Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**
Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Meet John, the Baptist

The Angel Gabriel visits Zechariah. The angel tells him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. They are to name him John. Zechariah and Elizabeth are already old. But they know that only God could make that happen.

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John grows and stays up in the desert of Judea. He eats locusts and honey. He wears clothes made of animal skins. He wears a leather belt.

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John is a good man. He loves and obeys God. His job is to make people ready for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

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Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

John goes down to the Jordan River and preaches by the water. Crowds of people love to listen to his message. He tells them to repent. He wants them to be sorry for the wrong things they have done and not to do these again.

"That way," he says, "people are prepared to listen to and obey Jesus.

Then, John baptizes people who repent from their sins.

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Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**
Middle Elementary/Older Elementary Levels

Meet John, the Baptist

Part 1

Long time ago, an old man named Zechariah saw the Angel Gabriel. The angel declared that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son whom they were to name John. Zechariah and Elizabeth knew that John would be special. His birth was a miracle because his parents were very old when he was born - way too old to have a baby. Only God could make that happen.

John grew up in the desert of Judea. He had to learn to eat all kinds of unusual things because there was not much to eat there. He ate bugs called locusts and dipped them in honey. He wore unusual clothes, too! He wore animal skins instead of regular clothing. He was a good man. He obeyed God and always tried to do the right thing. God gave him a special job. John's job was to make people ready for Jesus to start preaching.

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Middle Elementary/Older Elementary Levels

Part 2

To prepare for Jesus' coming, John wanted the people to have good hearts. So, John taught them how to softentheir hearts. If they have a "soft heart" they will let God change their heart into the kind of heart that He wants. John knew that the people needed to have soft hearts so they would be ready to hear Jesus preach. If people had a "hard heart," they would never listen to Jesus and change their bad ways.

John went down to the Jordan River and preached by the water. Crowds of people loved to listen to his message. He talked about soft hearts and used the word "repent" a lot. To repent means one is sorry for doing the wrong thing and then he or she stops doing it. It also means to start doing what is right instead of the wrong thing. John said that the people must repent and to stop being selfish.

Part 3

The people ask him, "What are we do, then?"

John answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none and whoever has food must share it."

The tax collector asks him, "Teacher what are we to do?" "Don't collect what is more than legal and be fair like God," he told them.

Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us?" "What we are to do?" He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely; be content with your pay."

Then, John told everyone that they needed to be baptised in the Jordan River. The baptism would mean that they repented or stopped their wicked ways and started doing what is right. It would show that their hearts were soft and good.

People listened to John and repented of their sins. Lots of people were baptised in the Jordan River.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**
Middle Elementary Level

Read the set of letters. Encircle all the words related to the story of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist

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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**
Older Elementary Level

Read the story of John the Baptist. Then unscramble the following words. Use them in sentences.

1. ilvaeret _____

2. sJuse _____

3. telb _____

4. haibtleEz _____

5. shaesiM _____

6. hhcraiZea _____

7. gyinrc _____

8. widnesslre _____

9. csetarno _____

10. snmisio _____

11. oJnh _____

12. gKenidroH _____

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
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Youth Level

Read and share your thoughts and insights.

1. *Isaiah 40:3-5*. "The book of Isaiah was written by a great prophet who lived in Jerusalem in the latter half of eighth century B.C. Isaiah saw that the real threat of their nation, Judah, was their own sin and disobedience toward God and their lack of trust in him. It was going to be their doom and destruction if they would not listen to God. Our text summed up the mission of John the Baptist."

