



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## Cycle C - II Sunday of Advent

*Baruch 5, 1-9; Psalm 125; Philippians 1, 4-6.8-11; Luke 3, 1-6*

### John the Baptist in the Desert: Prepare the Way of the Lord...

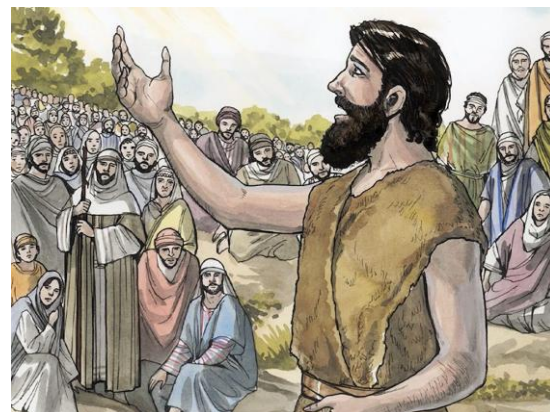
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

### Reflection

**Who is John the Baptist?** (John is the son of the priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary's cousin. He was Jesus' cousin.) **How did John live?** (He lived in the desert, dressed in a tunic made of camel hair and a leather belt. He ate locust and wild honey.) **Why did he live like that?**

(He only cared about getting close to God so he spent his days praying and doing sacrifices.) **The Gospel says that the word of God came to John. What does this mean.** (The Holy Spirit spoke to his heart.)

**What did John do when he heard the word of God?** (John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.) **What does this mean?** (John preached that everyone should be sorry for their sins and do penance in order to be baptized with water. This baptism represented a change of life, a CONVERSION, where God is at the center. PENANCE is a sacrifice to make up for hurting God with sin. This was to prepare for the coming of the Savior which was already here.) **What did the prophet Isaiah say almost 1000 years before Jesus?** (*A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths..."*) **The gospel asks us to change our lives and prepare for the coming of Jesus into our hearts. What changes can we make to welcome Jesus on Christmas day? Share.**



**Activities**

On the following page, fill in the blanks with the words below. On the other page, write or draw in the rectangles of the blanket good works, sacrifices, prayers... that you plan to do to prepare your heart so it is warm and comfortable for baby Jesus on Christmas Day. Color. Place pieces of yarn or ribbon curving back and forth across the table to each child. Give examples of paths that need to be made straight (people who forget about God, hurt others, disobey, are selfish...) and have them suggest how to straighten the path. Let them pull the yarn and make it straight.

### Prayer

Lord, I am waiting for you. Help me so when you arrive you may find I have grown in love and respect of my family, and in honesty, sincerity and love for others. Amen.

**Song:** The Advent Song for Kids, Catholicicing, (Ctrl Click), <https://youtu.be/HZCtyhOU2gw> (3-6)

Prepare the Way, Marie Antoinette Lacson, (Ctrl Click), <https://youtu.be/IOMyJ0IoVjw> (7+ years)

**PPT:** <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1TJP2KVf1IKL1x3Ghm1B72JYu6hkOx5wP/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtfpof=true&sd=true>



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## **Prepare the Way of the Lord** (*Luke 3, 1-6*)

A voice of one crying out in the \_\_\_\_\_: "Prepare the way of the \_\_\_\_\_,  
make \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain  
and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and  
the rough ways made \_\_\_\_\_, and all flesh shall see the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
God."

**Replace the spaces with the following words:**

Lord straight salvation desert smooth paths



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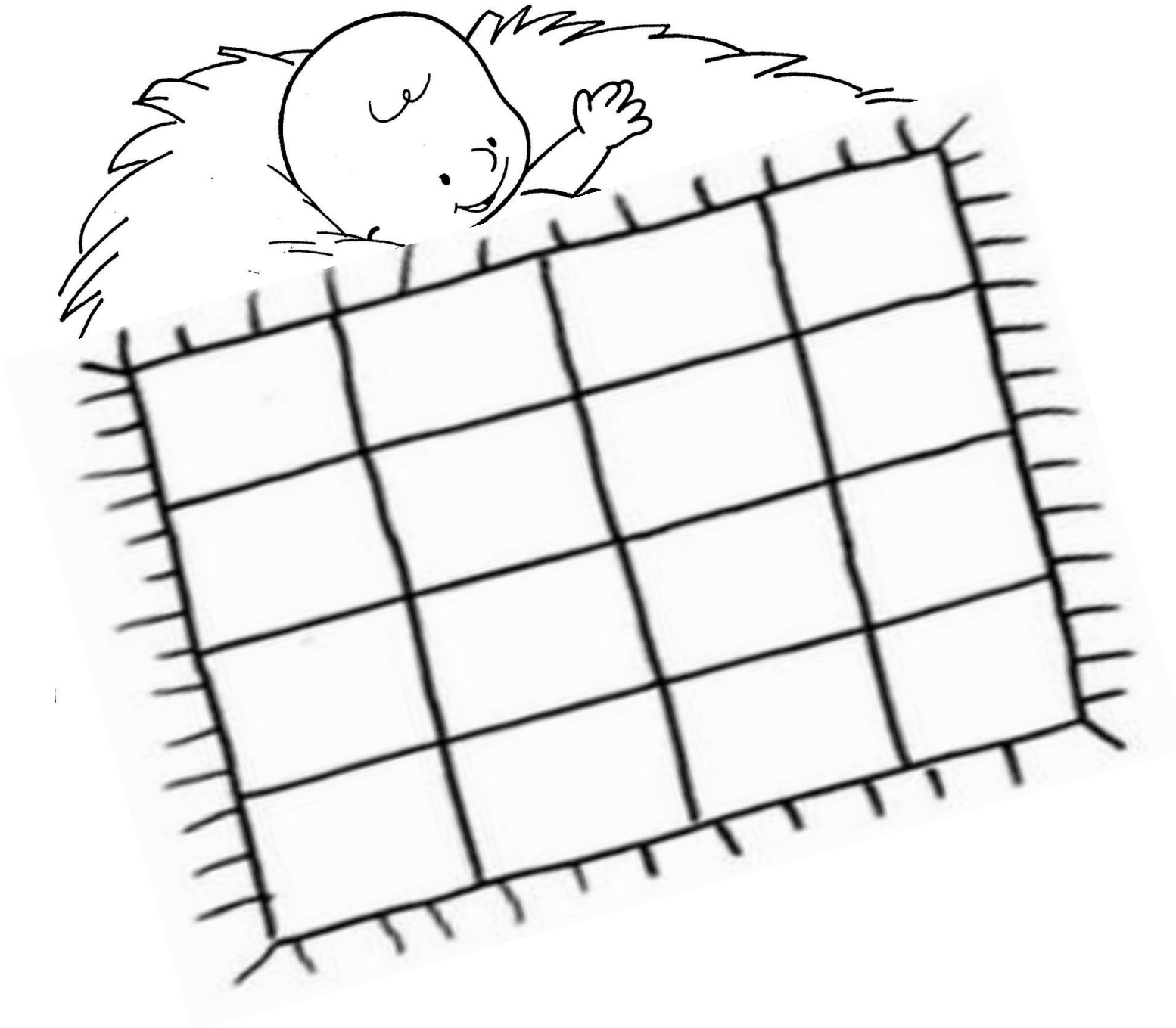
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### **PREPARE YOUR HEART TO RECEIVE BABY JESUS.**

Write or draw in some of the rectangles on the blanket the good works, sacrifices, and prayers you plan to do to prepare your heart so it's warm and comfortable for baby Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. Color.



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