Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for **young children (ages 4–8)** and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for the **Second Sunday of Advent (Year B).** Bible Verses: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:3-15a; Mark 1:1-8; Preface of Advent

✨ Sunday School Lesson Plan

Second Sunday of Advent – Year B

PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS!

Theme: Peace, Preparation, Repentance, and God's Love

Big Idea: Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Jesus. John the Baptist told people to get ready for the coming of Jesus. We can prepare our hearts by praying, being kind, making peace, helping others, and sharing God's love.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings — As Requested

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

Preface: Advent
Liturgical Colour: Purple or Blue
Age Group: Preschool to Young Elementary (approximately 3–9 years)
Suggested Lesson Length: 30–45 minutes, with additional activities as desired.

Lectionary note: December 6, 2026, is the Second Sunday of Advent in Year A. The readings provided are from Year B. This lesson follows your requested readings throughout. The Year A readings are Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; and Matthew 3:1–12.

1. Lesson Title / Theme / Big Idea

PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS!

Theme: Getting Our Hearts Ready for Jesus

Big Idea: God sent John the Baptist to help people prepare for Jesus. Advent reminds us to turn toward God, make peaceful choices, and share God's love.

Lesson Focus for Kids:

- Advent is a special season of waiting and preparing for Jesus.
- John the Baptist told people to prepare the way for the Lord.
- God promises comfort, forgiveness, and peace.
- Jesus brings God's love and peace into our world.
- We can say sorry when we make wrong choices and try again.
- We can make peace by forgiving, sharing, helping, and being kind.
- God is patient and wants everyone to turn toward him.
- The second Advent candle reminds us of peace.

This Week's Message

PREPARE THE WAY! JESUS IS COMING!

2. Scripture Readings — Kid-Friendly Language

Isaiah 40:1–11 — Prepare the Way for the Lord!

Long ago, God's people were feeling sad and worried.
They needed comfort and hope.
God sent a wonderful message to them.
"Comfort my people!"
God wanted his people to know that he loved them.
Then a voice called out:
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"
The voice told people to make a straight path for God.
The mountains would be made low, and the valleys would be lifted up.
This was a special way of saying that God was coming to help his people.
God promised to care for them.
The Bible says that God is like a loving shepherd.
A shepherd watches over his sheep, keeps them safe, and gently carries the little lambs.
God loves us and cares for us just like that.

Kid Connection: We can prepare a path for Jesus in our hearts by choosing kindness, forgiveness, and love.

GOD CARES FOR ME LIKE A LOVING SHEPHERD!

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 — God Gives Us Peace

God's people remembered how much God loved them.
They thanked God for forgiving them.
They wanted to listen to what God was saying.
The psalm tells us that God speaks peace to his people.
God's love and faithfulness belong together.
God's goodness and peace are wonderful gifts.
God wants us to live in his love.

Kid Connection: God gives us peace. We can share that peace by being gentle, forgiving others, and helping people get along.

GOD'S PEACE BEGINS IN MY HEART!

2 Peter 3:3–15a — God Is Patient and Loving

Peter wrote a letter to people who followed Jesus.
Some people wondered why they were still waiting for Jesus to come again.
Peter reminded them that God sees time differently from us.
God is patient.
God wants people to turn away from wrong choices and follow his ways.
Peter encouraged Christians to live peaceful, loving, and faithful lives while they waited.
He reminded them that God's patience is a gift.

Kid Connection: Sometimes waiting is hard. God teaches us to be patient, to trust him, and to keep doing what is good.

I CAN WAIT WITH PATIENCE AND LOVE!

Mark 1:1–8 — John the Baptist Prepares the Way

A man named John lived in the wilderness.
John wore clothes made from camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey.
John had a very important job.
He told people:
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"
John wanted people to turn toward God and make better choices.
He told them to say sorry for the wrong things they had done and begin living God's way.
Many people came to listen to John.
John baptized people in the Jordan River.
But John told them that someone much greater was coming.
That person was Jesus!
John said that he baptized people with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John was helping everyone get ready to welcome Jesus.

Kid Connection: Just as John helped people prepare for Jesus, we can prepare our hearts by praying, helping, sharing, forgiving, and making peace.

I CAN PREPARE MY HEART FOR JESUS!

3. Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

Activity: Getting Ready for Someone Special

Materials: Advent wreath, two candles, a heart, a small toy, and a picture of John the Baptist.

Gather the children in a circle.

Ask:

- "What do you do when someone special is coming to visit?"
- "Do you clean up your toys?"
- "Do you make a place for your guest?"
- "How can you make someone feel welcome?"
- "What do you think it means to get ready for Jesus?"

