

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS

Zechariah, the Angel, and the Birth of John

Luke 1:1–25, 57–80

While Zechariah is serving in the temple, an angel appears to him and announces that he and his wife will have a son. They were to name their son John. God intended for John to one day prepare the way for Jesus.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS

John the Baptist

Luke 3:1–20; Mark 1:1–8; Matthew 3:1–11

John the Baptist prepares the people for Jesus, the Good News.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- God promised to send the Savior, and John's role was to prepare the people for His arrival.
- John's striking appearance reinforced the remarkable message he proclaimed; he lived in the wilderness, his clothes were woven from camel hair, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- While repentance—turning from sins—happens internally, the beauty of baptism is that it's an external sign of an internal reality.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

During breakfast one morning, add honey to your meal (maybe on toast, on a muffin, in yogurt, or over cereal). Talk with your children about how breakfast is a meal that prepares you for your day. Share with them that you're going to read about someone in The Big God Story who got people ready for the good news of Jesus. Read the account of John the Baptist preparing the way in **Mark 1:1–8**.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- What did people do when they heard John's message?
- How can I get ready for Jesus?
- Who can we share the good news of Jesus with?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how Jesus is the Good News into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

Psalm 25:4

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may your heart be ready to hear God's good news when He speaks it to you. May you have the desire in your heart to follow and obey God all the days of your life.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to truministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.