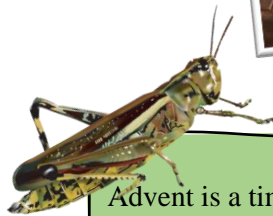


# FAITH IN THE WORLD- 7

Welcome to this resource for reflection and discussion. You can share this with your friends, (bearing in mind the current restrictions, this might need to be online) or you can share it with your family or you may choose to reflect alone.

Every fortnight, there will be an opportunity to explore different aspects of our world and to consider how the Christian faith can inform and challenge us as we live in the world. There will be some links to click on for videos and worship songs, and some prayer or meditation resources.



## PREPARATION AND WAITING

JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS From Matthew 3

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said,

"Someone is shouting in the desert, prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.....

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...."

Advent is a time of preparation, as we look forwards to Christmas and the birth of Jesus, but it is also a time of waiting; waiting for Jesus to return again. John the Baptist pointed the way to the arrival of Jesus and called people to prepare by turning back to God and confessing their sins. It was to be a new start for them, and baptism in the water, symbolised that new beginning.

Engage worship have made a short film about waiting and ask some questions in relation to waiting. You can watch it by clicking on this link.

<https://youtu.be/Fspit2l-ovg>

What are you waiting for?

What does waiting do to us?



What difference will it make if we slow down and wait patiently?

Preparation is vital to so many things that we do. We prepare for exams by revision which involves some repetition. This summer history was made by two astronauts who were trialling a brand new space craft called “Dragon.” Their destination was the international space station which you may have seen passing overhead. Their preparation period was years long, and very intense because of the huge risks involved. You can see them talking about why their training was so essential here:

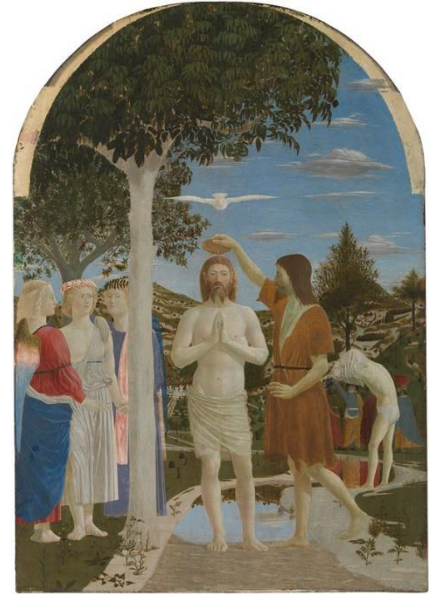
<https://youtu.be/RDgYJZfBMzc>

Tim Peake, a British astronaut gave an interview about his training for space flight which you can watch here.

<https://youtu.be/NsMcM3EedYA>



- What is most important to you, as you preparation for something?
- How do you mentally prepare for challenges?
- What could the consequences of poor preparation be?
- Is it helpful to have a plan before you prepare for a task?
- Do you have a routine for preparation?
- Does preparation give you more confidence?



A worship song about preparing the way for Jesus.

<https://youtu.be/HQpLH9BGC8I>



Advent has been described in these tiny poems. What does Advent mean for you?

One of the things Jesus did as he prepared for his ministry on earth, was to come to his cousin John to be baptised in the river Jordan. It was the start of a “new life” for him. When we are baptised (and later confirmed) we begin a new life as well. It symbolises our old selves and the wrong we have done, being washed away and a new chapter in our lives beginning.

The scriptures also tell us that one day Jesus will come to earth again, and all will be made new. In this time, everything that we long to be put right will be changed, and there will be justice and peace on earth for all people and hurt and pain will be gone.

People sometimes describe it as a play in a theatre. There is the beginning, the interval and the much hoped for happy ending!

- **What would you hope for most of all for our world?**
- **How can we live as hopeful people?**
- **While we wait in hope, how can we bring hope to others?**

