



## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

THEME: WONDER!

### FOR THE TEACHER:

*Nothing sums up the expectation of Christmas better than the word, wonder. Children become engrossed in the story of Christmas; in the receiving of presents from Santa Claus; they marvel at the Christmas lights and decorations in the towns and cities, on houses and in homes. There can be different smells and sounds – baking and cooking, Christmas Carols. As adults, a distinctive smell or sound can transport us back to our own childhood. As the American writer Garrison Keillor puts it: “Childhood is the country we had to leave behind and at Christmas we get to go back and try to speak our very first language.”*

### A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST LUKE

1: 39-44



A short time later Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah’s home, where she greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, her baby moved within her. The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:

God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have. Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, my baby became happy and moved within me. The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise

### CHATting ABOUT THE GOSPEL



The Gospel tells the wonderful story of two cousins, Mary and Elizabeth. Although she was getting ready for the birth of the baby Jesus, Mary decided that the first thing she should do was to help her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also getting ready for a special baby. He would be John the Baptist and when he was older he would tell the people to prepare for Jesus. He would also baptise Jesus in the river Jordan.

- If you were visiting the house of someone who was getting ready for a baby, what could you bring?
- What do we bring when we visit our granny’s house?
- What do we bring when we go to a friend’s house?
- What are the ways we can be helpful at this time at home when there is a lot of work to get ready for Christmas?
- Apart from the presents, what are your favourite things about this time of year?

### SACRED SPACE

Place a small box wrapped in paper, representing the gifts that Mary may have brought to Elizabeth in your Sacred Space. This might be a small bauble or Christmas decoration; something associated with a baby – a soother, an article of clothing, a bottle. Think of something to represent John the Baptist - a baptismal candle.



### WORD JUMBLE

Unjumble the words below to find the message of John the Baptist

ERAPREP ERAPREP SUIUS SI GINCMO

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### WORD MAZE

A	P	B	N	W	E	P	Q	N	R
Z	Q	R	Y	I	L	M	A	R	Y
F	G	C	E	P	I	G	S	D	X
H	T	A	J	P	Z	L	O	J	H
J	R	Q	D	M	A	R	Y	E	F
K	J	P	Q	V	B	R	Q	S	G
J	O	H	N	L	E	L	E	U	O
P	Z	G	C	X	T	N	J	S	I
I	H	M	W	R	H	Y	T	U	O



**Prepare  
Elizabeth  
Mary**

**Jesus  
John  
Advent**