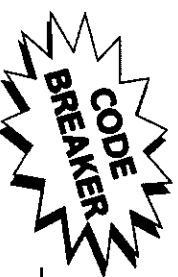


**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

Next week the priests and Levites  
ask John, "Who are you?"

*What does he tell them in John 1:23?*

Find the verse and then check  
your answer using the code breaker



<input type="checkbox"/>	I	M	E	A	S	T
○	N	O	H	R	L	Y
△	G	W	D	F	V	C
	1	2	3	4	5	6

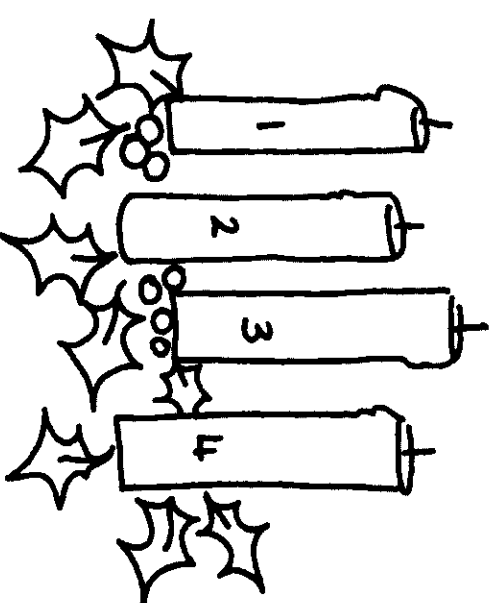
1 ☐ 4 ☐ 2 ☐ 6 ☐ 3 ☐ 3 ☐ 5 ☐ 2 ☐ 1 ☐ 6 ☐ 3 ☐  
 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 2 ☐ 1 ☐ 3 ☐ 6 ☐ 4 ☐ 6 ☐ 1 ☐ 1 ☐ 1 ☐ 1 ☐  
 1 ☐ 1 ☐ 6 ☐ 3 ☐ 3 ☐  
 2 ☐ 1 ☐ 5 ☐ 3 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 1 ☐ 3 ☐ 5 ☐ 5 ☐

# Prepare for Jesus

MARK 1:1-8

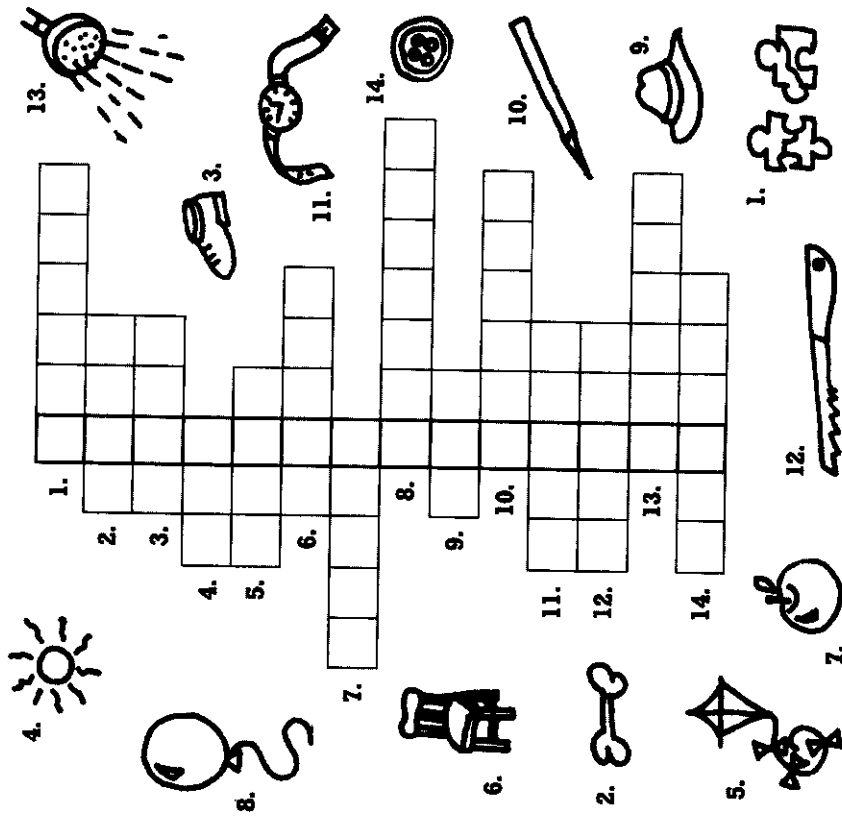
Today is the Second Sunday of Advent.  
We light two candles on the Advent wreath  
as we prepare for Christmas.

