

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 21st February 2021
The First Sunday of Lent

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 the beginning of Jesus preparing for his ministry.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Mark 1 v 9–15

Read the passage 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:

Genesis 9 v 8-17
Psalm 25 v 1-9
1 Peter 3 v 18-22

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus’ baptism and time in the wilderness. Thank you for this reminder that Jesus was fully God and fully human, that he faced challenges and choices just like we do.

Help us to make wise choices this week and to live in obedience to you. As we enter Lent help us to find new ways to draw closer to you, to serve and love others and to live for you.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Jesus wanted to get baptised?

Jesus chose to live his life as an example for us to follow, his baptism was a public demonstration that the time had come to begin his ministry. Baptism is a symbol of new life, a fresh start and commitment to God. Jesus showed his commitment by being baptised and God the Father spoke to all those listening, confirming that Jesus was his son.

A question for children to ask adults

Why do you think Jesus went into the desert for forty days?

Jesus took time to prepare himself for his ministry, he knew that it would not be easy and that one day he would die on the cross. God’s plan involved Jesus living as a human and choosing to be obedient and not sin. Jesus’ forty days in the desert remind us of the forty years the Israelites spent in the wilderness when they disobeyed God and his temptation reminds us of the temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Jesus faced temptation and challenge but he was obedient and faithful to God, he never sinned.

A question to answer together

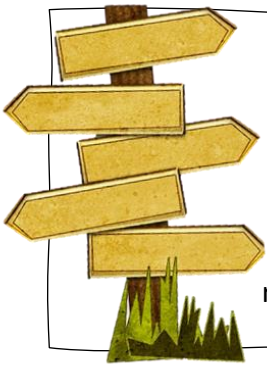
How can we serve God during Lent? What can we do to focus our hearts on God during this time?

Family Activity 1

What is the hardest thing to say no to? What is the hardest thing to say yes to? Jesus said yes to God’s plan, he was baptised and lived his life for God knowing that one day he would die on the cross. Jesus was tempted in the desert but he said no and made good choices.

Play the **yes and no** game. Have a conversation without saying the words yes or no. The last person to say yes or no is the winner. It’s trickier than it sounds!





A verse to remember

Psalm 25 v 4

Lord, tell me your ways. Show me how to live.

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.

Family Activity 2

Play a game of follow the leader

Jesus lived his life to be an example for us to follow. Can you be a good leader and example for others? Take it in turns to be the leader, everybody else must follow you and do exactly what you do!



Active Prayer

John who baptised Jesus preached a baptism of changed hearts and lives. Even though we know that our mistakes are forgiven through Jesus it is still good to repent and say sorry to God for our mistakes. It is good to recognise areas in our own hearts and lives where we might need to make changes.

Spend some time listening to God and thinking about your own life. Write or draw on paper any behaviours or thoughts you know are not pleasing to God.

Take a bowl of water and place the paper into it. Scrunch, tear and soak the paper in the water till it is completely destroyed.

No mistake we make is too big for God to forgive and with God's help we can change our hearts and lives, choosing to follow Him.

After the activity use a sieve to remove any remaining paper from the bowl and dispose of it in a bin. Don't pour it away down the sink as you may block your drain!



Helping Older Children

Baptism traditions vary between different church denominations and older children may ask why Jesus' baptism story is different from your own church tradition. These pictures all show different baptism traditions – you could talk about the ages and locations in the pictures.

What do they all have in common? They are about an individual and their commitment to changing their heart and life for God.



Lent Connections Challenge

Why not make time to connect with God in new ways during this Lent. Here are some ideas inspired by today's story.

