

13 - 19 December 2020

Mystery of the Messiah

Present the reading & Talk together

Open the Bible at John 1.6-8,19-28

The priests and Levites come to try and find out who John the Baptist is, and what he is doing.

Show me the story!

Create the story scene using some props, e.g. make a river from tin foil or blue fabric, and use play figures to create a crowd along the riverbank. Place one figure in the river (John the Baptist), and several characters on the opposite side of the river (the priests and Levites) to the crowd. As you read, invite the children to act out the story with the figures – for example, the priests and Levites could walk up the river as John is baptizing people. Once you have completed your storytelling, invite the children to retell the passage, just using the props.



There was a man sent from God and his name was John. It was John's job to tell people about the light that was coming into the world.

John was not the light, but it was his job to tell people about it.

The Jews sent men from Jerusalem to speak to John. They were important men, priests and Levites, from the Temple. 'Who are you?' the priests asked John.

John replied, 'I am not the Messiah.'

And then the priests began to guess who John might be. 'Are you Elijah, then?'

'I am not,' said John. Elijah had died a long time before.

'Are you the prophet?' the priests asked.

'No,' said John.

The priests began to get annoyed. They had come all the way from Jerusalem to the river Jordan and John would not answer their question.

'We need something to tell the people who sent us,' said the priests and Levites. 'Who are you?'

John quoted to them from the book of Isaiah: 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord".'

The priests, who had been sent by the Pharisees, asked the man who had been sent by God, 'Why are you baptizing people then, as you aren't the Messiah, the prophet, or Elijah?'

John said to them, 'I baptize with water, but someone else is coming. I am not important enough to unlace his sandals. He is already standing among you, but you do not know him.'

Glossary

Levites helped the priests in the Temple;

Elijah an Old Testament prophet who received messages from God to pass on to the people.

Talk together

- Why does John want the priests and Levites to focus on Jesus rather than on him?
- How can we search for Jesus in our lives?
- What do we do that helps other people to find out about Jesus?