Draw two flames and color the picture



# Who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus?

Use the picture clues to find the missing letters.  
The answer is hidden in the bold squares!

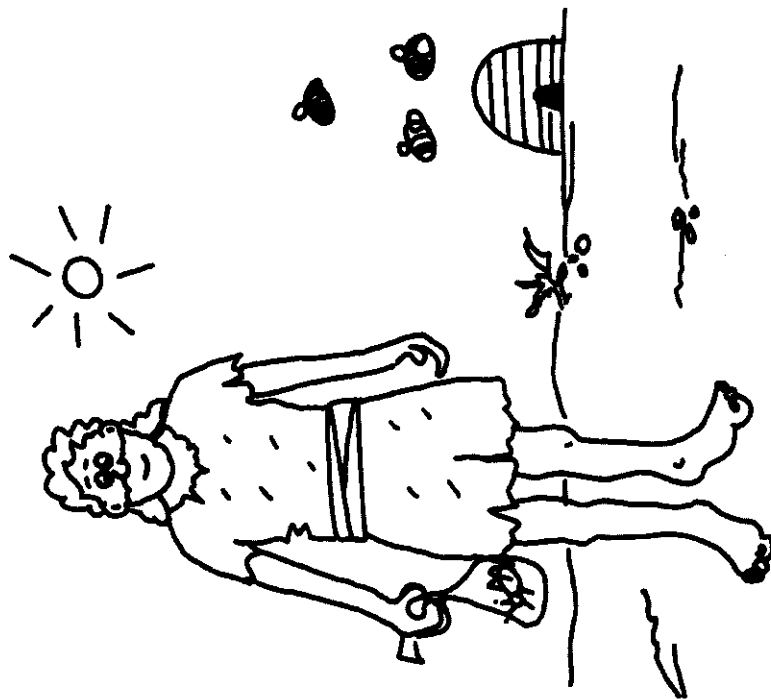


MARK 1:3-4

Use clues in this picture to help you  
unscramble the words that are jumbled

John lived in the SERDET.

He wore MACLE skin and lived on COLUSTS  
and NOHYE.



MARK 1:4, 6

**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

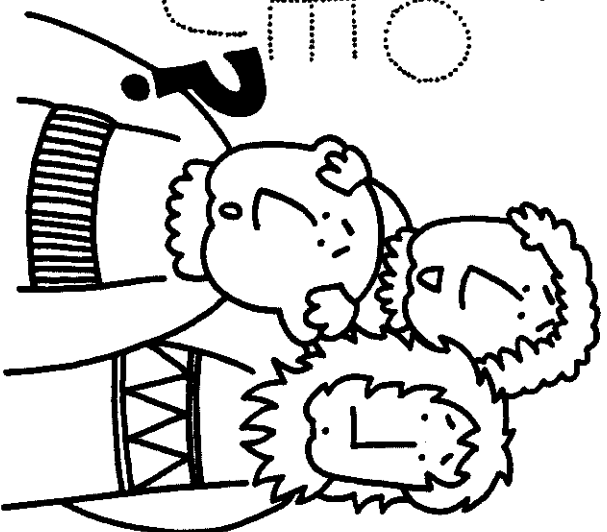
Next Sunday these people have a question for John the Baptist.