Explain:

"Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. Last Sunday, we lit the candle of Hope. Today we light the candle of Peace."

Show the Advent wreath.

"The candles remind us that Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and love into our world."

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Have an adult light the first two candles, or use battery-operated candles.

Say together:

"We light the candle of PEACE. Thank you, God, for sending Jesus!"

Explain:

"Peace means more than being quiet. God's peace helps us love others, forgive, and live kindly together."

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the season of Advent.
Thank you for sending John the Baptist to help people prepare for Jesus.
Help us make room for Jesus in our hearts.
Teach us to be patient, loving, and kind.
Help us forgive others and make peace.
May your love shine through us every day.
Amen.

4. Memory Verse

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

Mark 1:3

Memory Verse Actions

Words	Actions
PREPARE	Pretend to sweep a path
THE WAY	Stretch both arms forward
OF THE LORD	Point upward toward heaven

Repeat the verse several times with the actions.

Memory Verse Game — Make a Path!

Place paper footprints on the floor.

Children follow the footprints while repeating:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!"

At the end of the path, place a picture of Jesus.

Ask:

"How can we prepare our hearts for Jesus?"

Encourage answers such as praying, helping, sharing, forgiving, welcoming, and showing kindness.

Finish together:

"I CAN MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS IN MY HEART!"

5. Bible Story Time

John the Baptist Gets Everyone Ready for Jesus

Long ago, there was a man named John.
John lived in the wilderness.
He wore rough clothes made from camel's hair.
He ate locusts and wild honey.
John was a little different from other people!
But God had given John a very important job.
John was going to help people get ready for Jesus.
One day John began calling out to the people:
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"
People came from towns and villages to hear him.
They wondered what John meant.
John told them that they needed to turn toward God.
He wanted them to stop making wrong choices.
He wanted them to say sorry when they hurt someone.
He wanted them to live in God's loving ways.
John baptized people in the Jordan River.
The water reminded them that they were beginning a new life following God.
Many people wondered if John was the special person God had promised to send.
But John said:
"No! Someone much greater than I am is coming!"
John was talking about Jesus.
John wanted everyone to be ready to welcome him.
Today, during Advent, we remember John's message.
We are getting ready for Jesus too!
We do not need to build a road through the wilderness.
Instead, we can prepare a special place in our hearts.
We can say sorry when we do something wrong.
We can forgive someone who has hurt our feelings.
We can help someone who needs us.
We can share our toys.
We can welcome someone who feels lonely.
We can pray.
Every time we choose kindness and peace, we are preparing our hearts for Jesus.

Say Together

PREPARE THE WAY!

MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS!

SHARE GOD'S PEACE!

6. Craft / Activity

Craft 1 — My Advent Wreath of Peace

Materials: Paper plates or wreath templates, green crayons, four paper candles, yellow paper flames, glue, and scissors.

Give each child an Advent wreath template.

Have the children colour the greenery.

Add four candles.

Place flames on the first two candles.

Explain:

"The first candle reminds us of Hope. The second candle reminds us of Peace."

Across the top write:

JESUS BRINGS US PEACE!

Across the bottom:

PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS!

Craft 2 — My Heart Is Ready for Jesus

Materials: Large paper hearts, crayons, markers, and glue.

Give each child a large heart.

Inside the heart write:

I AM PREPARING MY HEART FOR JESUS!

Children draw ways they can make peace and show love:

- Forgiving someone.
- Helping a friend.
- Sharing toys.
- Saying something kind.

- Welcoming someone new.
- Praying.

Explain:

"John the Baptist told people to prepare the way for Jesus. We can prepare our hearts by choosing God's way."

Craft 3 — Follow the Path to Jesus

Materials: Construction paper, paper footprints, crayons, glue, and a picture of Jesus.

Give each child a long sheet of paper.

Place a picture of Jesus at one end.

Children glue footprints along the path.

On each footprint, write one word:

PRAY — HELP — SHARE — FORGIVE — LOVE — PEACE

At the bottom write:

I CAN FOLLOW GOD'S WAY!

7. Games

Game 1 — Prepare the Way!

Make a simple path using paper footprints.

At the beginning, place a picture of John the Baptist.

At the end, place a picture of Jesus.

Children follow the path.

At each footprint, they perform an action:

- **PRAY:** Fold hands.
- **HELP:** Pretend to pick something up.
- **SHARE:** Pretend to give a toy.
- **FORGIVE:** Pretend to shake hands.
- **LOVE:** Place hands over heart.

