

Children's Church at Home 13 December 2020

Isaiah 40:1-11 God's Straight Highway 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Craft ingredients: card, wool or string, sellotape, pens, scissors, pipe cleaners, beads if you have any, a scrap of material or J cloth or similar!

First: getting ready. What do you need to do to get ready in the morning? Does it take long? What about getting ready for Christmas? That takes a while doesn't it? And there's a fair bit of waiting! Here's a story about some old people who did a lot of waiting, and what happened later. But first see what Isaiah the prophet said about it all, long, long before.

Story: Three readings! Start with Isaiah 40:1-11.

[Isaiah 40:3-5 ERV - Listen, there is someone shouting: - Bible Gateway](#). Now a question. Can you tell whether these are boys names or girls names? Zechariah? Annas? Elizabeth? Gabriel? Listen out for them in the next part of the story, which happens not long before Jesus was born.

Luke 1: 1-25 and 57-80 [Luke 1:5-25 ERV - Zechariah and Elizabeth - During the - Bible Gateway](#) Well,, John grows up and things begin to get exciting.

[Luke 3:2-18 ERV - Annas and Caiaphas were the high - Bible Gateway](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/7NMHOLPWeTM> This is a really fun version of John's story.

Think: What did John tell people to do? What was he sure about? What did he do to help people understand that they could be forgiven and start a new life?

Craft: make a model of John.

Activity: two suggestions. John lived on locusts (like large grasshoppers) and honey from wild bees when he was in the wilderness. Try pretzels instead of locusts and dip them in honey. Yummy? Probably not ideal if that was all you had to eat and you had to get the honey yourself. The bees might not be too keen on sharing. Or use string or tape or tinsel to mark a straight line along the floor. Ask someone to turn you round 3 times and then try to walk along it without wobbling off. Easy? Try it blindfolded.

Also: my friend Chris Berry at St Mary's Church, Hitcham, sent me this link. Have a look: it's got some excellent activities and some really interesting stories about people around the world.

[2020-FF-Advent-Adventure.pdf \(opendoorsuk.org\)](#)

Prayer: Father God, you sent messages to the prophets about how to behave and how to love you, and you gave them glimpses of what was going to happen in the future. Thank you for Isaiah and John the Baptist. Help us to listen when we hear those messages. Give us patience to wait for all the good things that are coming, like Zechariah and Elizabeth, and show us how to share your good news with other people. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.