

Dear Families: We continue the story of John, the forerunner of Jesus. A while before Jesus was to begin His public ministry, John, the son of Zechariah, came out of the desert and began telling people about the “One” who was coming, Jesus. John “prepared” the way for Jesus to begin preaching His messages of love and salvation. John was baptizing people who wanted to repent of their sins in the Jordan river in the lower Jordan valley. Many wondered if John was the promised Messiah. He told them he was not, and that One greater than him was coming. Jesus came to John to be baptized to begin His ministry. God Bless!

**New Prayer:** God be in my head and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
*God be with me wherever I go.*

**Bible Text:** Luke 3:1-22 – Abridged

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and Herod was ruler of Galilee. . . the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” . . . The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats of false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.” And the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah. John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but One who is more powerful than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. . . Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are My Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased.”

**Bible Verse:**

*The Lord your God is with you  
wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:9*

**Activities:** Songs for all:

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, (3X)  
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know  
As He loved so long ago,  
Taking children on His knee,  
Saying, "Let them come to Me."  
Yes, Jesus loves me, (3X)  
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,  
Walking with me on my way.  
Wanting as a friend to give,  
Light and love to all who live.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, (3X)  
The Bible tells me so.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart, prepare Him room.  
And heaven and nature sing, (2X)  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

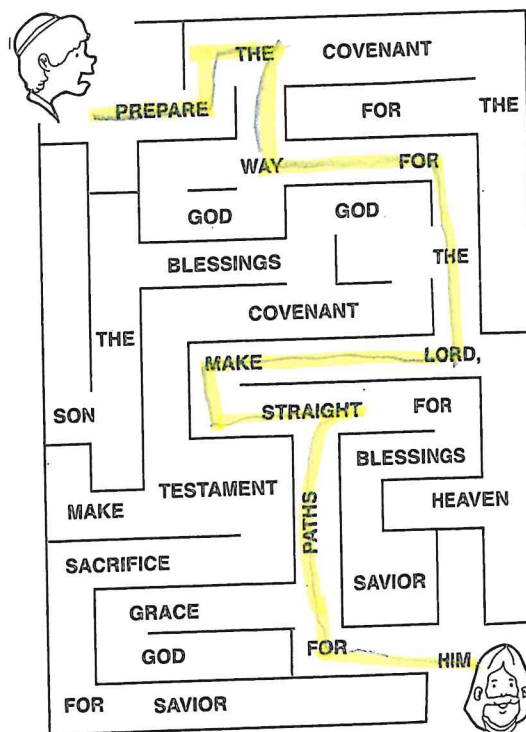
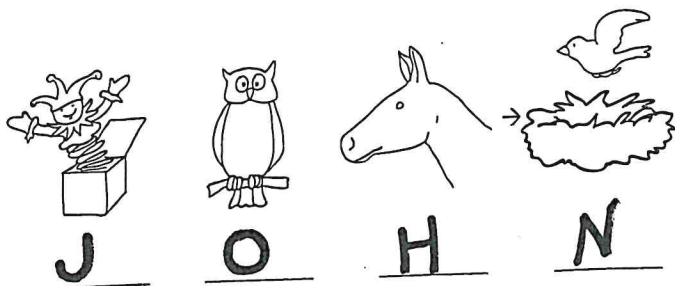
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ.  
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, (2X)  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove,  
The glories of His righteous  
And wonders of His love, (2X)  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

**Pre-K-2nd:** \* Coloring page – John Baptizes Jesus

**3rd and Up:** \*John the Baptist maze \*\*He must increase, but I must decrease page

**For Both Age Groups:** \*Joy theme page to color \*Build a "fort" in your house, with your family's permission. See how many of you can fit into it. Include stuffed animals and dolls if you wish. Talk about things you can do for other families that are less fortunate than your. (Donate clothes to Locker#505 (Clean and gently used!) and food to Roadrunner Food Bank, or others you find on the internet.



