

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

In this Advent Gospel, John the Baptist answers some specific questions about preparing for the coming of the Messiah. He urges the sharing of food and clothing. He asked tax collectors to be fair and soldiers to be satisfied with their wages. Most of all, John pointed to the one who is to come and who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. What does your family do to prepare for Christ's coming?

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): John the Baptist asked people to do the best they can. Even the youngest children can understand that. They can do loving actions even if their hearts are not in it. Help your child share with others and be patient this week. You might get ready for Christmas by playing some carols and talking about the words. This is an easy way for him or her to learn the events of Jesus' birth.

Promise (Grades K-1): The lesson of the Gospel this week is about sharing what you have with others. Your child learned the importance of not being selfish and sharing what he or she has. Ask your child to show you the "Happy Birthday" booklet from this week's lesson and talk about ways your family prepares for the coming of the Savior.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This Sunday is often referred to as Rejoice Sunday—from the words of Saint Paul that your child learned in class and that complete the first reading at Mass. Ask your child to share with the family the story "Who Has The Answer?" The story brings the Gospel advice of John the Baptist down to a child's level. Do a little review of how your Christmas preparations are going.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child's class talked about the giving and receiving of gifts at Christmas time. They also learned about John the Baptist's call for people to share what they have and to care for others. Ask your child to share with your family the story, "The Christmas Coat." Talk about ways your family can share with people in need during this holy season. Ask your child to tell the family about the city of Jerusalem.

Visions (Grades 7-8): As part of preparation for Christ's coming, your child's class explored the effects homelessness has on people and learned how some teenagers experienced those effects for themselves. Ask your son or daughter to tell the family about "Cardboard Box City." The class also listened to the advice of John the Baptist and talked about the need for a strong moral compass. Have a conversation about what guides your family to make good moral decisions.

Pray Together

As you say your Advent Wreath prayer together this week, include prayers for all the people who need to hear the advice of John the Baptist. As each member mentions someone who needs the message, the whole family can respond: "Lord, help us be signs of your presence in the world!"