*What is it?*



Trace the letters

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

• STEP BY STEP •

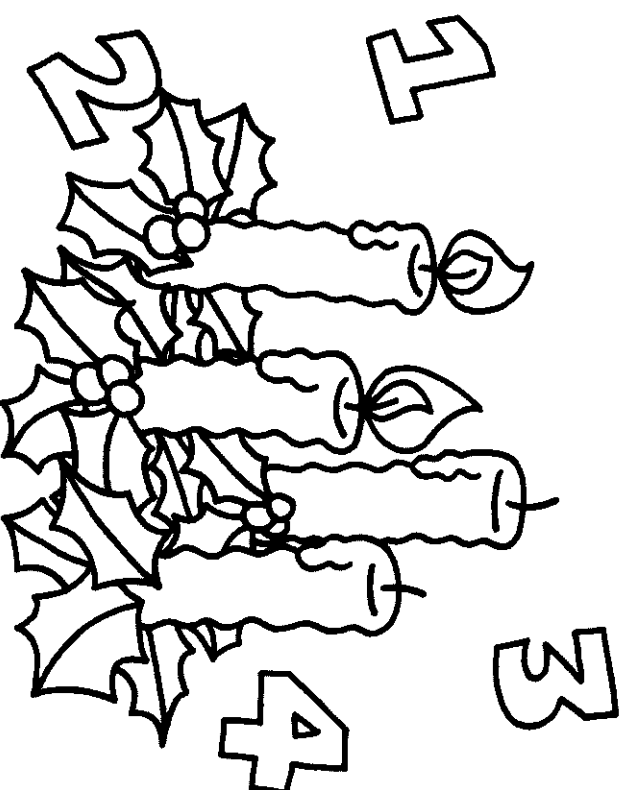
## Prepare for Jesus

MARK 1:1-8

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent.

How many candles are lit on the Advent wreath?

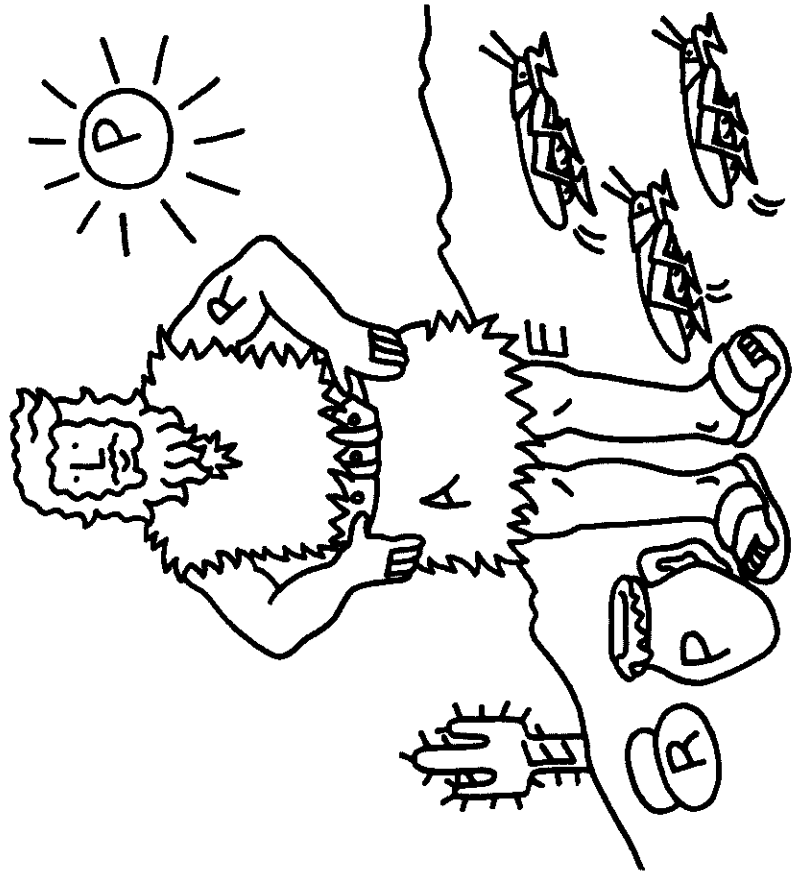
Circle the number



John the Baptist  
was sent by God to prepare  
the way for Jesus.