# Answer Key

Jesus

*He must increase*

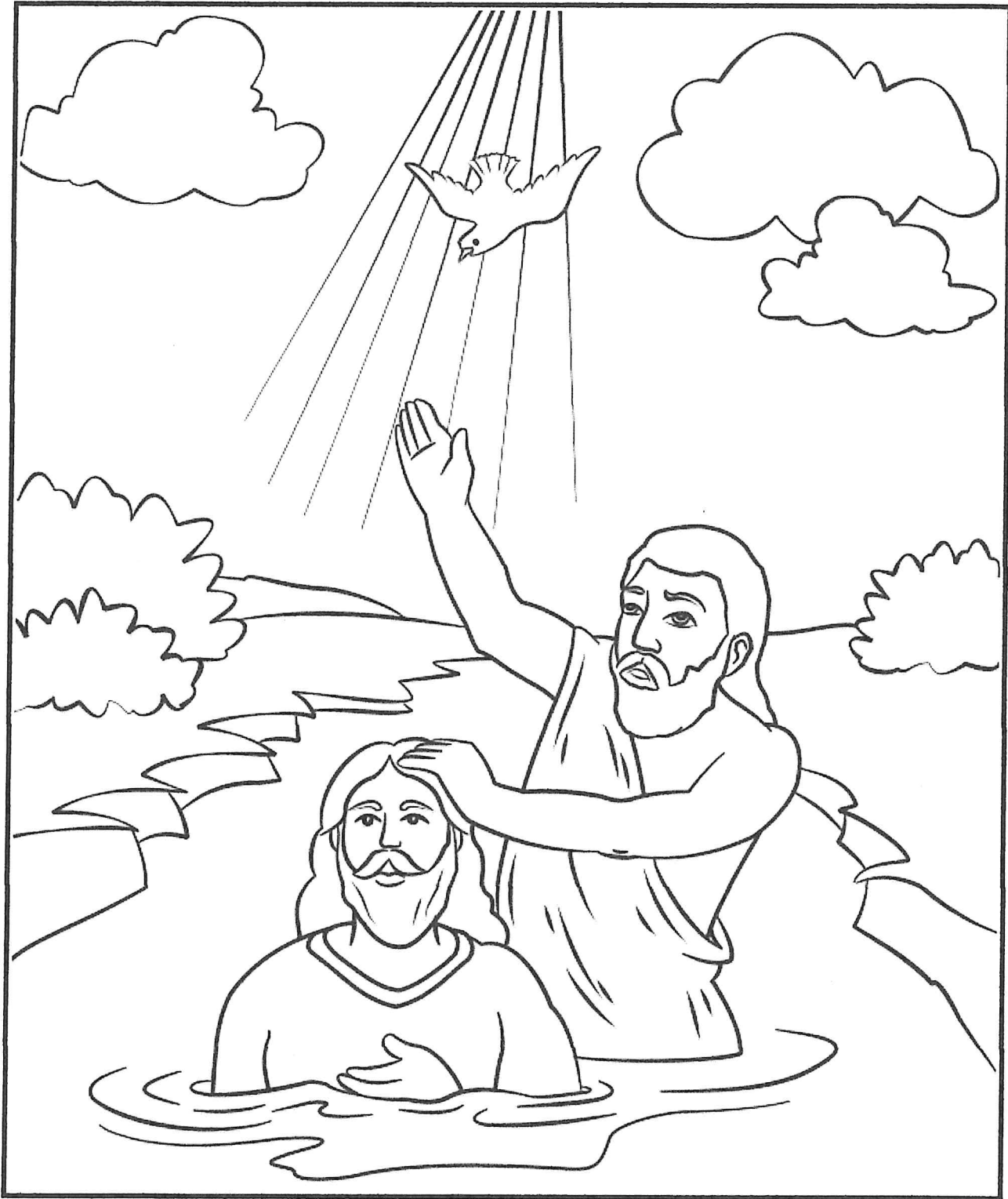


John

*but I must decrease*



# JOHN THE BAPTIST

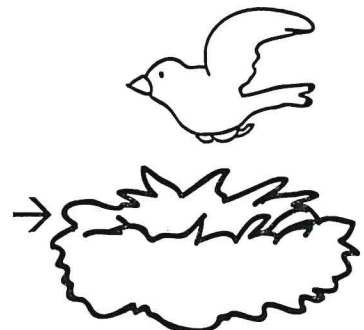
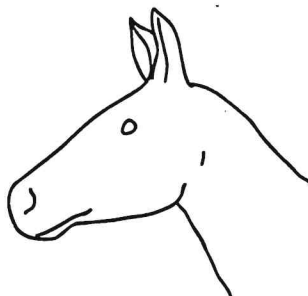
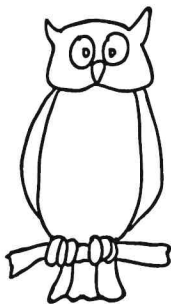


***Prepare the way for the Lord!***

# Zechariah Speaks

On the blanks below each picture, children write the first letter of the object in the picture.  
Children color pictures.

