

January 28-February 3 Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
"PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD"

1. Snow Globes: Jesus Christ and his gospel can change you.

- *Beforehand, prepare a snow globe with a picture of each kid inside of it (or similar item if there's something else your kids love...you could even just use a cute frame). I'll probably get one for each kid because snow globes are one of their latest obsessions. I found some at Hobby Lobby for \$1.99. They're also on Amazon. Cover it with dirt or dry erase marker splotches or whatever to make sure it looks super dirty and place in a gift bag so the kids don't see it beforehand.*
- Tell them you got them a super cool gift that you're excited to give them. When they open it up, ask if they like it. Why/ why not? Since it's dirty, should we just throw it away? Help them see that it's still a cool thing. It just needs to be cleaned off. Have them help you clean it and ask if they like it better when it's clean or when it has spots on it.
- Give a simple explanation of repentance and repenting. Is the snow globe better when it has spots or no spots (spotless). Explain that sometimes we do things that maybe aren't beautiful and spotless to our hearts/spirits, but just like the snow globes that weren't spotless at first, because of Jesus, we can always clean up our mistakes and work to fix them. Clarify that we are still loved and have worth even when we make mistakes but our goal in this life is to try to become better and better, even with those mistakes. Make sure they also understand the difference between the body and the heart/spirit.
- Give some examples of things people can do, and have them help decide if the things are things that create dirty spots on our hearts/spirits or would help keep them clean. If it's a spot maker, have them put dirt or dry erase marks on their snow globe. If it's a spotless thing, let them clean up a spot. Keep going with positive "spotless" examples until they're sparkling clean. Have kids help come up with their own examples if possible.
 - Possible examples of "spot" makers: stealing a toy from a brother/sister, not obeying Mom when she asks you to clean your room, saying mean things to a friend
 - Possible examples of "spotless" things to do: help clean up breakfast, share toys with friends, hug your sister, tell a family member you love them, tell someone sorry
- Explain that sometimes we accidentally make more "spots" on our souls than we mean to. Even when we have lots of these spots, is it still possible to clean them? Who can help us do more of the "spotless" things in our lives and help us become better? (Jesus)

- Share/summarize Luke 3:4-5 and explain that it means that Jesus is powerful enough to make mountains low, crooked things straight, and rough things smooth. Do you think He's powerful enough to help us become more spotless even when it's hard?
2. John the Baptist's Invitations to Receive Christ- Show the picture of Elisabeth and Zacharias and ask if they remember what they prayed for (a child). Explain that they named their baby John, and he became known as John the Baptist. He taught ways that we can become more spotless and more like Christ (Luke 3:7-14).
- Have the pictures of what he taught cut apart and put into a bowl and have them pull them out one at a time. For each one, read the scripture and talk about what it means, how our family could do something similar, etc.
 - Share the story of Heber J. Grant giving away his new coat to go along with the "imparting coat" scripture (YouTube "The Coat: A Story of Charity").
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cp3IH8ZNviQ>
3. Mark 1:31-42- If time/interest, talk about many of the miracles Jesus performed in these verses. Help them count how many times in these verses that Jesus did amazing things. Were these "spot makers" or "spotless" things? Explain that Jesus is the only person who lived a life without ever putting any spots on His soul. That's why He's so good at helping us clean up our spots.
4. Baptism of Christ- Another thing Christ taught us that we should do to help us become spotless is to be baptized. Show and discuss the video "The Baptism of Jesus" from LDS.org. Mom/Dad talk about our experiences being baptized, show pictures, and answer whatever questions they have. Explain that when we are baptized, it cleans us and washes away our sins.
5. Fill the Font- (adapted from https://www.lds.org/friend/2005/07/fill-the-font?lang=eng&_r=1)
- Read/summarize/discuss D & C 20:71-74. Make sure to explain the following points about baptism:
 - Age of accountability (8)
 - Person with authority baptizes (priesthood)
 - Immersion
 - Show "Fill the Font" picture from *The Friend*. Have them point to one of the numbers inside the font and ask the question that goes with that number. Once it's been discussed and they can answer it, they can color that section of the font in with a blue crayon/marker. Keep going until the font is filled. *If your kids are*

older, you might want to just use the original picture from the Friend. I simplified the questions a bit for my kids.

