SUNDAY GOSPEL STORIES · FOR SCHOOLS

Lead it yourselves

A class prayer planned and led by children · Second Sunday of Advent · Mark 1:1-8

GETTING READY

- Share out three jobs: **Leader**, **Reader** and **Prayer leader**.
- Set the prayer table: a purple cloth, the Bible open at Mark 1, and two candles of your Advent wreath (battery candles are fine).
- The Reader practises the Gospel out loud once before you begin.

1 GATHER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. John the Baptist calls us to get ready for Jesus. Let's be still and get ready to listen.

Light two candles. Breathe slowly three times together.

2 LISTEN

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Read Mark 1:1-8 from the class Bible. Younger classes can watch the two-minute cartoon instead.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep a short silence. Sit still and let the story settle.

3 RESPOND

Leader: Why did people travel all the way out to the wilderness to see John? What did he ask them to do?

Two or three people share an idea. There are no wrong answers.

Prayer leader: Jesus, John prepared the way for you. We bring you our prayers.

- For anyone who has fallen out with a friend, that they find a way to make up. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For people who feel far away from God, that they know he is coming close. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For our class, that we are quick to say sorry and quick to forgive. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Add a prayer of your own, written by your class.

All: Jesus, thank you for sending John to prepare your way. Help our class put things right and turn back to you. Amen.

4 GO

Leader: This week, let's make a way for Jesus by putting one thing right.

Leader: Let us go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Put out the candles.

AFTERWARDS: HOW DID IT GO?

- Did everyone who had a job feel ready?
- Was the silence really still?
- What one thing will we change next time?

For teachers: in Reception and Key Stage 1, an adult helps the children lead. In Key Stage 2, the children plan and lead it, and the adult joins in.