

REFLECTION IDEAS

Advent - Getting Ready

Luke chapter 3 verses 1 to 18

This advent presentation reflects upon the importance of knowing what we are getting ready for during Advent. It uses the story of John the Baptist who told people to get ready at the start of Jesus' ministry to illustrate that it helps if we know what or who we are preparing for during the run-up to Christmas. For Christians it is a time of preparing and waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the son of God.

Reflection

- Are you good at waiting for a special occasion, like a party or holiday? Did you have to do things to get ready? Can waiting make things more special?
- If God came to earth now what do you think he would do and where would he go?
- Why do you think the incarnation – that God came to live as a human – is important for Christians?

Links

These Youtube videos were produced for a church setting so please check if they are suitable for your group.

Two versions of the Bible story can be found here: https://youtu.be/_OO84K9RuF0
https://youtu.be/p_ifyj2x8mQ

You can find out more about who John the Baptist was, and what he came to do, in this short cartoon: <https://youtu.be/7NMHOLPWeTM>

Inspire Prayer Space Activity – Waiting

Equipment

Clock, stopwatch, sand timers etc.

Description

During Advent, Christians look forward to Jesus' birth, waiting for the right time for him to come. The Bible has many stories about people waiting for Jesus to come. They looked forward to his birth but also his coming again.

Is there something that you are waiting for this Christmas?

Waiting for a special present?

Waiting to see family and friends?

Waiting for a situation to change?

Or maybe getting ready to meet Jesus?

Pick up a timepiece and watch the numbers tick past or the sand trickle through. Think about what you are waiting for and what you are doing to get ready. As you do this, you could talk to God and ask him to help you wait patiently.

inspire
prayer spaces



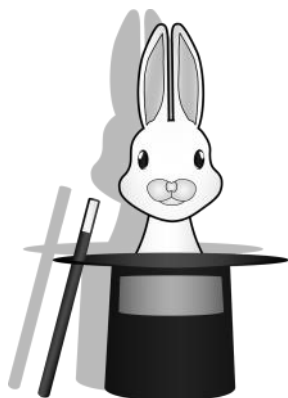
See below for activity sheet

Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

Advent poem

The poem shared in the Advent presentation is by Amy Scott Robinson and entitled – ‘If God came down from Heaven’.

If God came down from heaven,
What would he look like?
Would he dress in funky clothing
And ride a motorbike?
Or would he be all old and wise
And have a long white beard?
Perhaps he'd look like Santa Claus.
Perhaps he'd just look weird.



If God came down from heaven,
I wonder what he'd do?
Would he go round zapping people,
Or parting seas in two?
Would he act like a magician,
Pull a rabbit from his hat?
Or like the genie in Aladdin,
Granting wishes just like that?



If God came down from heaven,
I wonder what he'd say?
Would he be sad or angry,
Or would he think the world's OK?
If I invited him to my house,
Would he act like a mate,
Or would he be a grumpy grown-up
And think my room's a state?

God did come down from heaven,
But the people didn't see.
First he was a little baby,
Then, he grew like you or me.
He said all sorts of brilliant things.
He said they were all true.
He said he came because he loves us,
And he said we should tell you.



A video from Amy can be found here: www.facebook.com/amystoryteller/videos/291349814841294/

John the Baptist

Decorate this picture of John the Baptist. You can use some wool or fake fur to make his clothes, and perhaps add some locusts for him to eat!



