



6-12 December 2020

Play and wonder about the good news of Jesus.

Read aloud famous opening lines from some children's books. Talk about the importance of an opening line. Imagine you are writing your life story so far and think of something funny as the opening line. Read your opening lines to each other.

Now read the story together then explore it using these activities.

Play

Roll up a piece of paper to make scrolls and write, 'Good news' on them. Have some races – in teams if possible – passing the scroll(s) back and forth across the room.

Create

Use teabags or coffee to stain white paper and 'age' it. Use this to make your own scroll. Decorate and copy or colour in the words 'Good news'. Roll up the scroll and secure it using a ribbon or string.

Praise

Light the second candle on your Advent wreath (or just light two candles, with two unlit), as you sing (to the tune of 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'):

Light the Advent candle two,
John the Baptist brought good news.
Told us all 'He's on his way',
helped the world to change and pray.
Light the Advent candle two,
John the Baptist brought good news.

Pray

Pass round something which has a rough surface, e.g. sandpaper, a Lego brick and each run your fingers over it, as you think about how we can get ready for Jesus.

Bible story

 Mark 1.1-8



Lay out a cloth and place objects/pictures (in brackets) on it, as you tell the story.

There was once a man called John the Baptist, who went to live in the desert. (*sandpaper*) John wore very strange clothes that were made from camel's hair, with a belt around his waist. (*brown cloth and leather belt*) He ate grasshoppers and honey. (*jar of honey*) He told people to say sorry to God, then John baptized them in the river. (*strip of blue felt/paper*) He told everyone to get ready, because Jesus was coming. (*paper scroll with 'Good news' written on it*)

Through the week

Plan a time each day to turn off your phones and place them in a box, turn off the TV, etc. and then find a bit of space in the room to read the Bible, draw, write or simply sit. Play some quiet music and try to establish an atmosphere of prayer and reflection.