

## **Gospel for December 13, 2020 - lesson for 4th-6th grade**

Read the below Gospel slowly listening for words or phrases that catch your attention. Read it again then think about the answers to the first couple questions. Read it again and think about the answers to the next couple questions. Continue to re-read the Gospel and think about possible answers. Do you think you get a deeper understanding by re-reading the story multiple times? Do you find yourself focusing on different parts? What word(s) or phrase(s) stood out to you?

### **John 1:6-8, 19-28** - The Testimony of John the Baptist

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

- ◆ How did John describe himself?
- ◆ Why do the priests and Levites ask John, "Who are you?"
- ◆ Who did they think John might be?

Remember last week's lesson from Mark about John the Baptist?

- ◆ He was an odd fellow, both in how he looked and what he ate.
- ◆ He told people to get ready for Jesus.
- ◆ He said God wants us to repent and turn from sin.
- ◆ He baptized believers with water.

This week's lesson in John tells the same story, but in a different way.

- ◆ Do you think John wants people to build an actual path or road for God to travel? Why or why not?

- ◆ How does John want people to get ready for God?
- ◆ Have you ever felt as if God or Jesus have been close to you? What happened?
- ◆ If God or Jesus asked you today, "How can I come close to you?" what would you answer?

Bonus question - re-read the first paragraph, John 1:6-8. What or WHO is the light? ☺

## Two possible activities this week ☺

**Activity #1** - reread last week's lesson (Mark 1:1-8) and this week's lesson (John 1:6-8, 19-28) and talk about how they are the same and how they are different. Can you find them both in the bible? Notice this lesson is right at the beginning of the Gospels of Mark & John. Do you remember what is at the beginning of the Gospels of Matthew & Luke?

### Activity #2

Make a treasure maps showing your hopes for God coming into their lives. You'll need brown wrapping paper or a paper bag for the map and string or ribbon to tie it into a finished scroll. You can use markers, colored pencils or pens to make your map designs. Directions:

- ◆ Gently wad your paper to create a wrinkled effect.
- ◆ Open the paper. Carefully tear the edges so that it looks old and worn. This is your "treasure map."
- ◆ Here's the interesting part: You're the treasure. Draw yourself as a treasure in the middle of your map.
- ◆ Use the rest of the map to show ways that you hope God can come to find you.
- ◆ Include any problems, doubts or worries that you feel might keep God from coming close to you.
- ◆ You can include roads, road signs, symbols, pictures or any other ideas in your map.

Roll up your finished map and tie it with string or ribbon. Keep this map as a reminder that God sees YOU as a treasure and wants to come into YOUR life every day.