

Church at Home

Advent 2

6th December 2020

Activities for the whole family

Mark 1:1-8



1. Read through today's story in your Bible at home or find it [here](#)
2. [A reflective version of today's story](#) with wooden figures and wondering questions for the whole family
3. [Here is our Advent song](#) for this time of getting ready
4. [Here is the story of John the Baptist](#) read from the Jesus Storybook Bible

5. Thinking about the story together:

In last Sunday's Advent Gospel Jesus warned us to be ready. This week the story is about someone who spent his whole time telling people to get ready. And he did it in a really noisy and dramatic way! John was quite the 'wild man of the desert' and a relative of Jesus. God inspired John to prepare the way, to help people get ready to meet with God in Christ. John was that voice crying in the wilderness that the prophet Isaiah had written about. John's call to repent was a challenge to people to think again about how they were living and what they believed about God. John wanted people to change their minds about God and be ready for a surprise Rescuer to come.

- I wonder whether this Advent, something you hear, read, or see, will prompt you to have new thoughts about God?
- I wonder what new ideas about how special Christmas is, you will have this year?
- I wonder if you are ready to be surprised by the story of the baby in the manger this December?
- I wonder if even John was surprised by what Jesus said and did, and especially the way Jesus went on to rescue the world?

6. Activity idea:

Create your own Nativity Set: You will need lots of [home-made Play-dough](#) or, as an alternative medium for those who are older, plenty of Lego™ pieces and bases. In the style of Lego™ Masters on TV, challenge each other to create your own nativity set (Mary, Joseph, Baby, Animals, Shepherds, Magi and Angels). Younger ones do the same in Play-dough.

Talk about: *What's the best part of the Christmas story for you? Where would you like to be in the story and why?*

7. **Visual aids.** Find something to do with water and something to do with fire. John talked about being baptised with water but that Jesus would baptise with fire. I wonder what he meant?
8. Watch out for **the Christmas Trail** around Abridge in December. There will be 20 boards in gardens and windows that tell the story of Christmas. Can you find the word linked to the picture from each board that goes into the story on the trail sheet available soon from the churches and through the email to parents from Lambourne school?

9. Here is a picture of John the Baptist to colour and decorate as you talk about the story together. I wonder where Jesus is?