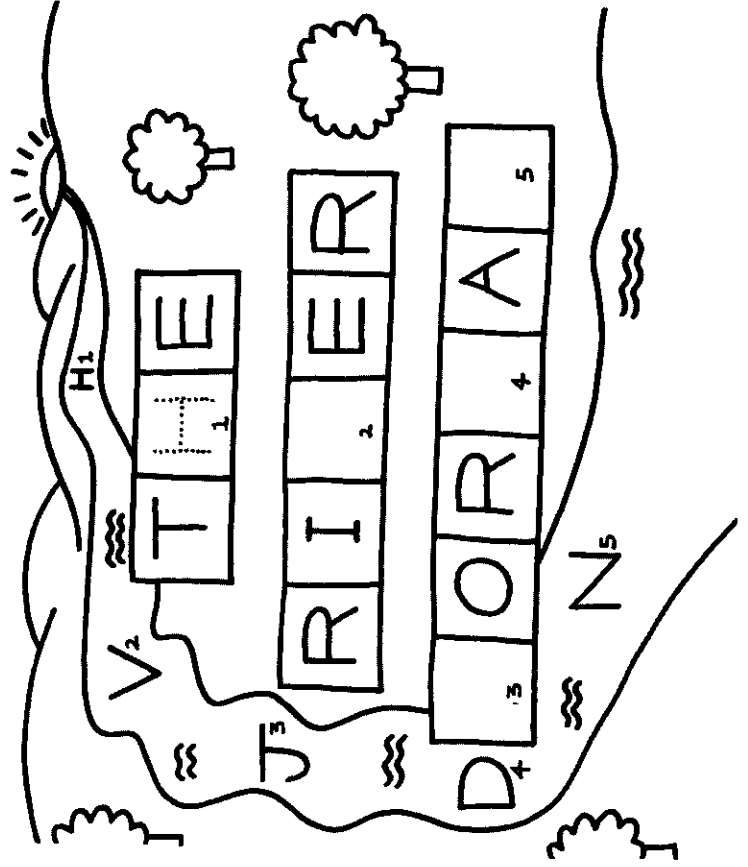
The people came to  
John to be baptized and to say  
sorry for their mistakes.  
*Where did he baptize them?*