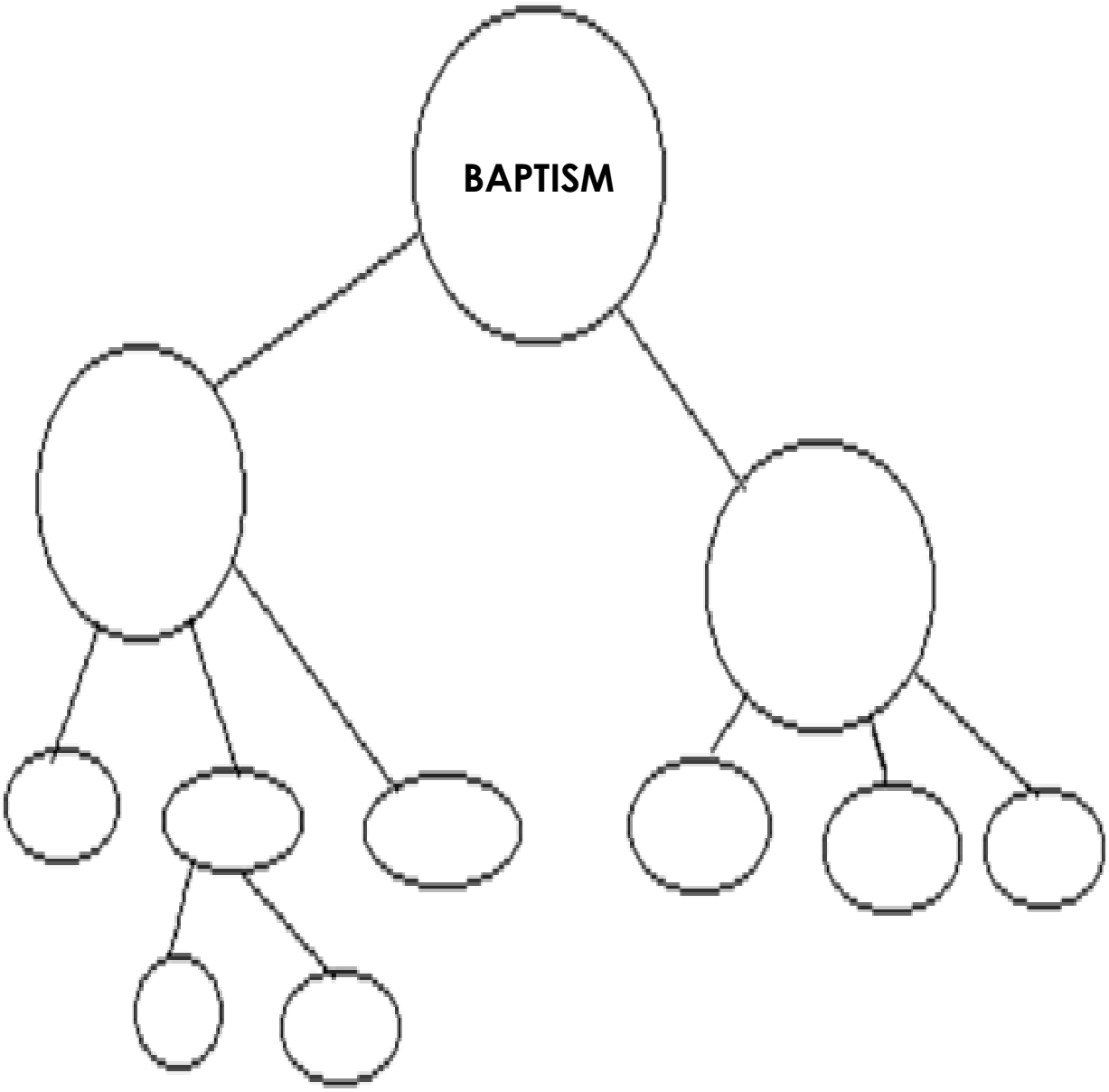
   Thoughts/Insights

2. *Luke 3:1-20*. Say: "Luke gives us the fullest life-story of Jesus in the Bible. His Gospel shows Jesus as the savior of all men; his coming, a world event. He lets us see Jesus as man. And his selection of stories reflects his own warm interest in people, especially the sick and helpless, the poor, the women, the children and the social outcast. Our text connects with the Isaiah text; John is preaching of the coming of the Messiah. Genuine repentance shows itself in daily life—in kindness, generosity, and honesty."

