

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids – of All Ages!
DECEMBER 6, 2105 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist → John the Messenger



Listen!
Something
big is going to
happen! Be
ready!



John the Baptist was trying to get everyone's attention because he had an important message from God.

"Hey everyone! Something big is going to happen! God is coming! Get ready! Be sorry for what you have done wrong! Ask God's forgiveness and he will give it to you. Get ready!"

Do you know what the big thing was?

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. He was a wild looking man, wore clothes made from camel's hair, lived in the desert and ate locusts and wild honey. He told people – perhaps by shouting – that they should think about their sins and ask for forgiveness from God. He baptized people in the Jordan River but told everyone “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” *Mark 1:8*

John the Baptist was telling people that Jesus – the Messiah – the Son of God – was coming. He wanted people to be ready for Jesus – and the way to get ready was to ask forgiveness for your sins, to be sorry, to be ready for God's love.

John's message is a message of HOPE. No matter what you've done wrong you can ask God for forgiveness. Jesus came to earth as a human being even though he knew that people are often troublesome, make bad decisions and hurt other people. But Jesus came anyway – because God's love for us is unconditional. How is your love for your children like God's love for all of us? Talk to your children about how you love them, and how God loves us – no matter what!

Dinner Table Conversation:

John the Baptist's message was one of hope – that God loves us and will forgive us. Do you know anyone who could use some hope? How can you give it to them? What kind of hope do you need? Where do you find it?

Imagine that John the Baptist has just returned home to celebrate his mother Elizabeth's birthday. She asks, “So son, what have you been doing in the desert?” Give each family member the chance to play the role of John and answer this question. Other family members could play the part of the crowd reacting to him. Some of the people were probably annoyed, some might have been interested, and some might have been afraid.

(To find out about John the Baptist, look in Matthew chapter 3, Mark chapter 1, Luke chapter 3, and John chapter 1.)