

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
DECEMBER 4, 2016—THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
JOHN THE BAPTIST: “LISTEN UP!”



John the Baptist was an odd sort of person, to say the least. He lived in the desert, wore clothing made out of animal skins, and ate bugs and wild honey. If that wasn't enough, it went around shouting at people! He didn't have the best people skills, perhaps—but he had a very important message. “Something big is happening! Get ready! God is coming! We've all done things wrong, but **GOD WANTS TO FORGIVE YOU!** All you have to do is repent, and change your ways! Get ready!”

He may look odd, but he sure has something wonderful to say! Let's listen to him!

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

JOHN THE BAPTIST ~ MATTHEW 3:1-12

John the Baptist is an interesting character. He insults people, calling the Pharisees and the Sadducees (learned and respected Jewish leaders) a brood of vipers. He's dirty, wears odd clothing (camel hair) and eats strange food (locusts). He's not the kind of person you might normally invite to dinner or use as a babysitter for your children. But odd and off-putting as he is, John the Baptist has a vital message. He is calling us all to wake up, see the light, and be aware of how much we need Jesus.

Here are some topics you might want to explore with your children:

- Before we can truly accept the wonderful gift of Jesus, we need to know how much we need him. This is the message of John the Baptist—get ready by asking for forgiveness and be willing to forgive the people who hurt us.
- One meaning of “repent” is “to turn”. Repentance is not about feeling bad about yourself, but looking carefully to see how you can change, or turn around.
- John is a model of a very brave person—he stood up for what is right, even though it was unpopular and got him into trouble. How can you and your family be guided by that?

John the Baptist Match-Up

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| 1. Jesus' Cousin | A. Jesus |
| 2. John the Baptist's mother | B. Four |
| 3. What John the Baptist told people to do | C. Baptized |
| 4. The one who came after John the Baptist | D. Locusts and wild honey |
| 5. What John the Baptist ate | E. Repent and be baptized |
| 6. What John the Baptist wore | F. Camel hair clothing |
| 7. Repent | G. John the Baptist |
| 8. Prophet quoted by John the Baptist | H. Elizabeth |
| 9. Cleansed and forgiven | I. Isaiah |
| 10. Number of Sundays in Advent | J. Turn around, change |

Dinner Table Conversations:

Why is it important to recognize the things that you do wrong?

What do we get when we acknowledge what we have done wrong? (forgiveness, love, and a way to start over...)

Why should we forgive others? Who does it really hurt when we hold a grudge against someone?

How does it help us to let go of old grudges?

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.

It is posted weekly on www.stjamesbatavia.org