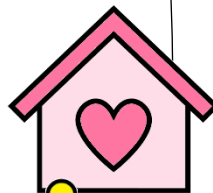
Who are the people you can share God's love with this week? Add them to your picture.

Dec 11th

Write or draw a message to God today, spend some time saying sorry for any mistakes you know you have made this week.

Dec 12th

Spend some time waiting on and listening to God today. Ask God if there are any areas in your life where you could serve Him better or be more obedient.

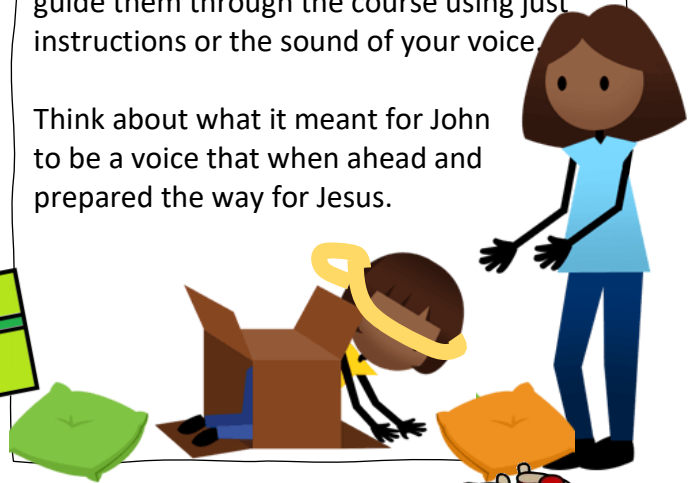


Family Activity 1

Go ahead!

Set up an obstacle course, blindfold somebody and then go ahead of them and guide them through the course using just instructions or the sound of your voice.

Think about what it meant for John to be a voice that went ahead and prepared the way for Jesus.



Family Activity 2

Shoe-tying competition

John said he was not worthy to tie Jesus' sandals. Have a shoe-tying competition with somebody else in your family. You will need to sit opposite one another with your shoes untied.

You must each try to tie the other person's shoes at the same time. Who can complete the shoe tying first?



Helping Younger Children

You could talk about baptism and the work of John the Baptist at bath time. Think about how water is used to wash people clean and how God's forgiveness washes us clean from our mistakes.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Isaiah 40 v 3

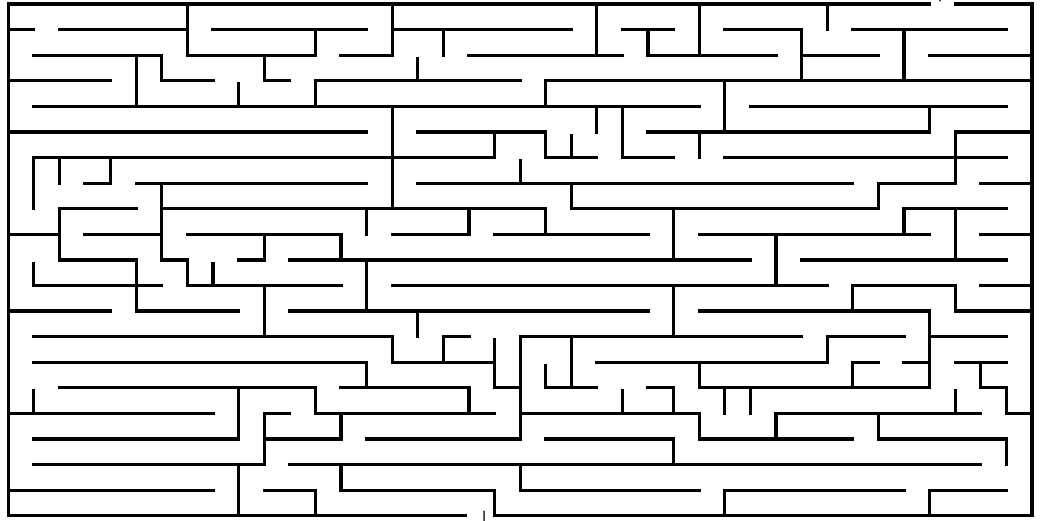
This is the voice of one who calls out:

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PUZZLE SHEET

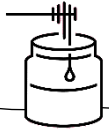
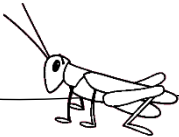
John came to prepare the way for Jesus. Can you find your way through this maze?



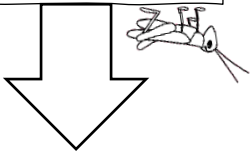
John had a rather unusual diet!

How many locusts can you find on the page?

How many jars of honey can you find on the page?



Can you find ten differences between these two pictures of John the Baptist?



Can you unscramble the names of two prophets from the Old Testament who wrote about John the Baptist.

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