

UNIT VERSE

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

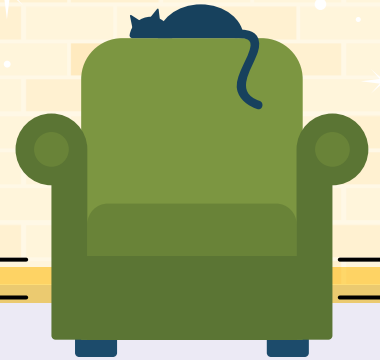
JOHN 3:17 (ESV)

Get Ready for Christmas!

God sent John to tell the people to get ready for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. What are some ways you and your family prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth? Color the star if the way is something you and your family already do. Circle the star if you would like to add the way to your family's Christmas plans.



- ★ Put up a tree.
- ★ Decorate the house.
- ★ Pray for others to understand God's love.
- ★ Make cookies and candies.
- ★ Go to church.
- ★ Sing Christmas songs.
- ★ Read the Christmas story in Luke 2.
- ★ Give gifts to family and friends.
- ★ Invite someone to church.
- ★ Go Christmas caroling and sing carols to elderly people.



WHY JOHN?

Luke 3:4 quotes Isaiah 40:3. Read both verses and then unscramble the letters to complete this sentence.

JOHN NTES PRPEARE SUSJE OPEELP

God _____ to _____
the _____ for _____' coming.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

1

CONVERSATION

God Prepared the Way for Jesus

LUKE 1:5-25,57-80

Zechariah was a priest in the days of King Herod. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, kept all of God's commandments. They were very old and did not have any children.

Zechariah went inside the temple to burn the incense. Suddenly, an angel appeared, and Zechariah was afraid.

The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth, will have a son, and you will name him John. He will bring you joy and delight and will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will help disobedient people understand how to do what God says, and he will prepare the way for the Lord."

Zechariah asked, "How can this be? I am an old man. My wife is getting old, too."

"I am Gabriel," the angel replied. "I stand in God's presence. I was sent to speak to you and tell you this good news. You will now be unable to speak until the child is born because you did not believe my words." And just as Gabriel said, Zechariah could not say a word! Zechariah made signs to the people, but he could not talk.

Elizabeth soon discovered she was going to have a baby. She declared, "The Lord has done this for me!"

After a time Elizabeth had a baby boy. Zechariah took a writing tablet and wrote *His name is John*. Immediately, Zechariah could speak again. He praised God and said, "Child, you will be a prophet of the Most High! You will go before the Lord and prepare people for Him."

John grew up to be a man and became strong with God's Spirit. He lived in the wilderness until the time was right for him to begin preaching to the people.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: Luke 1:68

LIFE POINT: God prepared for His plan of salvation.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

In today's Bible study your child learned that God prepared for His plan of salvation. God brought about the birth of John the Baptist to help people know about His plan to send Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

Read together about John the Baptist in all the Gospels—Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1. Recall the story of John's birth in Luke. Remind your child that John was part of God's plan to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God provided a plan for salvation because He loves me.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: Luke 1:68

Monday: Luke 1:76

Tuesday: Mark 1:3

Wednesday: Isaiah 40:3

Thursday: Luke 1:80

Friday: Luke 3:3

Saturday: Mark 1:7-8

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out *God Prepared the Way for Jesus* in Bible Studies for Life on the LifeWay Kids App for Bible stories and games.