

Gospel for December 6, 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?

Mark 1:1-8 - The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

◆ Imagine that you're there with John at the river. What sounds do you hear? What do you see? What do you smell?

◆ Picture John's appearance. What's he wearing? What's he eating? What do you think he's like?

◆ Why do you think John dresses and eats as he does?

◆ What does John say about someone coming?

◆ Christians believe that John was talking about Jesus. According to John, what will Jesus do when he comes?

◆ How does John want people to get ready for Jesus?

◆ What does it mean to turn away from sins?

◆ What does John say about baptism? Have you been baptized? Do you remember what was it like? What do you think it was like for the people John baptized?

Activity: What do you think repentance means? The word repentance literally means "changing direction." Repentance is making a decision to do things differently and then changing how we think or act. Write down 2 or 3 things you think Jesus would like you to do differently. Think about ways you can actually change and do those things differently. At the end of the week look at your list and think about what you were able to change and what you weren't. Do you think it is worth it to keep trying?