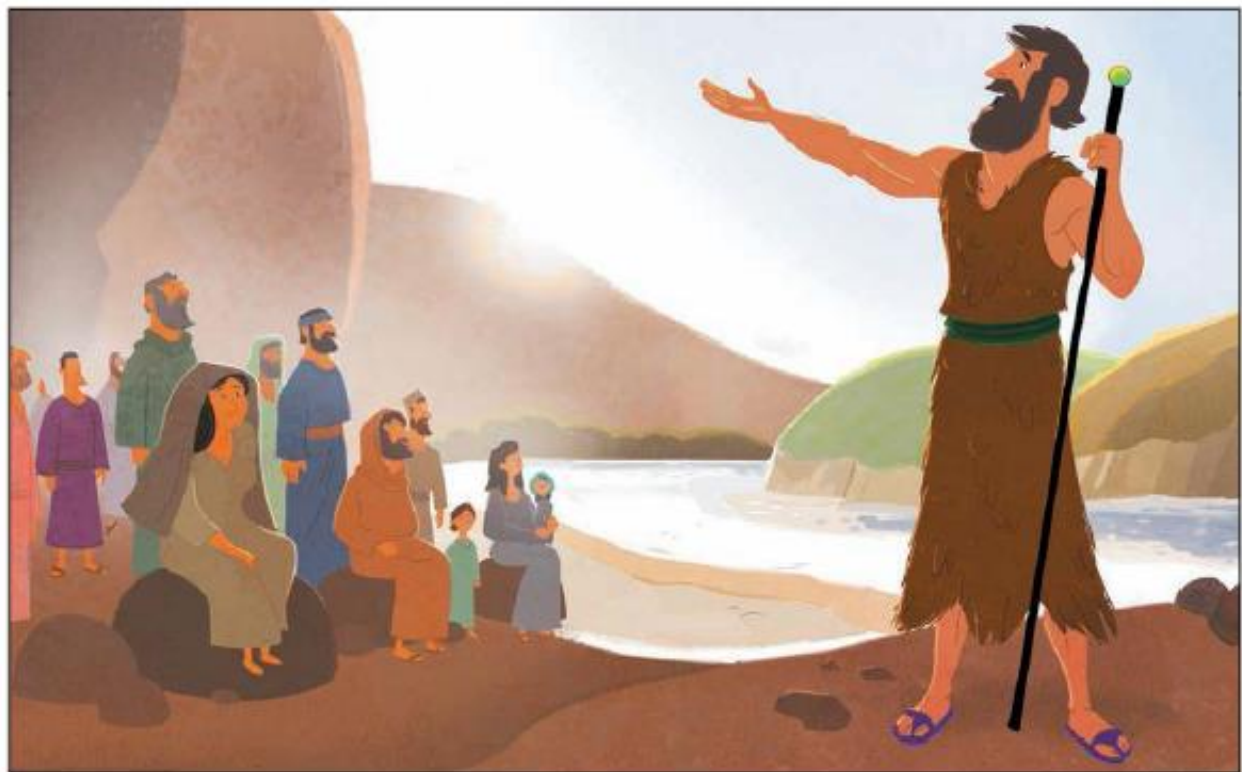
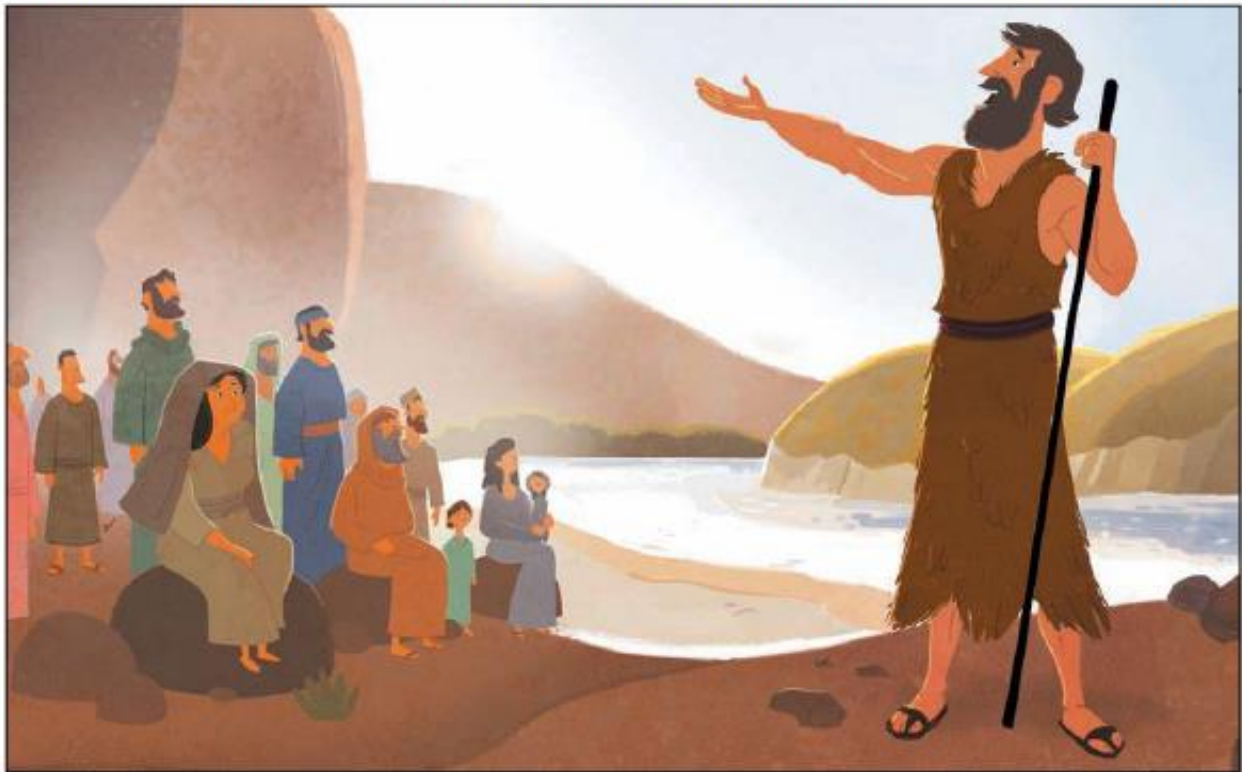
JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

John spoke to the crowd about getting ready for Jesus

John the Baptist Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



Advent Wreath

What do the candles on the Advent Wreath mean?

There are different beliefs around the meaning of the candles. However, a lot of Christians think of each of the four candles as representing special people from the Bible who prepared and looked forward to Jesus' coming:

- The first candle stands for **God's people**. This is the candle of **hope**. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place.
- The second candle reminds people of the **Old Testament prophets** (in the Bible) who looked forward to the birth of the **Messiah**, or **Christ**, who God would send to save His people. This is the candle of **peace**.
- The third candle is a symbol of **John the Baptist**, a prophet from Jesus' time who told people that God was coming soon. It is known as the candle of **love**.
- The fourth candle reminds Christians of **Mary**, the mother of Jesus. This candle represents **joy**.

Follow this link to a free printable paper Advent wreath:

www.drawn2bcreative.com/3-d-printable-advent-wreath/

or use a paper plate to make one:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/402298179214264021/>

<https://www.fun365.orientaltrading.com/project/torn-paper-advent-wreath-craft-for-kids>

More Crafts

This link shows how to make a paper Mary and Baby Jesus tree ornament

<https://mommymadethat.com/mary-baby-jesus-craft-kids/>

You can use the page below as a colouring page or as the front of an advent calendar, with each numbered square as a door.

