



THE BIG IDEA

Hope is Persistent

THE BIBLE

John Prepares for Jesus: Mark 1:1-8;
(Isaiah 40:1-8, Isaiah 64)

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

VIDEO | Simply Hope, Episode 1

INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's video*

DISCUSSION

Ask the questions:

- *What does Advent mean? (coming, arrival, waiting)*
- *If you write up a Christmas list and give it to someone you don't know, will you get anything on that list? (probably not)*
- *As a family, how will we prepare the way for Jesus?*
- *How can you make room for Jesus this week? (persistent prayer)*
- *What do you hope for this Christmas?*

STORY | Prepped!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Ask if anyone in the family has a story to share about someone in your life who has helped prepare you for something. This can be preparing you for a big test, a party, big meeting at work, etc.*

- *Why do we prepare for important things in life? (It will go well; people will be part of it)*
- *How did you feel when preparing for something big in your life? (nervous, anxious, excited)*
- *How do we prepare our hearts for Jesus? (prayer, reading God's word, sharing Jesus with others)*

Jesus had someone help prepare for his coming. A long, long time ago, there was a man named Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet, which is a fancy word for "messenger," for God. And Isaiah had a message: That it was time for Jesus to come to Earth for a visit, and that there would be someone who would get everything ready for Jesus' visit.



Who was this special person who prepared the way for Jesus' visit? It was a man named John the Baptist! John the Baptist was a very special man. He loved God very much and God chose him to make sure everything was ready for Jesus' visit on Earth.

- John wore clothes made of camel's hair
- He ate only locusts — which are like big grasshoppers — and wild honey. Locusts and wild honey? That sounds gross, doesn't it? Yuck!
- John the Baptist traveled and taught many people about God and about the Savior who was coming. . .Jesus! John the Baptist baptized people and helped them get ready for Jesus' arrival.
- John the Baptist helped Jesus by preparing the people around him to know that they needed Jesus to rescue them. And just like they needed Jesus as their Savior, we do, too!

ACTIVITY | Battleship

Supplies needed: No supplies needed.

INSTRUCTIONS: All family members roam around designated space, while pretending they are swimming. One family member will be the "battleship." The battleship will try to tag as many people as possible. Once a person is tagged, they will need to sit down and wave both of their arms in the air. A person who is not tagged can save someone sitting by tagging them. Choose a time limit and see how many people are sitting and how many are standing at the end of the game!

- Just like in the game, we can face times where we get stuck and need a rescue! We are all people who are in need of being saved.
- Have you ever felt stuck by hurts, pain, worries, fear? (leave space for kids to name them)
- Have you ever felt like the problem you were facing required some outside help from someone you trust? (be vulnerable and share if you can)
- How comforting to know that we can go to God **PERSISTENTLY** with our hurts, pain, worries and even our joys because, **HOPE IS PERISTENT.**

MEMORY VERSE | Memory!

Supplies needed: 2 pieces of paper, scissors, something to write with

INSTRUCTIONS: Cut out 20 squares.

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| • Square one write: But as for me, | • Square six write: For God, |
| • Square two write: I watch, | • Square seven write: My Savior, |
| • Square three write: In hope, | • Square Eight write: My God, |
| • Square four write: For the Lord, | • Square nine write: Will hear me, |
| • Square five write: I wait On, | • Square 10 write: Micah 7:7 |

Make another set for matching game.

Lay all the cards face down in the middle of the floor. Have one person go first. If they flipped over matching cards, they can keep the cards and have another turn. Keep playing until all the pairs are found, Then, try and put their cards in order to make today's memory verse in Micah 7:7!

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for sending people into our lives who remind us that we need a Savior. Help us to also prepare the way for Jesus by turning away from our sins and making our hearts a place where you will stay. Thank you for taking our hurts, pain, worries from us and sending us Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING

Make the sign of the cross each family members forehead and say, "Jesus came for you and loves you."

THE BIG IDEA: Everyone needs a Savior.

THE BIBLE: John Prepares for Jesus:

Mark 1:1-8

