

Concordia Seminary - Saint Louis

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Table Talk: Family Devotions

Resources for Ministry

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012. Prepare the Way

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TABLE TALK

Prepare the Way

Prepare:

.....
As one person lights a candle, the family reads together: (based on Isaiah 40)

C: Prepare the way of the LORD,

R: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C: Every valley shall be lifted up,

R: and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed.

Read: Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight;’ ”

4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Reflect:

John attracted crowds and preached forgiveness yet pointed to someone even greater, Jesus. John’s role was to prepare the way for the coming of the Son of God. While we do not stand in the desert wearing camel’s hair and eating locusts, as Christians we play a similar role today, preparing the way for His return.

Take a moment to talk about what this passage (Mark 1:1-8) means for you as a family.

Now share with one another one thing you can do differently as a member of your family.

Pray:

.....
The head of the household prays:

Father of all mercy, we thank you for sending a messenger to prepare the way for your Son, Jesus. Help us to live lives like John, pointing toward Jesus and preparing the way for His return. Amen.