   Thoughts/Insights

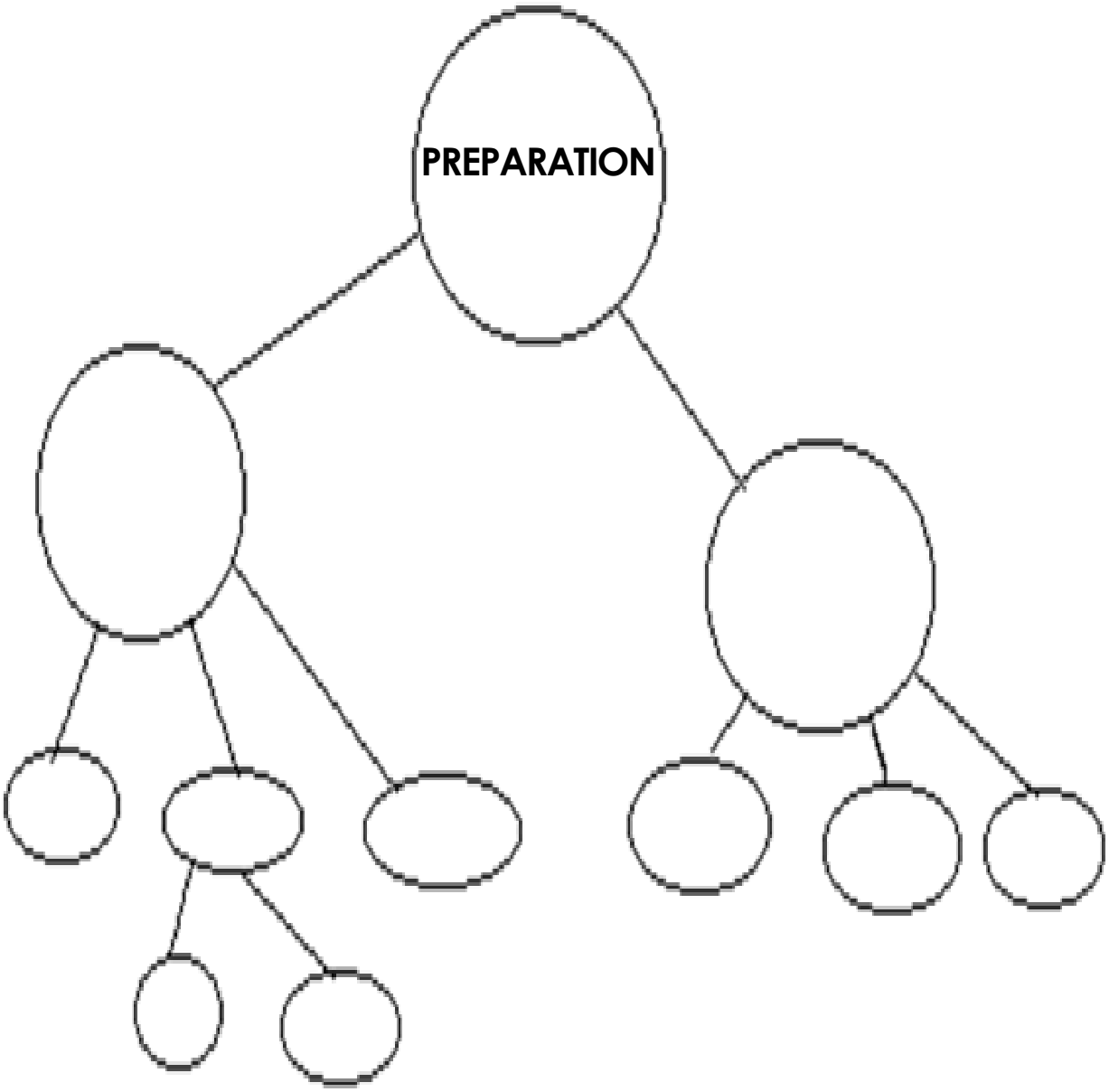
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**
Youth Level

Find your group and complete your concept web on baptism. You may do some research and the information that you have gathered will help you in completing the concept web.



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**
Youth Level

Find your group and complete your concept web on preparation. You may do some research and the information that you have gathered will help you in completing the concept web.



