



Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way

December 8, 2019

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Roamns 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

Second Sunday of Advent

*object needed- a wearable headlamp or a flashlight

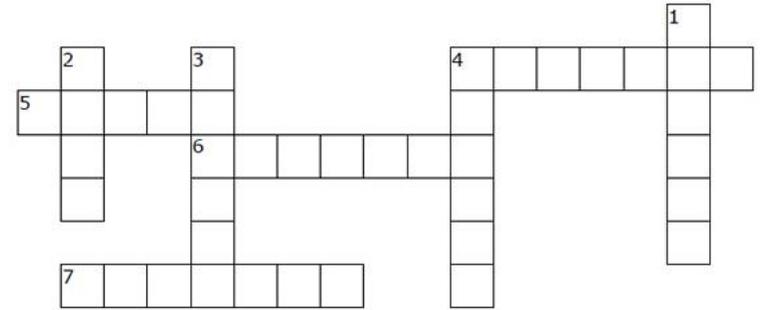
Good morning, children of God! So, you may notice that I have some interesting light shining here...do you know what this is? (Allow responses) Right, it's a special headlamp! What do you think the purpose of this tool might be? Why would I use it? (Allow responses) So this can have several great uses. I might use it if I want to walk or run outside when it's a bit dark. Or maybe I want to go down into a cave or somewhere that does not get much light. Or maybe the power goes out in the house, but I still need to see! There are lots of great ways I can utilize this... But let me ask you something else...if I point this light on myself (turn light around), will I be able to see very well? Will the light serve the purpose of showing my way or helping me find something? No, not very well...if I want to use the light, I must point it at something away from me. You know, that's what we want to do with our lives.

Our Gospel lesson from Matthew talks about a man named John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin and his job from the very beginning was to get people ready for Jesus. John was a kind of a strange character. He lived in the wilderness, clothed himself in camel-hair coats and ate bugs (topped with honey, of course)! But he lived his life dedicated to God and he always pointed to Jesus. John paved the way for Jesus by telling everyone he knew that Jesus was the one to follow.

John is a great role model for us. No, we don't have to eat bugs, but we want to live in a way that in all that we say and do, we point to Jesus. Just like my headlamp, we shine it towards Jesus instead of ourselves and we tell everyone we know how wonderful Jesus is and how great his love is. Our goal should not be making ourselves look good, but showing people how important Jesus is. So, as we continue in this Advent season, let's remember to live joyfully and to share Christ's light with one another. *adapted from Ministry-to-Children.com

Dear God, help us to live in a way that brings glory to you by shining Christ's light and love on the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
- 5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
- 6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
- 7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

- 1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
- 2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
- 3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
- 4. To deliver a sermon

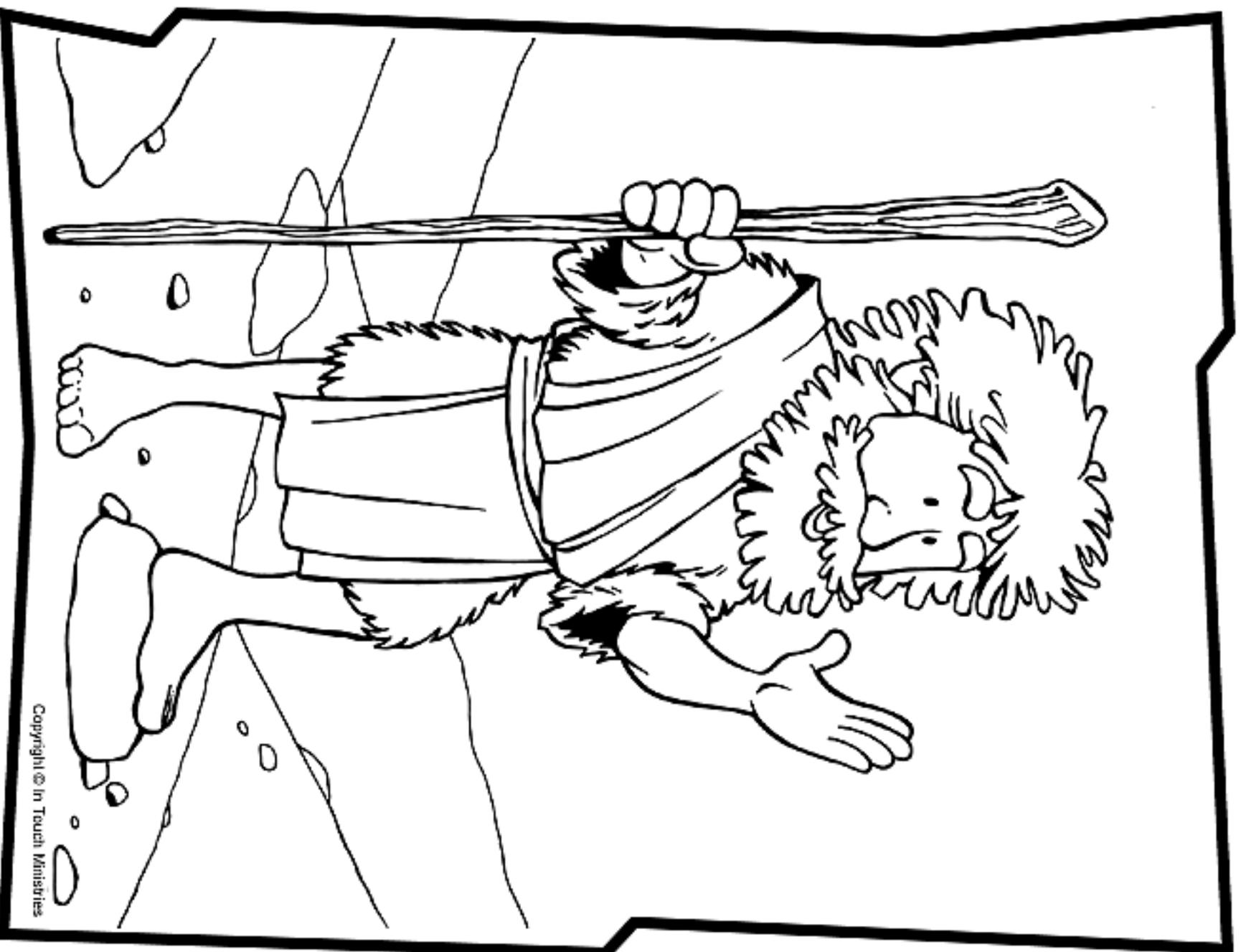
VOICE	PREPARE	DESERT	PROPHET
REPENT	JOHN	PREACH	BAPTIZE

Activity: Draw several stars on a piece of navy or black construction paper. Write "Shine Bright" and "Christ be our Light" using a gold or silver metallic pen. Cut out your stars and using a hole punch, put a hole near the top of a star. Use a piece of ribbon to hang your stars all around your room.

Discussion Question: Without using your words, how will people know that you are a follower of Christ? What actions can you take to show others Christ's love?

Family Table Prayer for December: God of love, joy, and light we thank you for your son. For Mary, and her baby boy, Our savior, and all that he has done. Amen.

December Memory Verse: Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"



JOHN THE BAPTIST

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