

# SPARK

Week 11

Preparing for Jesus



After this time together your child will be able to do (one or all depending on their age):

- Mary & Joseph traveled to Bethlehem before Jesus was born.
- Be able to understand that John was related to Jesus. (Mary visited his mom, Elizabeth.)
- Know that John had a special mission: He baptized people and told them one day someone greater than he was coming & to be ready!

## FOCUS for 12/14/20:

I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord. John 1: 23

## Adult Pre-work (15 min)

- Watch Lesson 11 preparation video at [saint-max.org/spark](http://saint-max.org/spark)
- Watch [Kid Bible Story: John the Baptist](#)

## PRAY



### Opening Prayer

+ (Sign of the Cross) All Knowing God, help us to learn how to be ready for you. Help us to watch for you in our lives and to always be JOYFUL! We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ today. Amen. +

**Don't forget to do Week 3 of the Advent Prayers in your Packet!**

## SHARE

### Family Connection

John tells us to be watching for Jesus. Still today, we need to watch for Jesus in our lives. Think God incidents vs. coincidences. Share of a time when something happened and it seemed as if God orchestrated it. Or, talk about how you prepared for a big event: a wedding, a big celebration, a move, etc.



Before beginning this week's lesson, ask your child what was learned last week about the Virgin Mary, Joseph and Angels. Remind them that Mary said, "Yes." even though she didn't really know what that meant. Joseph obeyed the angel in taking Mary as his wife.

# LEARN

## Read the Bible Story

I think it is best for this story to watch the video listed above about John the Baptist. Take some time to go back and see if they have the basic overall story. This is hard because it is out of order in the narrative. But important because each year in Advent we hear John telling us to repent and prepare the way of the Lord. If you have young ones then just focus on Jesus and Mary traveling to Bethlehem or Mary going to visit Elizabeth, her old relative who miraculously conceived. Lots of traveling in these stories which parallels our lives which should be always moving closer to God.

- Who are the characters in this story? (*John the Baptist and the people waiting to be rescued/saved.*)
- Where did John live? (*In the desert*)
- Why was he unusual? (*He ate locusts and honey and wore camel hair clothes*)
- What was his special job? (*To tell God's people to get ready for the Messiah/savior*)
- What was unusual about Elizabeth? (*She was very old and expecting*)
- What did her baby do when he heard Mary's voice? (*He leapt for joy!*)



**Wondering Questions:** I wonder what this Bible story is about? I wonder what God is teaching us through this story? (*God asks us to prepare for Jesus' coming as we remember his birth.*) And we also need to be always prepared for when He comes again.)

### **If you or your child needs to Dig Deeper or watch the story:**

**God's Story: John the Baptist** (4 min video) One caveat: It states Baptism is when we decide tell everybody we are following Jesus. Catholic tradition holds that Baptism is how we become part of God's family - more on that in a few weeks!

## LIVE YOUR FAITH

This week as a family .....



1. Talk about preparation? How do you as a family get ready for Christmas? How do you get ready for the birth of our Lord?
2. **Draw a picture or write a sentence or two about anything you learned from this story. (Use an angel bordered Homework Template)**
3. A great book I used with my kids: The Story of Christmas (Eye Witness Animals). We would read one animal's account of the Christmas story each day for the 7 days before Christmas.

## PRAY

All knowing God, forgive us when we are not watching for you in our lives. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to show us how to live good lives. Please help \_\_\_\_\_. Amen + (Sign of the Cross)

## Want to Dig Deeper?

**The Visitation** (5 min) Mary goes to visit Elizabeth



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