- **PEACE:** Hold up two fingers in a peace sign.

At the end, everyone says:

"PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS!"

Game 2 — Peaceful Choices

Describe different situations.

Ask children to decide whether the action shows God's peace.

Examples:

"Someone takes your toy, and you shout at them."

"Someone is lonely, and you invite them to play."

"A friend falls down, and you help them."

"Someone makes a mistake, and you laugh at them."

"You say sorry when you hurt someone's feelings."

Children give a thumbs-up for peaceful choices and a thumbs-down for unkind choices.

Explain that everyone sometimes makes mistakes, and God helps us learn to make better choices.

Game 3 — Pass the Peace

Have children sit in a circle.

Pass a soft toy heart around the circle.

When the teacher says "Peace!", the child holding the heart shares one way to show kindness.

The group responds:

"GOD'S PEACE BE WITH YOU!"

8. Song Suggestions

- **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** — Waiting for Jesus.
- **Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord** — Preparing for Christ.
- **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** — Advent hope and peace.

- **Jesus Loves Me** — God's love for us.
- **I've Got Peace Like a River** — God's peace.
- **This Little Light of Mine** — Sharing God's love.
- **God Is So Good** — Thankfulness.
- **Peace Like a River** — Peace in our hearts.
- **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands** — God's care.
- **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah** — Advent candle lighting.

Simple Action Song

To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

We are waiting,
We are waiting,
For our King,
For our King.

Jesus brings us peace,
Jesus brings us peace,
Let us sing,
Let us sing.

9. Snack Suggestions

Peace Dove Snacks

Serve dove-shaped sandwiches or cookies.

Explain:

"The dove reminds us of peace and the Holy Spirit."

Honey Snacks

Offer age-appropriate snacks with honey, such as a small amount of honey spread on toast for children over one year old.

Explain:

"John the Baptist ate wild honey while living in the wilderness."

Sharing Snack

Invite children to help distribute crackers or fruit.

Explain:

"We prepare for Jesus by sharing and caring for others."

Snack Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for this food.
Thank you for the peace Jesus brings.
Help us remember those who are hungry.
Teach us to share and care for others.
Fill our hearts with kindness and love.
Amen.

Check food allergies and choking hazards and supervise food preparation.

10. Wrap Up & Reflections

Gather the children in a circle.

Ask:

What special season are we celebrating?
Advent.

Who told people to prepare the way for Jesus?
John the Baptist.

Where did John baptize people?
In the Jordan River.

What does the second Advent candle remind us of?
Peace.

What does it mean to prepare our hearts for Jesus?
To pray, help, share, forgive, and show love.

What can we do when we make a wrong choice?
Say sorry, ask for forgiveness, and try again.

Does God love us even when we make mistakes?
Yes!

Say Together

ADVENT IS HERE!

JESUS BRINGS US PEACE!

I CAN PREPARE MY HEART FOR JESUS!

11. Closing Prayer

Loving God,
Thank you for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus.
Thank you for loving us and forgiving us.
Help us prepare our hearts during Advent.
Teach us to make peaceful choices.
Help us be kind, patient, and loving.
Help us forgive others and say sorry when we make mistakes.
May we share the peace of Jesus with everyone we meet.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

12. Take-Home Idea

My Second Week of Advent — Peace Challenge

Encourage children to complete one act of peace or kindness each day.

PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS!

Sunday — Pray for peace in our world.
Monday — Share something with someone.
Tuesday — Say something kind to a friend.
Wednesday — Help someone at home.
Thursday — Forgive someone or say sorry.
Friday — Welcome someone who feels left out.
Saturday — Pray and thank God for Jesus.

0 of 7 activities completed

Invite families to light the first two Advent candles together, using battery-operated candles if preferred.

Family Prayer: "Dear Jesus, fill our home with peace. Help us prepare our hearts for you. Amen."

13. Teacher Notes

Understanding the Second Sunday of Advent

The Second Sunday of Advent continues our journey toward Christmas.
John the Baptist is an important figure during Advent because he prepared people for the coming of Jesus.
John's message was about repentance.
For young children, explain repentance simply:
"Repentance means turning away from wrong choices and turning toward God's loving ways."
Children should understand that everyone makes mistakes, and God welcomes us when we turn back to him.

Connecting the Readings

Isaiah 40: God promises comfort and calls his people to prepare the way of the Lord. God is described as a loving shepherd who cares for his sheep.

Psalm 85: God speaks peace to his people. Love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace belong together.

2 Peter 3: God is patient and wants people to turn toward him. Christians are encouraged to live peaceful and faithful lives while waiting for Christ.