Water Challenge

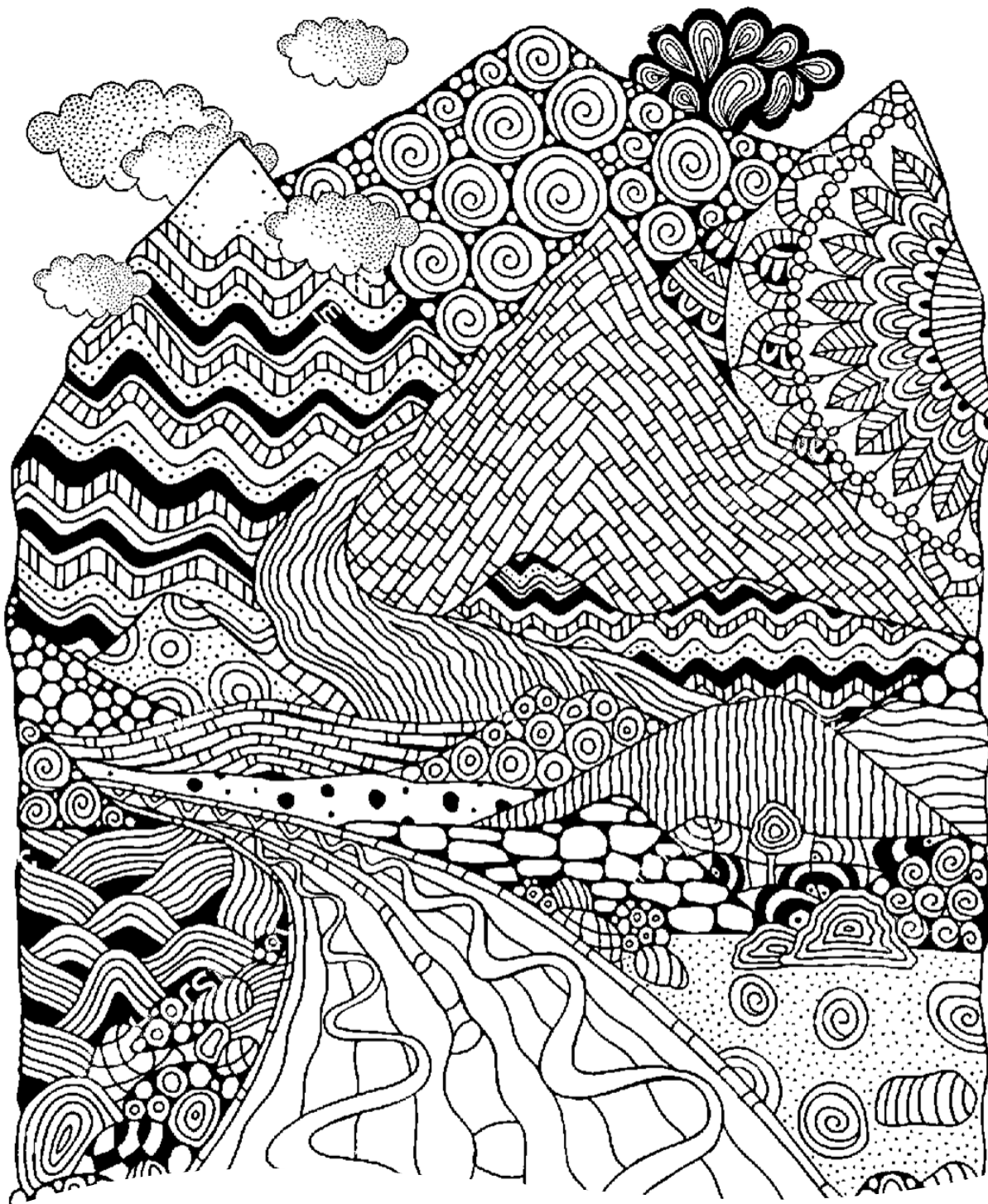
Use water as a point of connection with God, take a moment to pray every time you wash your hands.

Desert Challenge

Make space for some quiet time with God, each finding a space to sit, still your heart before God and listen to his voice.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Psalm 25 v 4



Lord, tell me your ways.

Show me how to live.

PUZZLE SHEET

John the Baptist spoke about Jesus and said **"I am not good enough even to kneel down and untie his sandals."**

How many sandals can you find on this page?

Can you find all these words in the word search below?

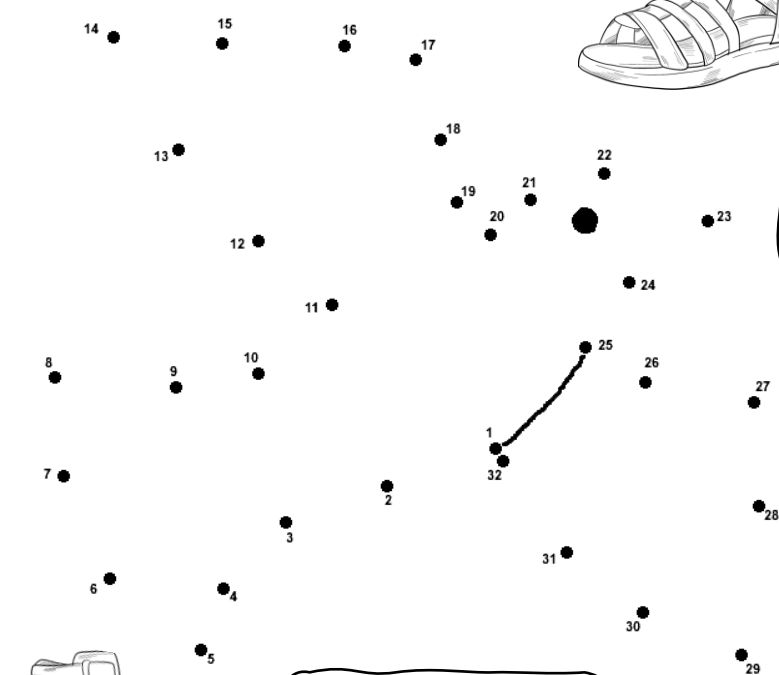
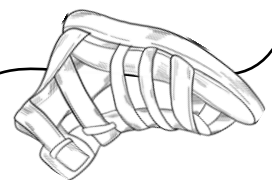
Jesus	hearts	God
John	lives	Jordan
baptism	dove	river
water	Holy Spirit	heaven

n l k p g m h c l g e g p h v
 g a y m o b o q h u e v o d w
 d c d t b o l i u c h s f h s
 v y b r k t y n g d l f o m w
 t s v q o i s e n e r a g w f
 a v o f a j p v w q n o e b p
 s t r a e h i a y m w a e k s
 d f m z r o r e y b r a x b y
 k h k p p h i h a s l v i r n
 r d b i c k t p u h f i a g f
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 e n c o s j w r m e c p z y s
 r a h m k y e i x m s k r n f
 o n s w a t e r j w c r w r g



Decode the message to reveal what God the Father said at Jesus' baptism.

a = ❄️	m = ☀️	t = ↓
d = 🎯	n = 🕯️	u = 😊
e = ✨	o = 🔔	v = ✈️
h = 🚩	p = 🖋️	w = 🕒
i = ❤️	r = 🖐️	y = 🕶️
l = ☆	s = 🌸	



Join the dots to reveal the form the Holy Spirit took at Jesus' baptism.