

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

# John the Baptist Prepares the Way



Advent 2

from Mark 1:1-8.

**Jesus is the good news to share with everyone!**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- John the Baptist
- Jordan River
- Isaiah
- Baptism
- Repentance

People had been predicting the arrival of the Messiah for hundreds of years. Old Testament prophets, such as Isaiah and Malachi, said that a messenger would come before the Messiah to prepare the people. In Mark's gospel, John the Baptist arrives in Judea to announce the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, thus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

*Spark Story Bible* pages 234-239

*Spark Bible* page 1100

## Family Prayer

Dear God, Just like John the Baptist was a messenger of Jesus, help us be messengers by spreading the good news and sharing your love with everyone we meet. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Share stories about your baptism. Were you a baby, or older? Did you wear any special clothing when you were baptized? What does it mean to be baptized into the family of God?
- 2 What does repentance mean? Why do you think repentance is important to have Jesus in your heart?
- 3 John the Baptist was a strange guy. He wore funny camel's hair clothing with a leather belt and ate weird stuff like locusts and wild honey. What do you think people thought about John when they first met him?
- 4 Why do you think Mark started his gospel with this story, instead of with a story of Jesus' birth?



### Eye Spark

When you see someone being baptized at church, remember John the Baptist's message. He baptized people and prepared them for Jesus' coming!



### Ear Spark

When you listen to the pastor's sermons and words about Jesus, remember that John the Baptist was the first one to spread the good news! Remember how we are baptized into God's family with these words.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Make a collage of pictures of each family member's baptism. How was the occasion celebrated? Discuss why and how each family member came to be baptized.

### For younger kids

Draw a picture of John the Baptist sharing the good news. Was he an unusual looking man in his camel's hair? How did he share his message with people without frightening them?

### For older kids

Go online and research baptism traditions. How do different Christian groups celebrate baptism? Find out why some people are baptized as infants and some are older. What is the difference between "sprinkling" and "immersion" baptisms?

Lectionary, John the Baptist Prepares the Way Family Page.

Spark™ Sunday School

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