Mark 1: John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance and baptizing them in the Jordan River.

Important Teaching Points

1. **God brings comfort.** Isaiah reminds us that God cares for us like a loving shepherd.

2. **Jesus brings peace.** God's peace helps us love others and live kindly together.

3. **We can prepare our hearts.** Prayer, kindness, forgiveness, and helping others are ways to prepare for Jesus.

4. **Repentance means turning toward God.** When we make mistakes, we can say sorry, make things right, and try again.

5. **God is patient.** God gives us opportunities to learn, grow, and follow him.

6. **Advent is a time of hope and peace.** We remember Jesus' birth and look forward to his coming again.

A Note About 2 Peter 3:3–15a

This reading includes dramatic descriptions of the future.

For young children, focus on God's patience, faithfulness, and desire for people to live peaceful and loving lives.
Avoid frightening descriptions of destruction or the end of the world.
Explain:
"God wants us to trust him and live each day with love, kindness, and peace."

A Note About John the Baptist

John the Baptist may seem unusual to children because of his clothing and food.
Explain that John lived simply in the wilderness and had an important message from God.
John wanted everyone to get ready for Jesus.
His message was not about being perfect.
It was about turning toward God and choosing God's loving ways.

14. Anglican Connection

The Second Sunday of Advent

The Second Sunday of Advent is part of the Church's season of preparation for Christmas.
Anglican churches traditionally use purple during Advent, although some use blue.
Purple reminds us of preparation and reflection.
Blue is sometimes used to emphasize hope and expectation.

The Advent Wreath

Many Anglican parishes use an Advent wreath with four candles.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, two candles are lit.

In a common tradition:

Sunday	Theme	Candle
First Sunday	Hope	Purple or blue
Second Sunday	Peace	Purple or blue
Third Sunday	Joy	Pink or blue
Fourth Sunday	Love	Purple or blue

The candle themes and colours vary among Anglican parishes. Follow your parish's tradition.

The Second Advent Candle — Peace

Explain:

"Today we light two candles. The first reminds us of Hope. The second reminds us of Peace."

John the Baptist and Baptism

John baptized people in the Jordan River as a sign of repentance and a new beginning.
In the Anglican Church, Baptism is a sacrament through which we are welcomed into the Christian community.
Through Baptism, we become members of Christ's Body, the Church.
Explain to children:
"Baptism reminds us that God loves us and welcomes us into his family."

The Anglican Baptismal Covenant

In our Baptismal Covenant, we promise, with God's help, to turn away from sin and follow Jesus.
We also promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to strive for justice and peace among all people.
During Advent, we can live out these promises by preparing our hearts and showing God's love.

The Peace in Anglican Worship

During many Anglican services, members of the congregation share a sign of peace.

They may say:

"The peace of Christ be always with you."

The response is:

"And also with you."

Explain:

"When we share the Peace, we remember that Jesus calls us to love and care for one another."
Invite children to practise sharing the Peace with a friendly wave or greeting.

This Week's Message

Advent is a season of waiting, preparation, hope, and peace.
Isaiah reminds us that God comforts his people and cares for us like a loving shepherd. Psalm 85 teaches us that God gives peace. Peter reminds us that God is patient and loving. John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way for Jesus.
We prepare our hearts not only by getting ready for Christmas, but also by turning toward God's love.
We can pray, forgive, share, help, welcome others, and make peace.

PREPARE THE WAY! JESUS IS COMING!

These lesson plans are intended as a collection of ideas rather than a single lesson that must be completed in full. Teachers are encouraged to select the stories, crafts, games, and worksheets that best suit the ages, abilities, and interests of the children they teach.