Find these letters hidden in the picture: P - R - E - P - A - R - E

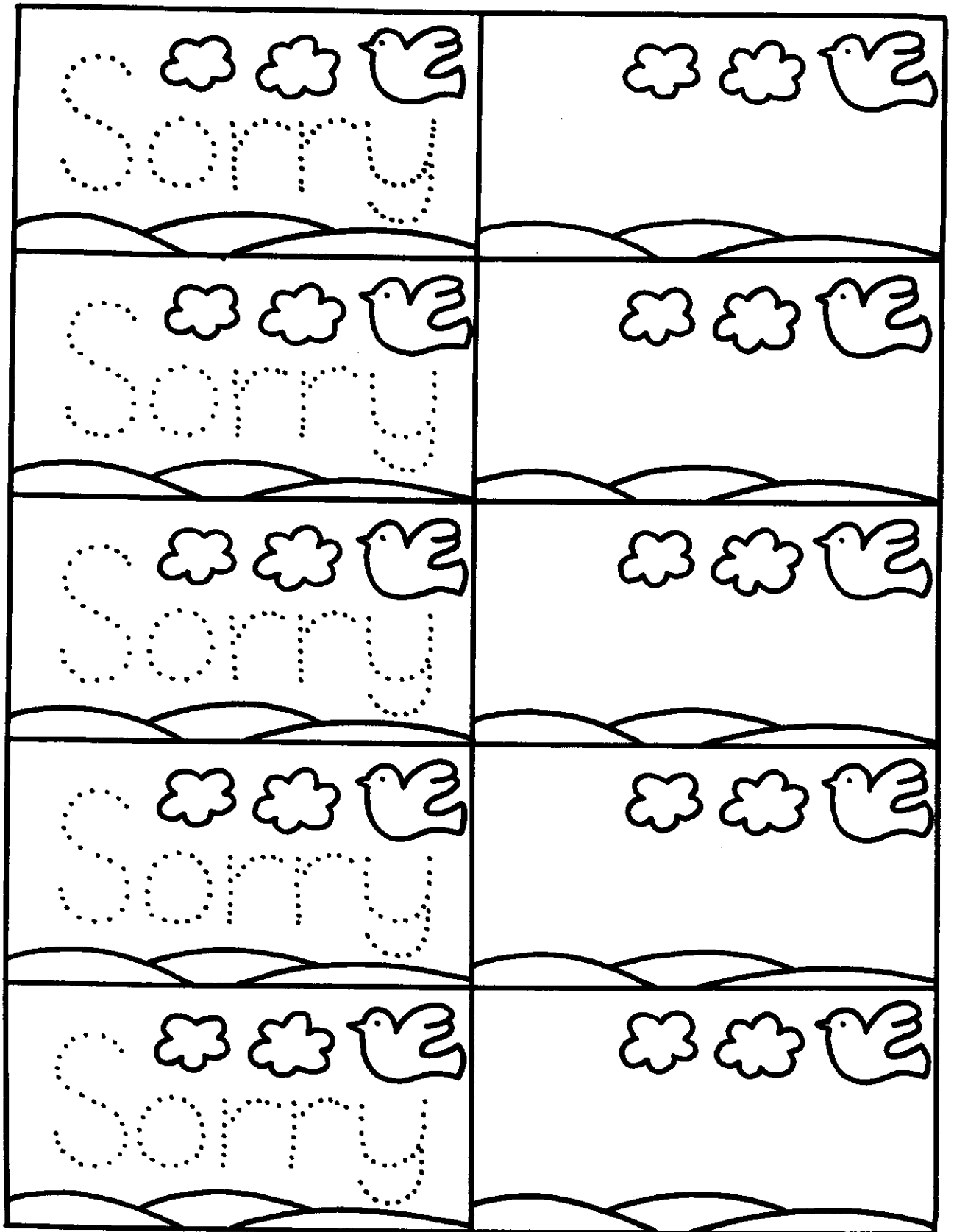


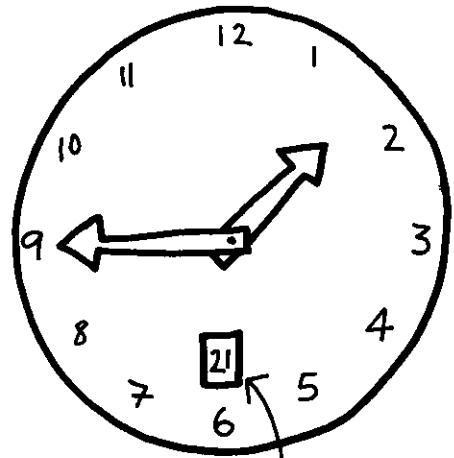
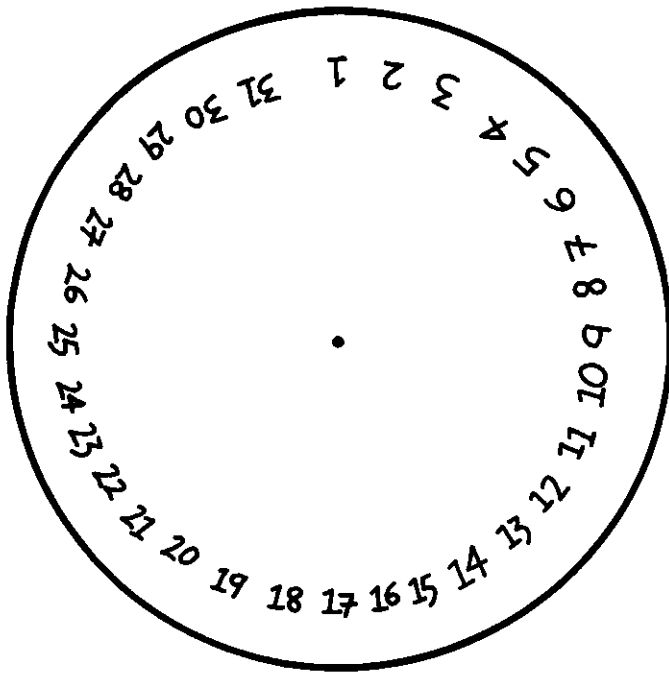
Find the numbered letters.