6. The Godhead- Read/summarize/discuss D & C 130:22 and talk about the 3 separate beings in the Godhead. Explain how after baptism, they can receive the gift of the Holy Ghost to help them. Show picture of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and discuss as much as kids are interested. Share testimonies.
7. Treat- See if they remember how old they have to be before they can get baptized. Have a bag of mini donuts, and ask what number it makes if you put two of the donut circles together (8).

Additional Ideas:

Questions and answers about baptism:

<http://media.ldscdn.org/pdf/magazines/friend-august-2008/2008-08-14-questions-and-answers-about-baptism-eng.pdf>

Foldable craft about baptism:

<https://www.lds.org/bc/content/ldsorg/children/resources/topics/baptism/I-Can-Repent-and-Be-Baptized-2005-07-friend.pdf>

Jesus being baptized, scripture questions:

<http://media.ldscdn.org/pdf/magazines/liahona-february-2015/2015-02-30-jesus-was-baptized-eng.pdf>

Coloring page:

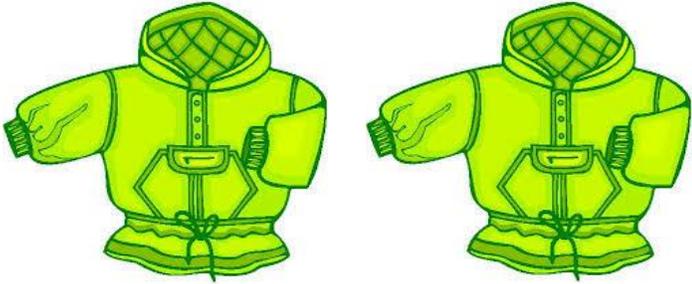
<http://media.ldscdn.org/pdf/magazines/friend-february-2013/2013-02-22-coloring-page-eng.pdf>

Elisabeth and Zacharias

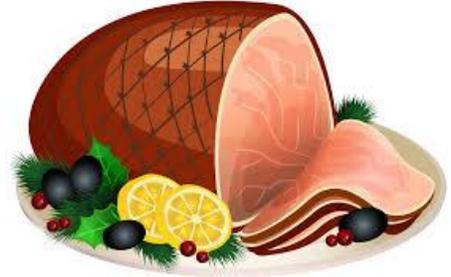


John the Baptist's Invitations to Receive Christ:

(Cut apart and put into bowl for them to pull out one at a time. For older kids, you could cut the scripture apart from the picture and have them match them)



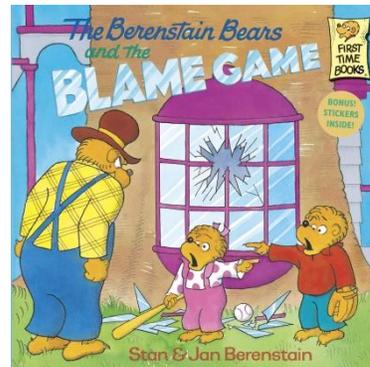
He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none (Luke 3:11)



He that hath meat, let him [impart to him that hath none] (Luke 3:11)



Do violence to no man (Luke 3:14)



Don't accuse any falsely (Luke 3:14)



Be content with your wages (Luke 3:14)

Fill the Font:

BY MARISSA WIDDISON

Miguel is getting baptized today! Help him fill the font by answering these questions. Start with the first question, which is next to the bottom step of the font. Look up the related scripture, and find the word in the scripture that would best answer the question. Write the answer in the space on the other side of the font. After you have written the answer, color the water for that level. Then move up to answer the next question. Answer all five questions to fill the font with water for Miguel.

1
2
3
4
5

- 1- How old do you need to be before you can get baptized?
- 2- What color of clothes do you wear when you get baptized?
- 3- Who can baptize you?
- 4- How was Jesus baptized?
- 5- Why was Jesus baptized?

The Godhead (Gift of the Holy Ghost):



“The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead, and, as such, like God the Father and Jesus Christ, He knows our thoughts and the intents of our hearts,” Elder [Craig C. Christensen](#) of the Presidency of the Seventy taught during his October 2012 general conference address. “The Holy Ghost loves us and wants us to be happy. Since He knows the challenges we will face, He can guide us and teach us all things we must do to return and live with our Heavenly Father once again” (“[An Unspeakable Gift from God](#)”).