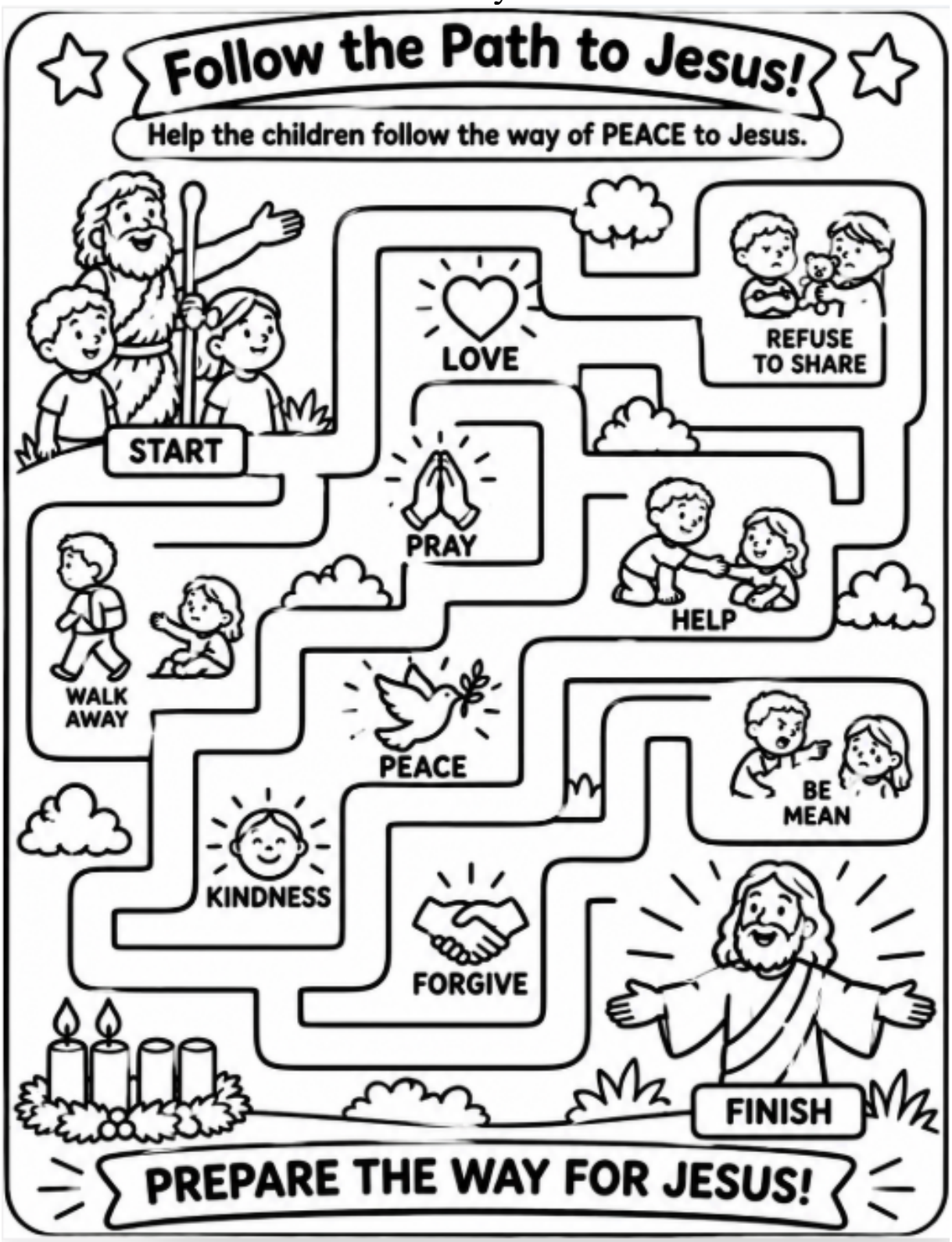
Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent



Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent



Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent









ACROSS

4 The man who baptized people in the Jordan River.
6 John baptized people in the Jordan _____.
7 The second Advent candle reminds us of this.
9 John told people to _____ the way of the Lord.

DOWN

1 John baptized people using this.
2 When someone says sorry, we can _____ them.
3 We prepare our hearts by showing _____.
4 The person John the Baptist told people to prepare for.
5 The first Advent candle reminds us of this.
8 The special season when we prepare for Christmas.

Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent

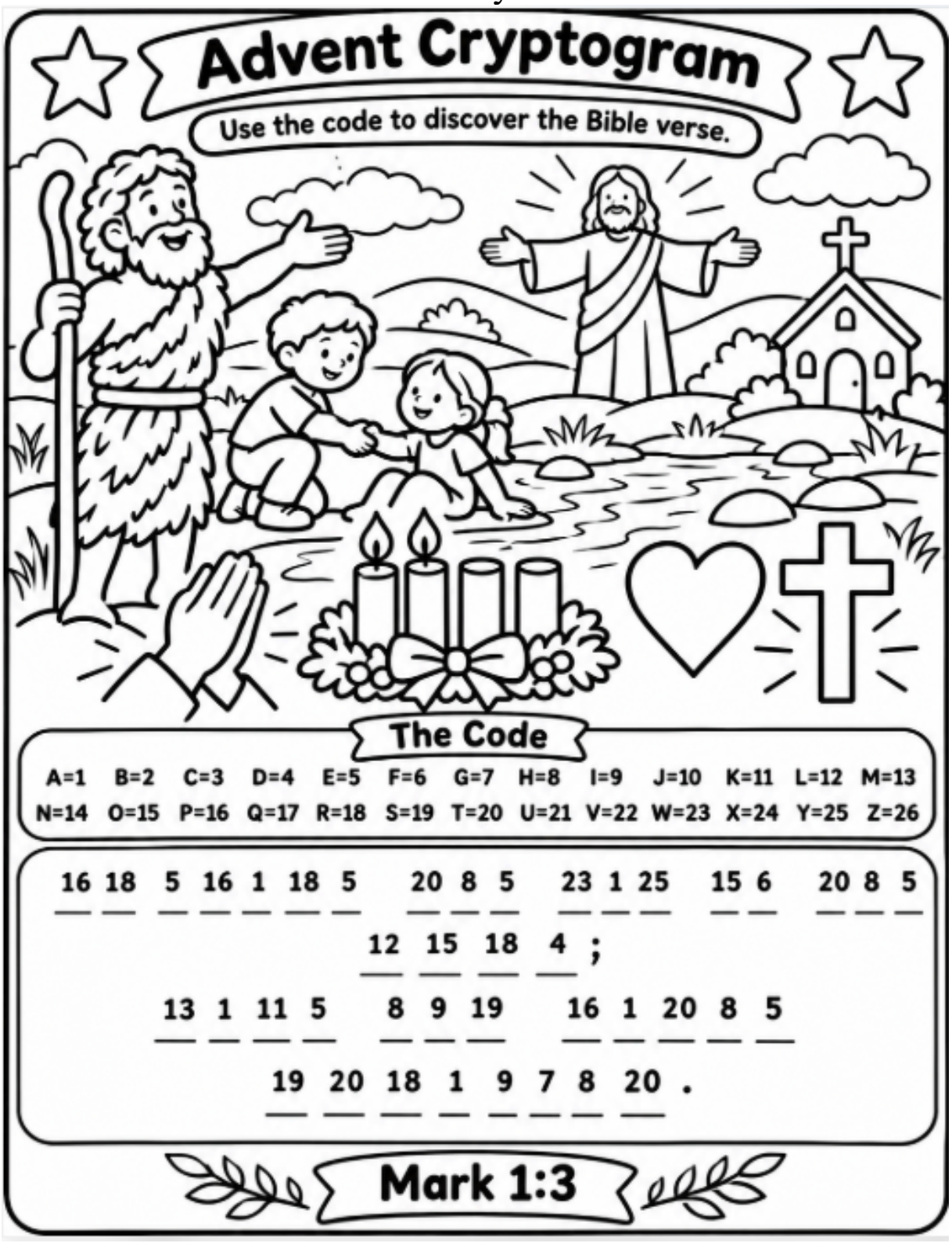
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Advent
Jesus
John
Peace
River
Water
Prepare
Forgive
Love
Hope
Kind
Christmas



