

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 13th December
Third Sunday of Advent



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 speaking of Jesus.

You can find it in your Bible in:
John 1 v 6–8., 19–28

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

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

Psalm 126 *or*

Canticle: Magnificat

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of John the Baptist who spoke of Jesus and shared the Good News about Him with others. Help us to do the same and share about you with others this Christmas Time.

We thank you that Jesus came to be a light in the world, a light that brings joy and hope for all. Help us to be lights in our own communities, to find reasons and ways to celebrate and rejoice together this season.

We pray for those who are feeling lonely or sad may they know your comfort and joy!

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

The Jewish leaders asked John the Baptist who he was, how many different suggestions that they made can you find in the passage?

The Old Testament teaches us that God had promised a Messiah to bring hope and salvation to his people, but they were expecting a mighty warrior who would save them from the oppression of the Roman Empire. John the Baptist was teaching, and baptising people and they came to hear from him and learn more about the coming Messiah.

John explained that he was not the Messiah just a messenger come to prepare the way. He was not Elijah returned or the prophet that Moses had been promised in Deuteronomy 18, John said he was the messenger promised by Isaiah, come to prepare the way for the true Messiah – Jesus!

Why not read the whole of John 1 and think about these questions together?

Why do you think Jesus called himself the light of the world?

Why do you think there are so many lights used as Christmas Decorations?

How does it make you feel when you see Christmas lights?

A prayer of joy



As we light the third Advent candle, choose to rejoice even in difficult times!

We thank God that He fills us with joy and praise in place of sorry and despair.

We ask for your help this advent as we mourn some of our Christmas traditions that cannot take place. Help us find reasons to rejoice and ways to celebrate together. Amen.



A verse to remember

Isaiah 61 v 10

The Lord makes me very happy; all that I am rejoices in my God.

It's good to celebrate and rejoice even in difficult times. 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

Why not take on these light and joy challenges during the third week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once.

Dec 13th

A – can you name something beginning with the letter A that fills you with joy? Why not try to put a smile on somebody's face with an **amusing** joke today!

Dec 14th

D – can you name something beginning with the letter D that fills you with joy? Why not put on some of your favourite worship music and praise God with some joyful **dancing** today!

Dec 15th

V – can you name something beginning with the letter A that fills you with joy? It might not be **valentines** day but don't let that stop you writing a message of love and joy to somebody today!

Dec 16th

E – can you name something beginning with the letter E that fills you with joy? Christmas may look different this year but we can still get **excited** about it, why not pray and ask God to fill you with **enthusiasm** for your family plans this year!

Dec 17th

N – can you name something beginning with the letter N that fills you with joy? Why not head out into **nature** today, go on a walk and ask for a fresh joy as you explore God's beautiful creation.

Dec 18th

T – can you name something beginning with the letter T that fills you with joy? What are some of the **tastes** that fill you with joy? Why not prepare some of your favourite foods together today?

Dec 19th

Spend some time waiting on God today and listening to His voice. You could ask God to share with you some of the things about YOU that bring Him joy!

Family Activity 1

Dance for joy!

Put on some music and play a game of musical statues. When the music plays dance for joy together. When the music stops freeze. You could take it in turns to shout out a thank you prayer to God when you are frozen!



Family Activity 2

Who are you?

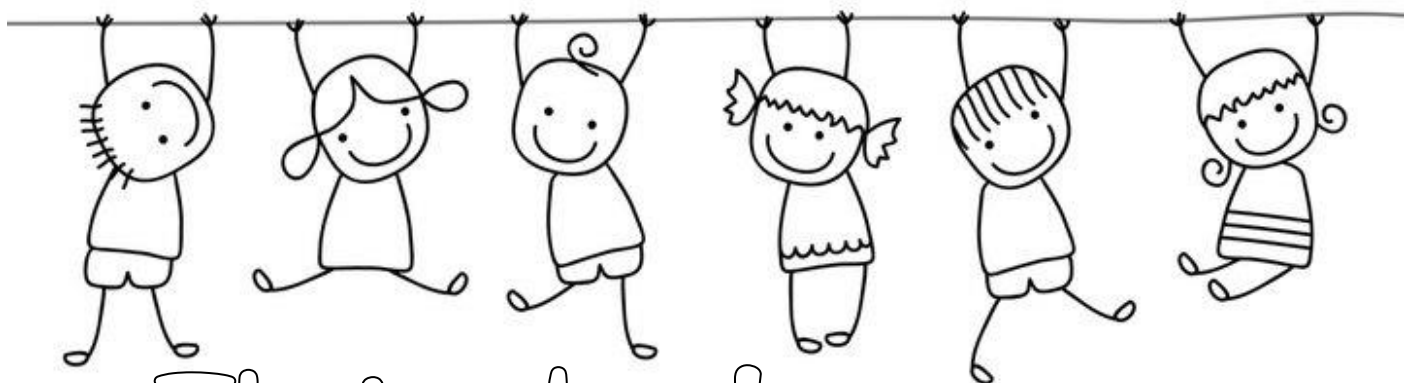
In the passage the leaders asked John the Baptist who he was. John's name had been chosen by God! You can read the story in **Luke 1 v 5-25 and 57-80**.

Why not spend some time making name signs for the rooms in your house, you could look up and include information about what your name means.

Decorate your name sign with pictures of things that represent you.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Isaiah 61 v 10



The Lord makes me very

HAPPY

all that I am

REJOICES

in my God



God's amazing plans for the life of John the Baptist began before he was even born! Read the story in:

Luke 1 v 5-25 and 57-80.

Connect the dots in order to complete the picture of John the Baptist's father Zechariah in the temple!

PUZZLE SHEET

Dot to Dot provided by Family Fed
Children's Ministry
www.cm.familyfed.org

Did you know that Jesus was John the Baptist's cousin? Mary visited John the Baptist's mother Elizabeth when she was pregnant with Jesus!

Can you find these objects hidden in the picture below?

- book
- cake
- fish
- football
- magnet
- moon
- needle and thread
- snail
- sock
- spoon
- sheriff's badge
- star



Find the object provided by
www.sundayschoolzone.com