Copy them into the numbered boxes to spell out the answer

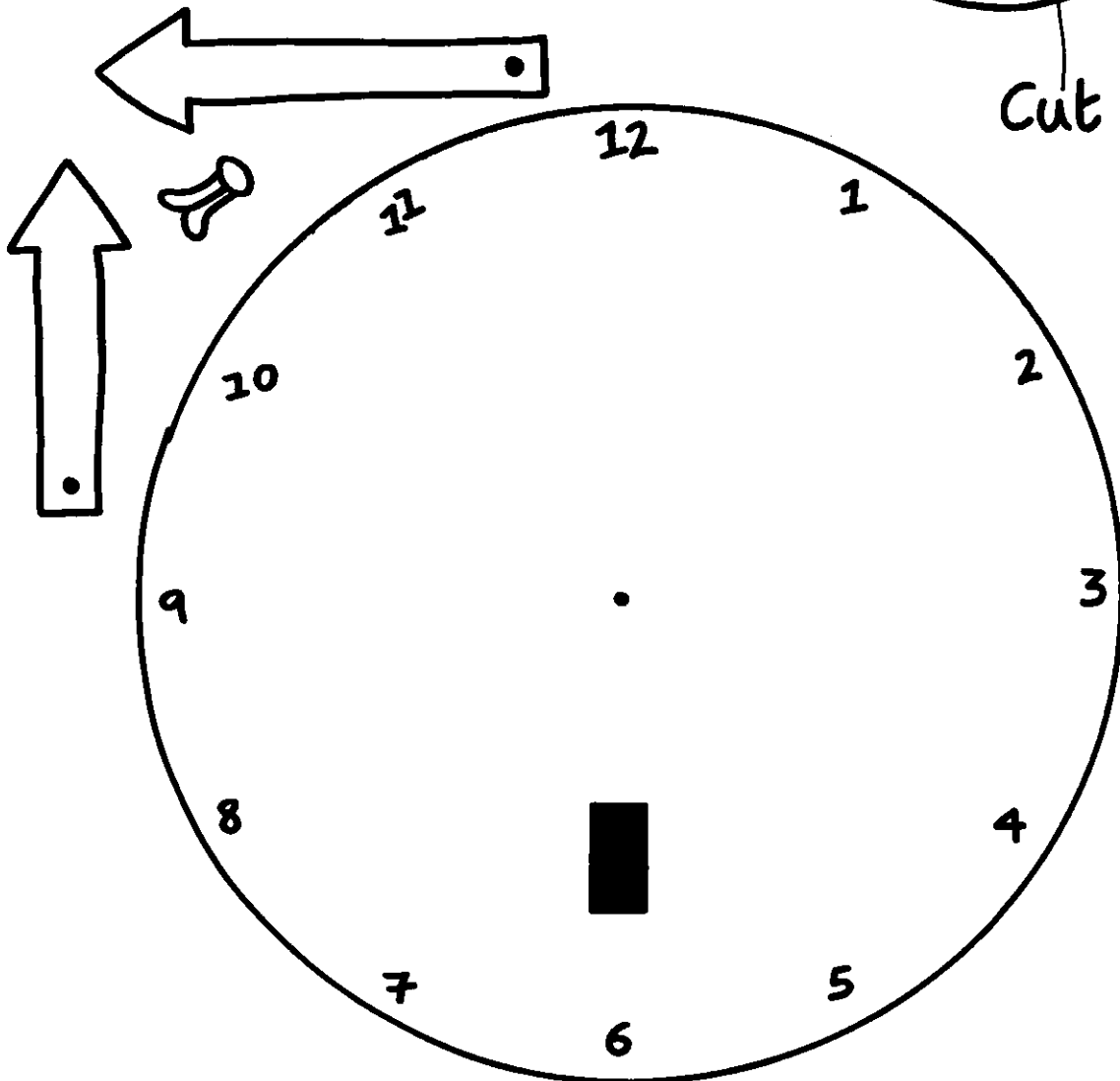








Cut out.



# Second Sunday of Advent

## Focus

A leather belt and jar of honey arranged next to a bowl of water with pebbles on the bottom.

## Introduction

A prophet is a messenger sent by God to pronounce God's will to the people and act as a go-between. Sometimes they foretold what was yet to come as they tried to prepare God's people for the promised Messiah. In today's Gospel we hear from the prophet Isaiah, who lived in Old Testament times, and about the New Testament prophet called John the Baptist.

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing the Advent Acclamation for Year B.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (1:1-8)  
(See page 378.)

## Reflection

*The prophet Isaiah had foretold of a messenger whom God would send to prepare the people for the coming of their Saviour. Who was that messenger?*

John the Baptist.

*What was special about John?*

John was chosen by God to prepare his people and get them ready to welcome his beloved Son. He was filled with the Holy Spirit even before he was born, and marked out as someone very important in God's plan (see Luke 1:5-25, 66-80). John was ready to do whatever God asked from him, however difficult or challenging that was.

*What did John do?*

He began proclaiming God's word to the people and appealing for their faith and commitment. It was not just the words he said and the things he did that spoke of God, but his whole way of life was an example to them of how to love and please God.