**Zechariah could not speak until the day his son was born. Write the first letter of each word to find the name of the baby.**



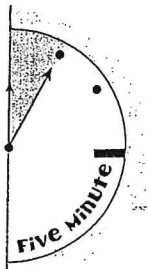
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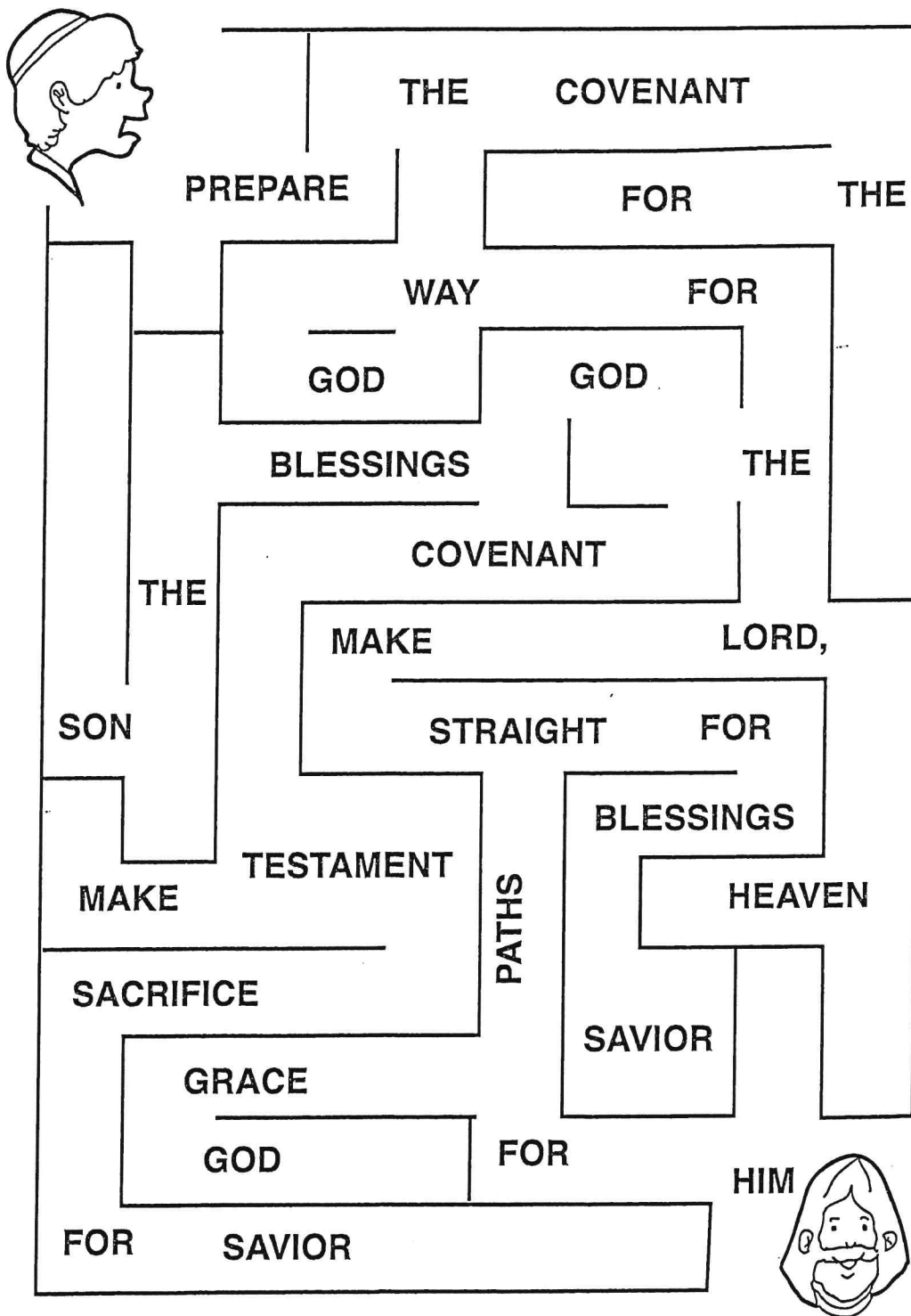


# John the Baptist Maze

Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
~ Matthew 3:3

**F**

ollow the path to Jesus. Why do we not want to follow a crooked path? Read the words in the correct path through the maze.



*He must increase, but I must decrease.*  
*John 3:30*

