

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

# John the Baptist Proclaims Jesus' Coming

from John 1:6-8, 19-28.



**Jesus is the light of the world!**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- John the Baptist • Elijah
- Light • Pharisees
- Messiah

After Jerusalem's temple was destroyed in 70 C.E., Christians were seen as enemies to the Jews and the Romans. The story of John the Baptist in John's gospel shows the challenges the new Christian community faced as John was questioned by the Jewish authorities.

**Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 234-239

*Spark Bible* page 1171

## Family Prayer

Dear Jesus, We know you are the light of the world. Guide us on the right path and help us shine your light to others we meet. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Why do you think John the Baptist used the words of Isaiah to explain who he was to the Jewish authorities?
- 2 Who is Elijah? Read about him in the Old Testament book of Malachi. Why did the Jewish authorities think John the Baptist was Elijah?
- 3 John the Baptist proclaims Jesus as the "light of the world." How does Jesus bring light to your world?
- 4 Talk about each family member's baptism. When and why did it happen? Were you a baby or older when you were baptized? Who made the decision for you to be baptized?

### Eye Spark

When you turn on a light in a dark room, remember that Jesus is the one who brought light to the world!

### Ear Spark

When someone asks you who you are, remember that you are a child of God, a child of the light that Jesus brought to the world!

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Make a poster showing how you have followed Jesus' path in your life. Include descriptions of how Jesus has brought light to your family's world. Leave space to add more examples as they happen.

### For younger kids

Look at photos of your baptism, or the baptism of a family member. Think about how baptism brings new light to someone's life.

### For older kids

Go online and find out information about Jewish priests, Levites, and Pharisees. Why do you think they were skeptical about John the Baptist's message?

Lectionary, John the Baptist Proclaims Jesus' Coming Family Page.  
Spark™ Sunday School

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