*What did John want the people to do?*

John urged and encouraged the people to change their hearts and turn back to God's love in readiness for the Saviour that had been promised. As an outward sign of their inner change of heart, John baptised people in the River Jordan to symbolise the washing-away of past mistakes which needed to be forgiven by God.

*Did John know the name and identity of the promised One?*

He did not know who the Saviour was because God had not yet revealed his identity to John.

*When did God reveal Christ's identity to John?*

When Jesus came to the River Jordan and asked John to baptise him with water, John saw the Holy Spirit descending upon him and at that moment recognised him as the promised One sent by God (John 1:32-34).

*How did the Holy Spirit appear when he descended on Jesus?*

As a dove. By this sign, God revealed his beloved Son to John the Baptist.

*John prepared the people to welcome Jesus by washing them in the river as a sign of their sorrow for their sins. How can we prepare ourselves to make Jesus welcome this Christmas?*

Just as John urged the people to turn back to God, during Advent we are reminded to try to make a special effort to find ways to grow closer to God. There are all sorts of different ways to do this! It might include doing something or giving something up during Advent, just as we do during Lent. Or it might be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation or spending more time with God in prayer.

## Activity

Give each child a small piece of plain paper and a water-soluble pen. Ask them to spend a few moments thinking about anything that might come between themselves and God's love. When they have had time to think of something, ask them to write the word 'sorry' on their pieces of paper. Invite them to come forward one at a time and place their paper in the water, which will wash away what they have written. Remind them that whatever we have done, God forgives our mistakes and washes away our sins with his love whenever we are sorry, so that with his help we can make a new beginning.

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

For peace throughout our world  
and goodwill to all people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For friendship where there is loneliness, and shelter for those who have no home to call their own.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and all who visit and care for them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the hungry who have so little  
and need so much.

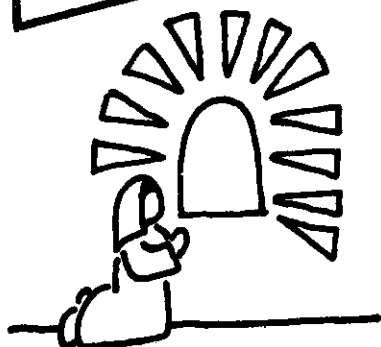
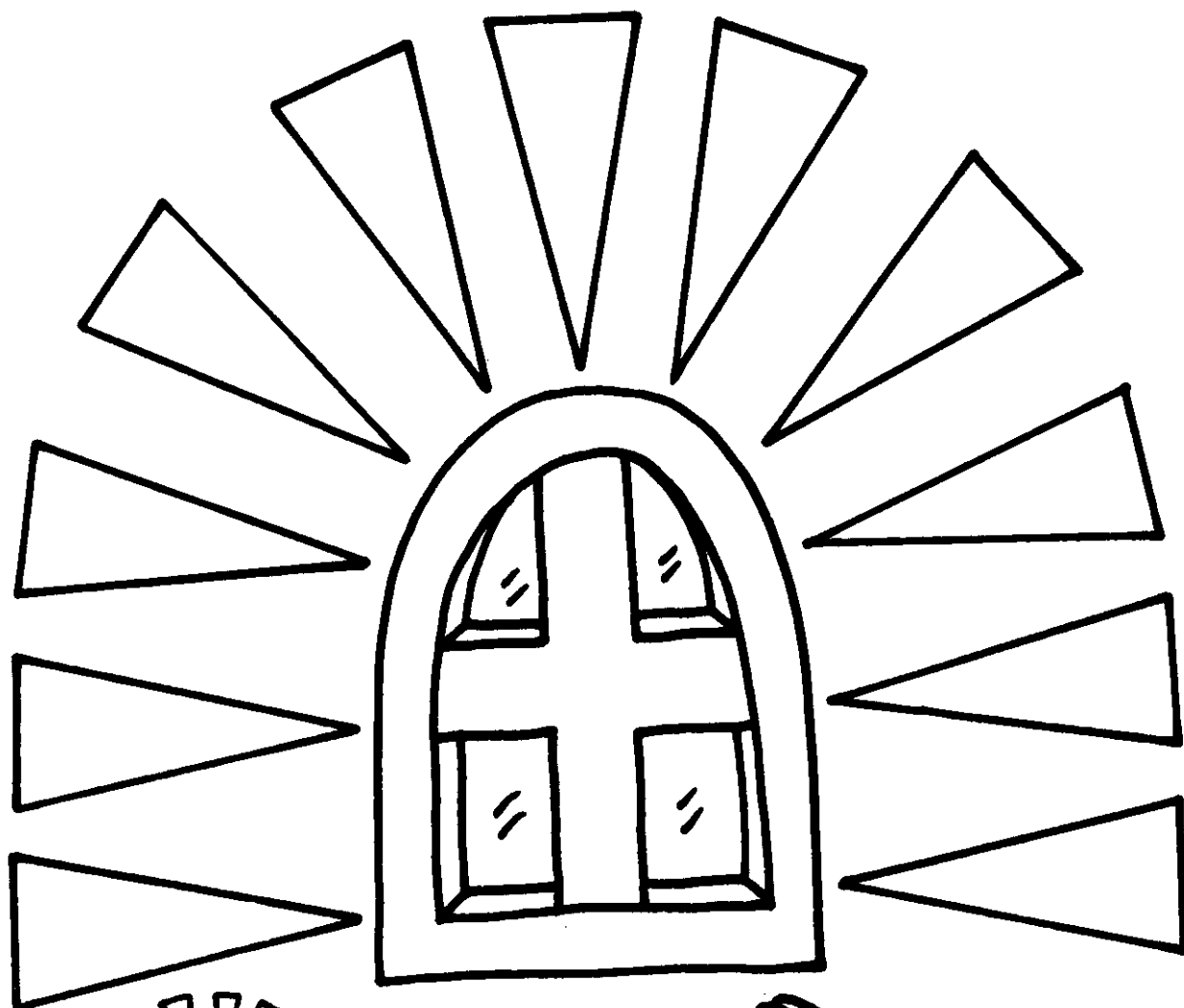
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,  
in the silence of our hearts  
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
as we prepare to welcome you  
into our hearts and lives this Christmas,  
help us to remember that you are already among us  
in the people we see and meet every day.  
We make our prayers through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