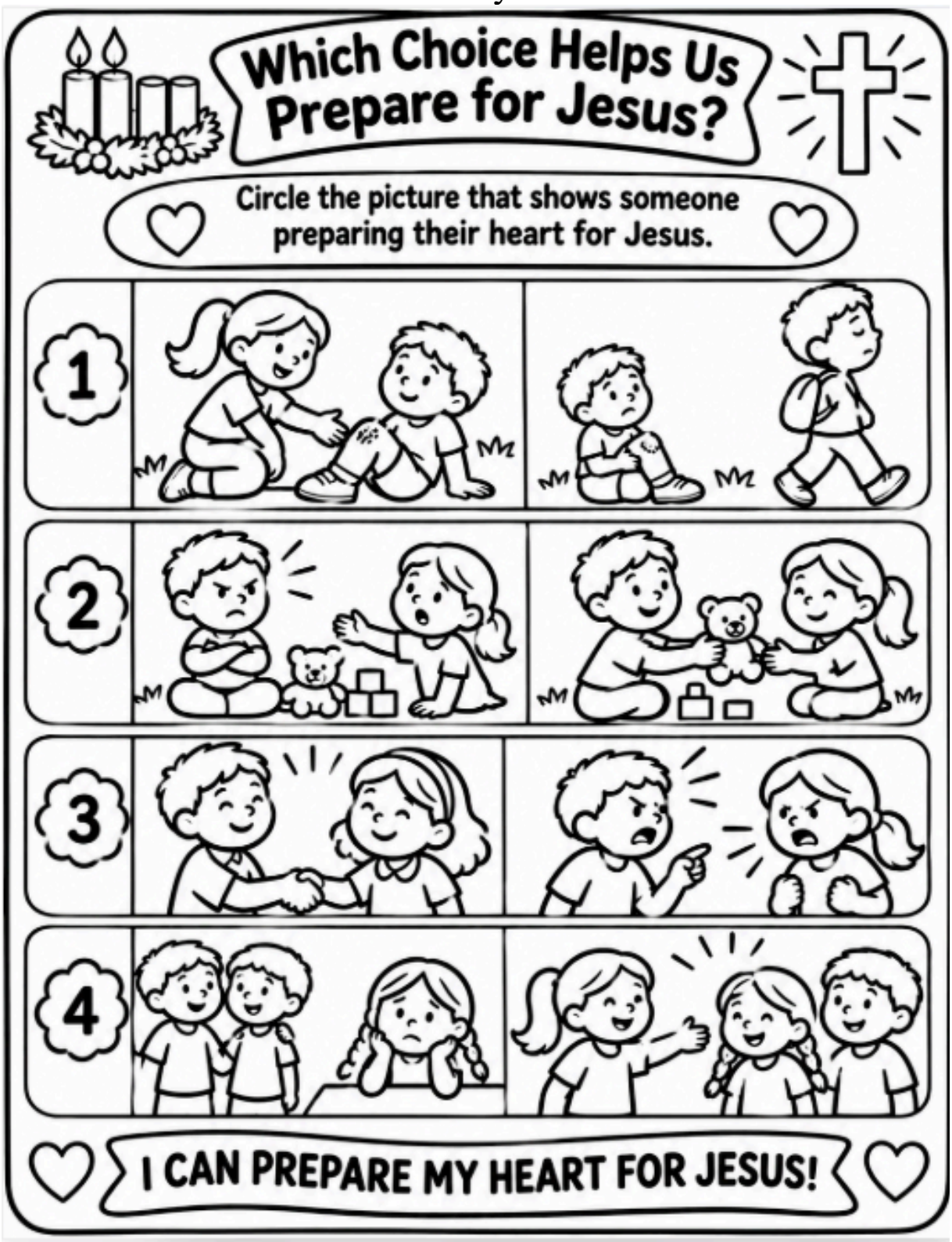
Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent



Prepare the Way for Jesus!

