

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
**Jesus and John
the Baptist**

from Luke 3:1-18 and Matthew 3:13-17.

Prophecy is fulfilled in John the Baptist and in Jesus.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Fulfill
- Consent
- Prepare
- Righteousness
- Reign
- Repentance
- Salvation

Herod Antipas, who beheaded John, was the son of "King" Herod, Herod the Great, who slaughtered the babies after Jesus was born.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 234-239 and 242-245

Spark Bible pages 1060 and 1132

Family Prayer

Dear God, we are called to repentance. We are called to turn our lives around and begin living righteous lives. We should behave the way Jesus taught and lived. With you loving us, it should not be so hard, but it is! God, please continue to be with us. Please continue to help us act according to your wishes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 What do you remember about John the Baptist?
- 2 From where did John the Baptist and Jesus claim their authority? How did others—religious and political leaders of that time, for instance—claim authority?
- 3 Who do we let be in charge today and why?
- 4 Take turns sharing one thing you would like to do or change if you had the authority.

Eye Spark

Watch for valleys, mountains, and crooked roads. Imagine what the landscape would look like if everything were leveled and straightened out. Imagine Jesus walking toward you over that newly straightened path.

Ear Spark

What predictions do you hear on the radio or on TV or among your friends? Remember the Old Testament prophets.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Write (or dictate) a prophecy for each family member about something he or she is going to do in the upcoming week. Can you fulfill the prophecies?

For younger kids

Pick someone you can tell about prophecy, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Clear it with your parents and if they say, "OK," go share the good news.

For older kids

The Mayan people divided time and made prophecies about major things that would happen in each age. Do some research and find out what they predicted and whether or not their predictions came true.

TRY IT

Art

Baptism is a time when we think about God's love for us. Make a Love Box together. Cut a hole in the top of a shoe box. Decorate the box with stickers, markers, crayons, or paint. Throughout the week, place love notes in the box for each other. Read them together at the end of the week.

Bible Skills and Games

The story of Jesus' baptism is found in all four gospels. See if you can find these verses. Then look for other places in the New Testament that talk about baptism. (You can use a concordance or online resource for help.) Work on building up your Bible searching skills together!

Computer Lab

Locusts for food? Yuck! But in many cultures around the world, eating bugs isn't yucky at all. See what happens when you search online for "bugs that people eat."

Cooking

Make rock candy as an object lesson for how from the waters of baptism comes the rock-solid promise of God's love. It's easy, fun, and takes about a week. The supplies are simple: a glass jar, a thread or skewer, water, and sugar. Search online for specific instructions.

Creative Drama

Sit down with your family and make a list of things you can do to get ready for Jesus to come. Pick a time every week to do one of those things. Decorate, read a story about Jesus, say a prayer, cook a family meal, and read from the Bible. Get ready for Jesus!

Music

The story of Jesus and John the Baptist talks about a voice in the wilderness. Visit a string instrument repair shop or a music shop. Talk to the sales person about how string instruments work. Ask for him or her to show you how different voicings of instruments sound. Or go to a music concert and hear all the voices in the orchestra or band.

Science

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. Search online for information about this body of water. How long is the river? How deep? What animals and plants live by this river? Then explore a river near your home to find the same kinds of facts. Did you find any similarities between these two rivers?

Video

Everyone loves to hear stories about when they were little. Take out family photos, videos, and memorabilia from the kid's baptism and play "I remember when . . ." Invite grandparents and long-distance relatives into the discussion by phone or webcam.