Hail Mary,  
Full of Grace



Hail Mary,  
Full of Grace

## Second Sunday of Advent

### Making a fresh start

#### INTRODUCTION

God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of his son. The message he preached then is just as important today, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, the words of the prophet Isaiah remind us that Jesus is the light of the world:

Those who walked in darkness have seen a wonderful light. The light which shines on them chases the shadows of darkness away from their land. (Isaiah 9:1)

#### SORRY

John the Baptist told the people to ask for God's forgiveness and to change their ways. God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start. Sing Sorry Song 4.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sing the Advent Song.

#### GOSPEL (MARK 1:1-8)

The prophet Isaiah foretold that God would send a messenger to prepare the people for the Lord's coming. This messenger was John the Baptist, who appeared in the desert telling the people to be sorry for their sins and to make a fresh start in their lives. Many people heard his message and came to be baptized as a sign of their change of heart. John told them, "Someone is coming who is more powerful than me, and I am not good enough to undo the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

#### DISCUSSION

What was the name of the prophet who had foretold the coming of John the Baptist? What is a prophet? A prophet is someone who speaks in the

name of God and has been allowed by God to know and share a part of his plan for mankind.

John was God's messenger; he was sent to tell the people to change their ways and to turn back to God. He told them to make a fresh start by asking forgiveness for their sins and trying to lead lives filled with goodness and love.

John was sent to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. Do we still need to prepare for Jesus' coming today? Jesus could return at any time (recall last week's discussion). We can prepare ourselves just as people did in the time of John the Baptist, by putting right what is wrong in our lives and living as Jesus taught us.

Advent is a good time to look carefully at ourselves and to make a fresh start if we need to. When can we meet Jesus and ask for his forgiveness? Through the sacrament of reconciliation we can tell Jesus that we are sorry and receive his forgiveness. Through the priest, God allows us to hear that our sins are forgiven so we can start anew knowing that God loves us very much.

Can you think of anything that needs to be put right in your life?

#### ACTIVITY

If the group is small, hand out copies of the picture and ask the children to color it. If you have a large group, enlarge the picture on a photocopier and cut out the individual elements of the picture. Reassemble these on a large sheet of paper after they have been colored. Spend some time with the children discussing the picture and the event it depicts.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father, help each of us  
to make a fresh start this Advent,  
to put right what is wrong,  
and to truly live as Jesus showed us.