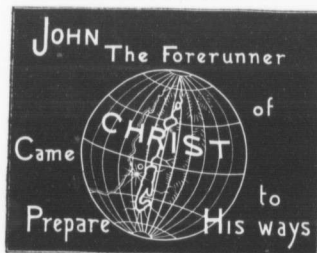


Jesus still needs to have those who, like John, will prepare the way for him. Wouldn't you like to be a torch shining in your own place, shining because Jesus has shed the light of his love in your heart, so you know how to show others the way to find him? Will you try this week to lead some one to Jesus?

Sing, "Jesus bids us shine."

SUGGESTIONS FOR COLORING. Globe, brown; title and map of Palestine on globe, white; "Came to prepare his ways," green.



Kindergarten Hints.

BY MARY J. CHISHOLM FOSTER.

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT. The Forerunner of Christ. Luke 1. 60-64, 76, 79, 80.

GOLDEN TEXT. "Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1. 76).

AIDS TO THE KINDERGARTNER. Holy Bible, Luke 1. 5-17; *Life of Christ* (Geikie), chapter 7; *The Temple* (Edersheim), "Morning and Evening Sacrifice;" *Sermon* (Dr. Payson), vol. iii; *The Oratorio, Woman of Samaria* (Bennett), "And blessed, blessed be the Lord God of Israel," choruses 3 and 22; *The Voice in Speech and Song* (Schmunk).

ATTENTION STORY.

It was a very beautiful song of praise that we read together last Sunday, and you remember we have talked of some of the men who loved God and believed that he would send Jesus into this world to show us how to be good. They all lived before the little baby Jesus came to this earth that night at Bethlehem, and many sweet songs of praise these men had sung, telling of the coming of Jesus.

Our story for to-day is about a forerunner of Jesus, which means a messenger to tell the people that he was coming. This man's name was John, and once he was a baby, too, just as all who are men now were little babies once.

The neighbors came in to see that baby, and they said that they would like him named for his father. Now his father's name was a long name, hard to speak; it was Zacharias, and his mother's name was Elisabeth. Do any of you know some one of that name? She said, "No, we will not call

him Zacharias, but John." Then the neighbors said, "Why, none of his uncles or cousins are named this name," and they asked the father what the name should be? Then he wrote this: "His name is John," and the people were surprised. This name means "gift of God."

His father then told all the people that this child was to go before Jesus, the Lord, and to prepare his way, telling the people that he was coming to give light and peace.

The little child John grew strong, and lived in the desert until he was a man. How he must have liked outdoor life!

Let us read the story from this book which has so many wonderful stories in it. [Read Luke 1. 60-63.]

Explain unusual words: "Kindred," "narrated," "prophet," "shadow," "guide," "waxed," "deserts."

OUTLINE.

Sunday. Attention Story, Bible lesson, and Golden Text.

Monday. Talk of the kindly interest neighbors have in each other, and explain the beauty of family life. Get the children interested in expressing themselves as to neighborly kindnesses being only one step beyond service given to each other in the family.

Tuesday. The teacher may lead the thought of the children to the next step of community interest which is found in the church. The old people, the young people, and the little children all like to go to church together. Ever since King David made the beautiful hymns about worship and praise in God's house, people have sung hymns of joy there.

Wednesday. Talk of the interest the neighbors, and; especially the father and mother, had in naming this baby. The father and mother chose the name which means "gift of God." Let all the families thank God for the gift of the baby to them. Have you a baby in your home? Do you love him much?

Thursday. The father knew that it would be the work of this baby, when he became a man, to prepare the people to welcome Jesus as the one to be their great Teacher and Saviour. Each one of you little boys and girls has a work to do in this world.

Friday. Talk of the light as a symbol of Jesus who was to be the Guide. Talk also of bravery and earnestness as qualities of a strong spirit.

NATURE WORK. Talk of the tongue in speech and taste. John's father had not been able to speak for a long time, but at last he spoke and praised God. Let the teacher dwell upon the wonderful power of speech which man has, and of this superiority over the brute creation. Talk of the tongue, of its possibilities and powers. "A wholesome tongue is the tree of life" (Prov. 15. 4).