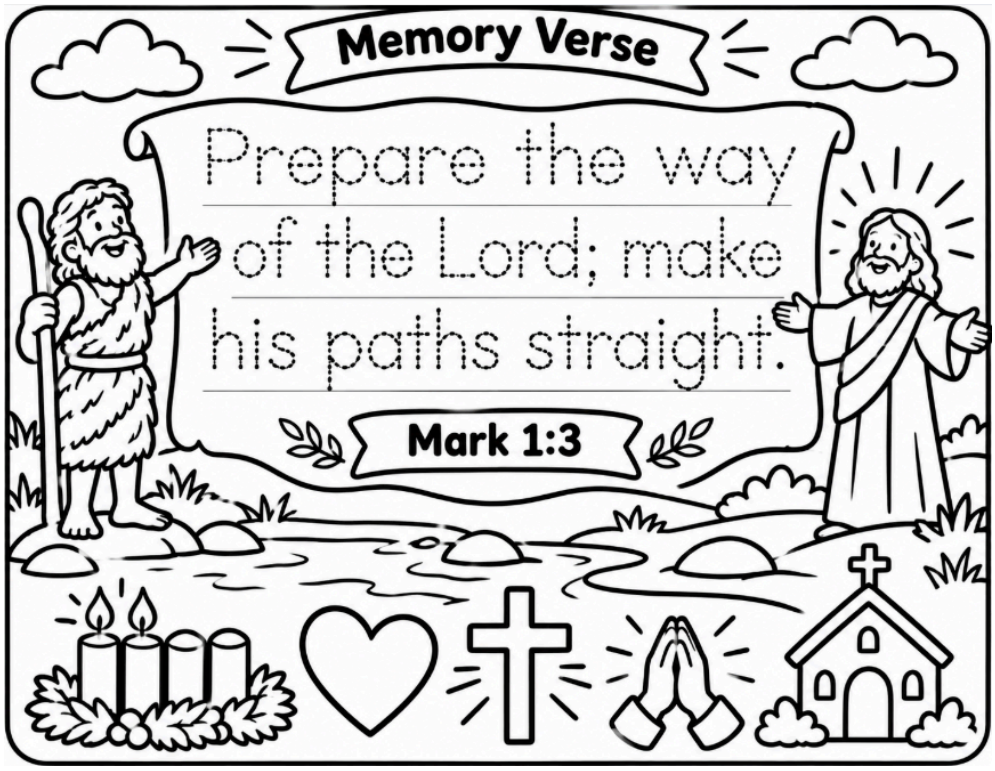
Second Sunday of Advent



Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent

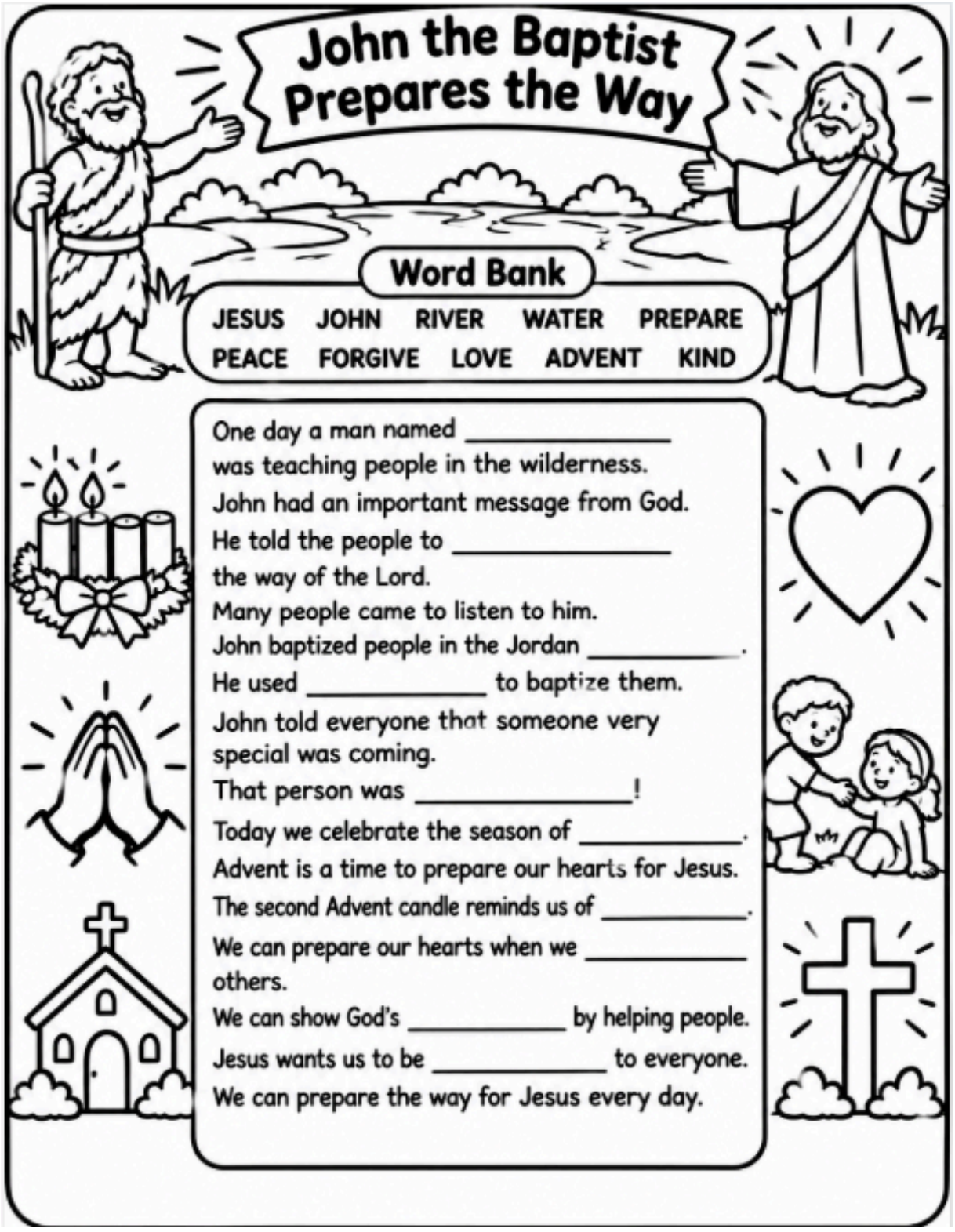




Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent

Fill in the blanks of the story with the words in the box.



Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent



Prepare the Way for Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent



Crossword - Key

Across	Down
4. John	1. Water
6. River	2. Forgive
7. Peace	3. Love
9. Prepare	4. Jesus
	5. Hope
	8. Advent

Cryptogram – Key:

Mark 1:3

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'

Fill-in-the-Blank – Key

John
Prepare
River
Water
Jesus
Advent
Peace
Forgive
Love
Kind