

# ADVENT 3:

## JOHN 1:6–8, 19–28

The Gospel of John tells the story of John the Baptist from a slightly different perspective. Who is this John? John understands he is a messenger of the light – not the light itself. Those in charge of keeping the faith are confused. Who is this man? Is this the long-awaited Messiah – or Elijah – or a prophet? John sees his mission as baptizing, and pointing to the one who is coming after him.

## WHO ARE YOU?

### The Story

Remember that last week we had a story about a man named John the Baptist? (Be open for anything they care to add about John.) Last week we learned that many people came to John the Baptist to be baptized. We talked about baptisms that take place today and the cross that is made on our foreheads. Today we will learn that John the Baptist was also a messenger. His job was not to be the teacher, but to point to the teacher, Jesus. People asked him: “Why should we listen to you, if you are not the teacher?” But John’s job was to be a messenger.

### Reflection Questions:

#### Young Children

- I wonder if you have ever been a messenger for someone else?
- I wonder what it is like to be a messenger?
- I wonder if it is hard to pass on someone else’s message?

#### Older Youth

- Who does John say that he is? (John 1:23)
- Who does the writer of the Gospel of John say that John the Baptist is? (John 1:6-8)
- Why do you think God needed John the Baptist to prepare or “make straight the way for the Lord”? To stay awake, be alert, be ready?

## ACTIVITIES

### YOUNG CHILDREN

1. Using large sheets of paper, to print the words “messenger” and “Jesus is coming!” and then decorate the banner with angels or a picture of John the Baptist.
2. Color in the Christian Family adoption Book (see attached)
3. Create an advent calendar (see attached)

### OLDER YOUTH

#### Interview with John:

To reinforce the message that John the Baptist understood his mission as being a messenger and that the Pharisees could not make him fit their expectations, turn this passage into a TV interview. A reporter can interview John and an assortment of Pharisees.