

Together @ Home

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.

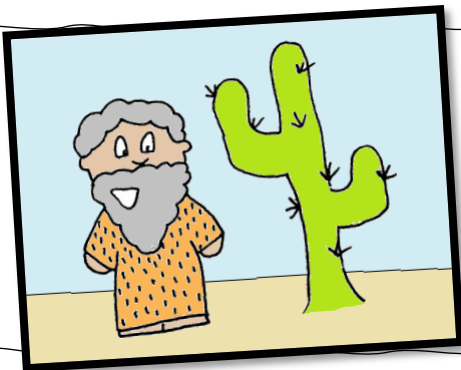


Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of John the Baptist.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Luke 1 v 5-25 and 57-80

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



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of John the Baptist who came to prepare the way for Jesus. Thank you for the reminder that you are gracious to us, that you love and forgive us.

Help us to be messengers for you on the earth sharing your love and kindness with those we meet. Help us to speak to others about Jesus and teach them about his life, death and resurrection.

As we explore the Christmas story together let us not forget that Jesus came to the earth as part of your big plan to save and forgive us all.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How did Zechariah lose his voice?

When Zechariah first saw the angel the Bible tells us he was startled and afraid. The angel told Zechariah that God had heard his prayers, the son he had been praying for was finally going to be born. Then the angel told Zechariah the amazing things that his son John was to do.

In spite of this incredible experience Zechariah questioned the angel and didn't believe him! Gabriel took away his voice to teach Zechariah a lesson! I wonder if people would have believed Zechariah's story if he hadn't lost his voice?

A question for children to ask adults

What does my name mean? What does your name mean?

The people would have expected Zechariah and Elizabeth to name their child after his father. The name John means "God has been gracious." Those watching might have thought they had chosen the name because God had blessed Zechariah and Elizabeth with a child after many years. In fact, the name speaks of the bigger picture of God's grace, John had come to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry on the earth. God's ultimate act of grace and forgiveness was about to be revealed.

A prayer of love



As we light the fourth Advent candle, we think of all those who we love and who love us!

We thank You, God, for Your love for the world and the sending of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us who would die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, so that we could have the gift of eternal life.

We thank You for all our loved ones, family and friends – even though we may not be able to meet this Christmas may we find ways to share and show love to others.



A verse to remember

Isaiah 40 v 3

This is the voice of one who calls out:
"Prepare in the desert the way for the Lord.
Make a straight road in the dry lands for our God."

Read this verse together and then look up John 1 v 23. Why do you think John the Baptist used these words from the Old Testament to describe himself? To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy of it and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Active Advent

God is amazing and there will always be more of God for us to experience and come to know. Why not take on these challenges during the fourth week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once, they are all about discovering more about God.

Dec 20th

Set a timer for 1 minute, how many different names and words can you think of to describe God?



Dec 21st

Read 1 Corinthians 12 v7-11, it talks about the different gifts God has for us. Ask God which gift He would like to give you today through the Holy Spirit.



Dec 22nd

Stretch out as wide as you can, now stretch up as high as you can. Read Ephesians 3:18-19 and see what is says about how BIG God's love is for you.



Dec 23rd

Jesus died on a cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be saved. God's forgiveness is for everybody. Take some time today to pray for a friend or family member who doesn't yet know God as their friend and Savior.



Dec 24th

We are precious children of God. Spend some time listening to God today. Ask God to tell you some of the things He loves about you!



Dec 25th

Merry Christmas! As you celebrate together don't forget to stop and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus – the reason for the season!



Family Activity 2

What's in a name?

The name John is very important in the story, it is only when Zechariah calls his son John and is obedient to God that his voice returns.

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.

Active Waiting

Spend some time waiting on God together as a family and listening. Why not ask for pictures or words of encouragement which you could add to the name signs you have created.

You can download a 'Listening to God' resource at :

www.TatH.co.uk/other-resources



Hidden Pictures: The Birth of John the Baptist

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, cake, fish, football, magnet, moon, needle and thread, snail, sock, spoon, sherrif's badge, star.



"His Name Is John"

"And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High because you will prepare the way for the Lord." Luke 1:76 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:67-80



V A J P P B S Q I M W K I I Q
 S R R R N M K A M S I T W Z S
 R Z L O Y E Z A L E R G V Y O
 U C P P J G H K H V R A H A V
 V G M H I S E R V E A C E T U
 G G G E T I G R I G Q T Y L Y
 I S B T C P R E P A R E I M C
 H A P E Z A H I P L W L X O G
 Q V R C E E Y O F O J O W G N
 K I A F D W P J L I D R K K F
 V O I P E A C E S Y D D P P D
 O R S F R N A F O G A V X O G
 X R E M Z L H F R C V D J C J
 C Q B H E A N O T G I W N C W
 L T T D H R O Y A L D S Q J D

SALVATION	SAVIOR	MERCY	HOLY	PEACE
PRAISE	DAVID	LORD	PROPHET	SERVE
PREPARE	FEAR	ROYAL	MIGHTY	ISRAEL