

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 16-18-5-1-3-8 _____
- 2-1-16-20-9-26-5 _____
- 16-1-20-8-19 _____
- 4-5-19-5-18-20 _____
- 19-20-18-1-9-7-8-20 _____
- 12-15-3-21-19-20-19 _____
- 16-18-5-16-1-18-5 _____
- 8-15-14-5-25 _____

BAPTIZE	PREPARE	STRAIGHT	LOCUSTS
PATHS	HONEY	PREACH	DESERT



WELCOME

Theme: John the Baptist prepares the way
for Jesus (Matthew 3:1-12)

Ready for the Christ of Christmas



CHRIST CHURCH, LILLE
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Today we're going to talk about what it means to be ready.

What does it look like when we're ready?

That's right! Being ready means that we are patient, we wait, and we watch.

Are you ready for Christmas?

You will hear that question many times over the next several weeks. Let's find out what people mean when they ask that question.

Is your Christmas tree is up and your house decorated.

Have you finished your Christmas shopping.

There's another question that we should be asking ourselves today. It's more important than "Are you ready for Christmas?" The more important question is "Are you ready for the Christ of Christmas?"

Many years ago, a man named John the Baptist preached about what it means to be ready for Jesus. Are you ready to answer a question?

What do you think it means to be ready for Jesus?

John the Baptist was a different kind of man. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a belt around his waist. His diet was rather unusual as well. He ate a diet of locusts and wild honey. Do you know what a locust is? Many of us today might call it a grasshopper. I'm not sure I would want to eat grasshoppers and honey. How about you?

John the Baptist traveled throughout the wilderness of Judea. His message to the people was to get ready for Jesus. John would shout loudly, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Are you ready for Jesus?

Many people were ready for Jesus. So they came to John the Baptist. They confessed their sins to God and were baptized by John in the Jordan River.

After John baptized the people, he told them, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But there is one coming who is more powerful than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Are you ready for Jesus this Christmas?

During this special season of the year as we get ready for Christmas, you and I need to make sure we're ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look

into our hearts and ask God to make us clean so we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that now.

Let's pray: Dear God, we want to be ready for the Christ of Christmas. Prepare our hearts for his coming. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

