

JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Christ had a cousin named John. When John grew up, he learned that his job was to prepare people to listen to the Savior of the world.

John stayed near the Jordan River. People who were sorry for their sins came to John. They asked him to baptize them in the river. They did this so they could be closer to God.

John lived in the desert and wore rough clothing. He did not want anything fancy. He only wanted to serve God.

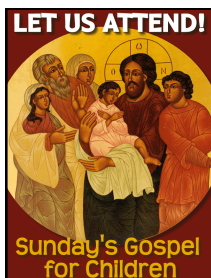
Some people saw how holy John was, and they thought he was the Savior. John told them that One would come after him who was much more holy.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What was the name of Jesus' cousin?
2. What was his job?
3. John lived near a river. What was the name of the river?
4. What did people ask John to do?
5. Who did John serve?
6. We serve God when we come to church and receive Holy Communion.



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Pre-12

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This is the beginning of the good news about Our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. Long ago, some very Godly men told about the time when Jesus would come to earth. These men were called prophets because they were very close to God, and He told them about things that were going to happen, and later on those things really did happen! Here is what one of them wrote down: "God says, 'I will send someone to get people ready. He will live in the wilderness. He will tell people to get ready to meet and follow God.' "

What the prophet said, came true! John the Baptizer lived out in the wilderness. He preached to everyone who came to hear him. He told them about being baptized if they repented and asked God for forgiveness of their sins.

A lot of people went to hear John – from all over Judea and from Jerusalem. After they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

John lived on what God provided for him, in the wild place where he was. He always dressed in camel hair. He wore a big leather girdle around his waist. His food was big bugs called locusts, and wild honey. But John's different clothes and menu did not keep people away from him! People came to him and learned about God from him. They knew he was special and holy.

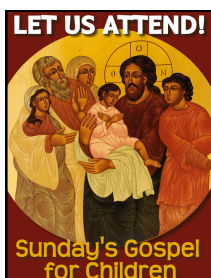
John told the people, "Someone much greater than I is coming. He is so amazing that I don't even deserve to untie his sandals. I have been baptizing you with water. But He is so great that He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What are prophets?
2. What did the prophet in this Gospel story write about? Did it come true?
3. Who lived out in the wilderness? What did he do there?
4. Tell something special about John the Baptizer. Would you want to meet him? Why or why not?
5. Who did John come to tell about?
6. Ask your parents or godparents to tell you about your baptism. You were baptized with water and sealed with the Holy Spirit, too!



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I AM NOT WORTHY

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophets,
“Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,

confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey.

And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water: but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

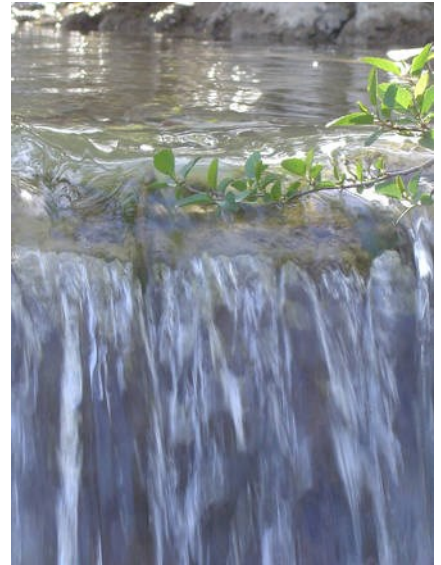
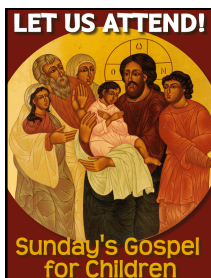


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who/what did God say would be sent? Why?
2. What would the voice say?
3. Who was God talking about? Did he come?
4. Why did people go out into the wilderness to see John?
5. Describe John’s lifestyle. Would you want to live as he did? Why or why not?
6. Who did John preach about?
7. In the baptismal service, we see what John talked about so many years ago... Baptism with water and with the Holy Spirit! First, the person being baptized is baptized in water, then they are chrismated with holy oil. When the priest is chrismating the person, he says, “The seal of the Holy Spirit...” and everyone else says, “Seal!”



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Characters: Narrator, Prophet, John

Narrator: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets,

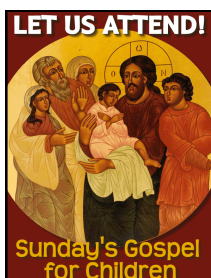
Prophet: Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Narrator: John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying,

John: After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water: but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



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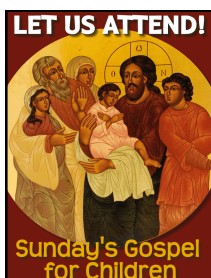
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And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not

worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water: but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Take a few minutes to write this story as a news report. What kind of picture might appear with your story?
2. How does your report present John?
3. How would your classmates react to John if he was your teacher?
4. How is this part of John's life preparing the way for Christ?
5. What does this suggest about how Christians should treat people who appear strange?
6. What do you think about that?



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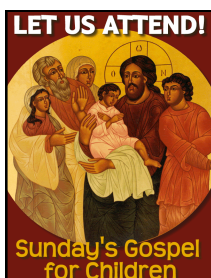
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Take a few minutes to write this story as a news report. What kind of picture might appear with your story?
2. How does your report present John?
3. How would you or your friends react to this kind of story if you saw it on television?
4. What does this say about preparing the way for Christ?
5. What does this suggest about being a Christian?
6. What do you think about that?



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