

## Advent 3 – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM  
OF CHURCHES



### Read Luke 3.7-18

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

Can you think of a time when someone told you to change the way you behave? How did that feel?



That is exactly what is happening in today's reading from St Luke's gospel. John the Baptist tells people what they should do in order to have a new life with God. He says that a person who has lots of possessions or food should share them with people who have very little. He says that people should be honest, treat others with respect, and be content with what they have. How do you think the people felt when they heard John say these things?

John reminded everyone that the Messiah was coming, who would have power from God to separate good from evil. John was the messenger from God who passed on this good news. The word "gospel" means good news, so the gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are passing on the good news from God. The good news is that God loves us so much that he sent his son, Jesus, to be a human being and live on earth.

At this time of year we are getting ready to celebrate Christmas, the good news of Jesus' birth. Are there ways in which you can pass on this good news to others, like John the Baptist did? Getting ready for Christmas is not just about buying presents and putting up decorations. It is also about talking to God and thinking about how we can be more like Jesus in the way we live, following some of the advice that John gave to the people who asked him questions. How are you getting ready for Christmas?

### Activities

- Take time to think and pray about John's words to the groups of people. Now write one example of a 'Do...' that Jesus might be asking of you to change or do differently, and one 'Do not...' about another aspect of life. Put them somewhere to remind you to try and live in this way.
- Share some of your good fortune with others by donating some food to a food bank or taking an item to a charity shop this week.
- The newspapers seem to be full of stories of disasters or problems. Get a copy of a newspaper and look for "good news" stories. Cut out some of these stories and say a prayer of thanks to God for these signs of good things in the world.

### Prayer

Loving God,  
make us aware of your good news today.  
Fill our hearts with the joy of knowing Jesus,  
and help us to follow his example in our lives. Amen