

Week 2, December 6: Peace

Big idea: God is a gentle shepherd who brings peace, and John the Baptist showed people how to get their hearts ready for Jesus.

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 · Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 · 2 Peter 3:8-15a · Mark 1:1-8

MEMORY VERSE

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm." Isaiah 40:11 (KJV, first half)

Kids' lesson (30 minutes)

1. **Light the candles (3 min).** Light the Hope candle and the second candle, Peace. Ask: "What makes you feel peaceful?"
2. **Game: Make the path straight (5 min).** Scatter crumpled paper and cushions across the floor. Teams race to clear a straight, smooth path from one wall to the other.
3. **Story: A voice in the wilderness (8 min).** Read Mark 1:1-8. John lived in the desert, wore camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6). He told people to get ready for Jesus by saying sorry to God and being baptized in the Jordan River (Mark 1:4-5). He said someone much greater was coming after him (Mark 1:7).
4. **Talk about it (6 min).**
   - What "messy stuff" in our hearts might get in the way of Jesus?
   - Why do you think John said he wasn't even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals?
   - How does saying sorry bring peace?
5. **Activity: Shepherd's lamb (6 min).** Children glue cotton balls onto a paper lamb shape and write "God carries me" on it. Read Isaiah 40:11 together.
6. **Prayer (2 min).** "Jesus, help us clear the way in our hearts for You. Thank You for carrying us like a shepherd carries a lamb. Amen."

Supplies: paper lamb outlines, cotton balls, glue sticks, crumpled paper and cushions for the path.

Take-home note for families

Today we met John the Baptist, who helped people get ready for Jesus. Ask your child: *What did John eat in the desert?* This week, tidy one room together and talk about how saying sorry to God "clears

the path" in our hearts.

Adult small group questions

1. Isaiah 40 opens with "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people." Who needs that word of comfort from you this Advent?
2. John's message of repentance came before the good news of peace. Why do you think one prepares the way for the other?
3. Peter says the Lord is not slow about His promise but patient, not wanting anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). How does that change the way you see God's timing?

Quiz

1. What did John the Baptist wear (Mark 1:6)?
2. What did John eat?
3. In which river did John baptize people?
4. Mark 1:3 says, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Which prophet wrote those words first?
5. In Isaiah 40:11, God is compared to what kind of worker?

Story video

A 45-second narrated video for this week is at **biblelessonhelper.com/advent**. It works with the sound off too, thanks to captions.

Quiz answers

1. Camel's hair with a leather belt (Mark 1:6)
2. Locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6)
3. The Jordan (Mark 1:5)
4. Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3)
5. A shepherd (Isaiah 40:11)

Before you teach: look up each reference once in your church's Bible. Some newer translations word the verses differently, and a few name places differently, such as "Bethany beyond the Jordan" instead of Bethabara in John 1:28.

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