

Preparation

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen..

Look

Most families have traditions that help them prepare for Christmas.

1. Share some of what your family does to get ready for Christmas.
2. Which of these traditions did you start as an adult? Which of them came from your family of origin?
3. Why are these traditions important to you and your family?

Book Matthew 3: 1-12

John the Baptist tells the crowd that to prepare for Jesus' coming. He tells them to repent and to bear good fruit.

1. What does it mean to repent?
2. Why do you think John suggests repentance as a way to prepare for Jesus' arrival?
3. What does it look like to bear good fruit?
4. Why is bearing good fruit an important component of being ready for Jesus?

Took

We do some of the work in preparing ourselves for Jesus' arrival, but God does a lot of the heavy lifting for us. God has created each of us with gifts and talents for service. God loves us and forgives us – all of the time. God creates a clean heart in each of us.

1. How has God uniquely created you for service in the world?
2. In what ways has God prepared you for the ways in which you are bearing good fruit now?
3. Do you see any places in your life where you might need to repent, to turn around and be more aligned with God's plan for your life?