



the wilderness of Judea **2** and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." **3** This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" **4** John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. **5** People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. **6** Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **8** Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. **9** And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **10** The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

## What I Have Learned

Fill in the blanks below based on today's Scripture.

1. John the Baptist preached from the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem.
2. John the Baptist wore \_\_\_\_\_ hair and leather.
3. John the Baptist ate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Keep In Mind

*"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him"*  
(from Matthew 3:3, NIV).

## Choosing What's Best

Only you know if your heart is prepared to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Reflect on your readiness to believe and follow Him. Repent of any sins that you have committed. If you already have received Jesus, thank Him for loving and forgiving you unconditionally. If you want to start following Him today, speak with your teacher, who will lead you in a prayer of salvation.

## Doing My Part

This week, witness to someone by sharing with them the story of Jesus' birth. Be sure to tell them why His birth is important to you. Also, share how you celebrated Christmas. Ask how they celebrated. Think of things that you have learned and can share with others about celebrating Jesus' birth.