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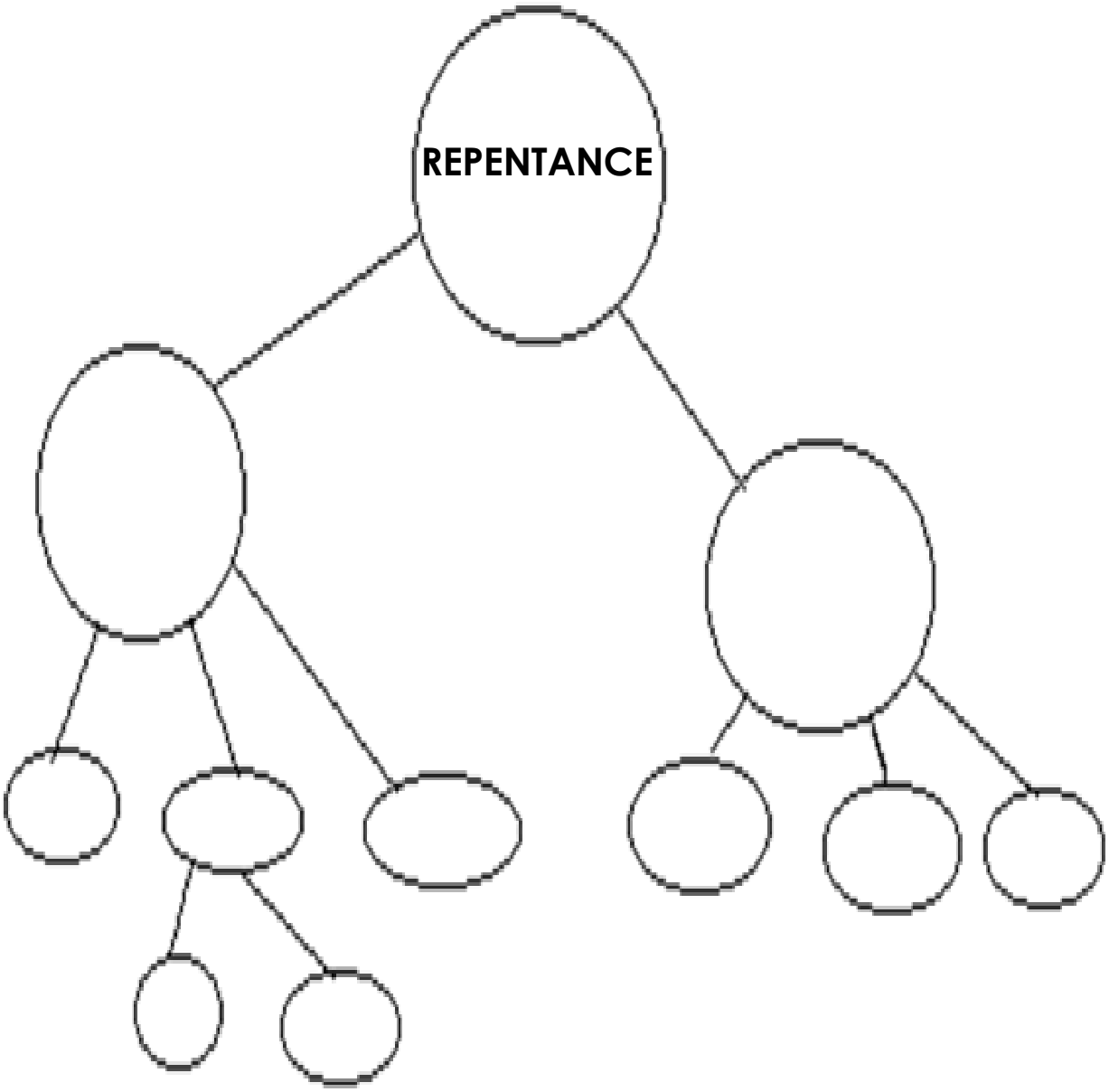
Youth Level

Find your group and complete your concept web on repentance. You may do some research and the information that you have gathered will help you in completing the concept web.