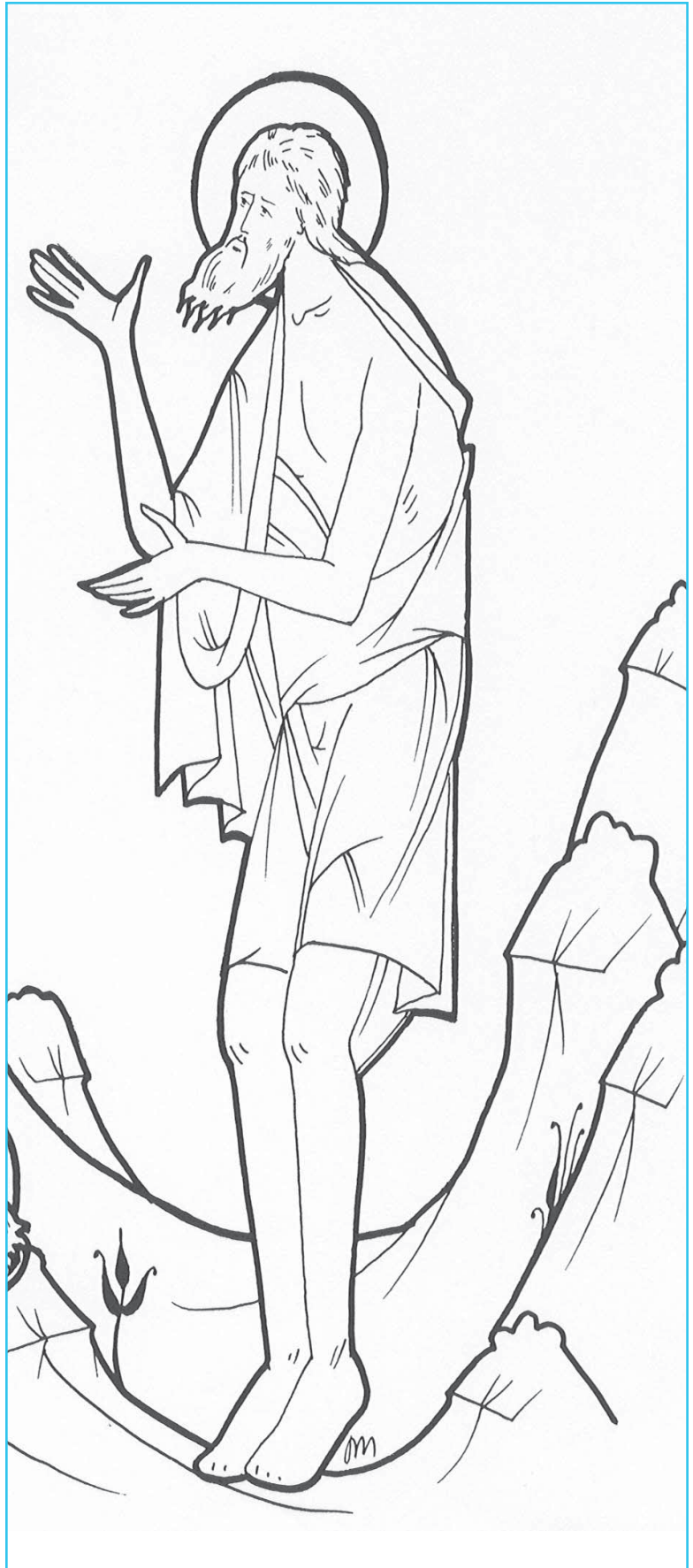


Jesus had a cousin named John. When John grew up, he learned that his job was to prepare people to listen to the savior of the world.

John stayed near the Jordan River. People who were sorry for their sins came to John. They asked him to baptize them in the river. They did this so they could be closer to God. John lived in the desert and wore rough clothing. He did not want anything fancy. He only wanted to serve God.

Some people saw how holy John was, and they thought he was the savior. John told them that one would come after him who was much more holy.



1. What was the name of Jesus' cousin?
2. What was his job?
3. John lived near a river. What was the name of the river?
4. What did people ask John to do?
5. Who did John serve?
6. We serve God when we come to church and receive Holy Communion.

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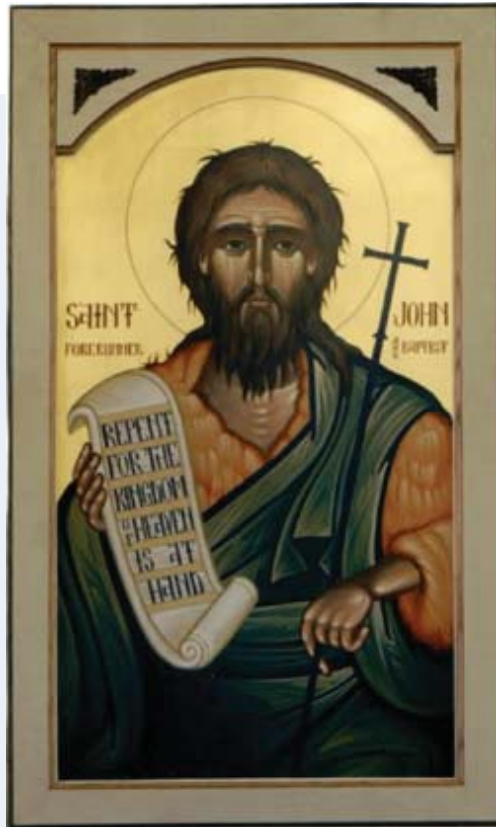
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The beginning
of the gospel of
Jesus Christ, the
Son of God.

As it is written
in the prophets,
"Behold, I send
my messenger
before thy face,
who shall prepare
thy way; the voice
of one crying
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ness: Prepare the
way of the Lord,
make his paths
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John the baptizer
appeared in the wilderness, preaching
a baptism of repentance for the for-
giveness of sins. And there went out
to him all the country of Judea, and all
the people of Jerusalem; and they were



baptized by him in
the river Jordan,
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Now John was
clothed with
camel's hair, and
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waist, and ate
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preached, saying,
"After me comes
he who is mightier
than I, the thong
of whose sandals
I am not worthy
to stoop down and

untie. I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy
Spirit.

1. What is baptism?
2. How does John baptize people in this story?
3. Who is John referring to in the last paragraph?
4. How does that person baptize people according to this gospel?

5. How does your priest baptize people?
6. What do we do on theophany? Why?
7. What does the water represent?

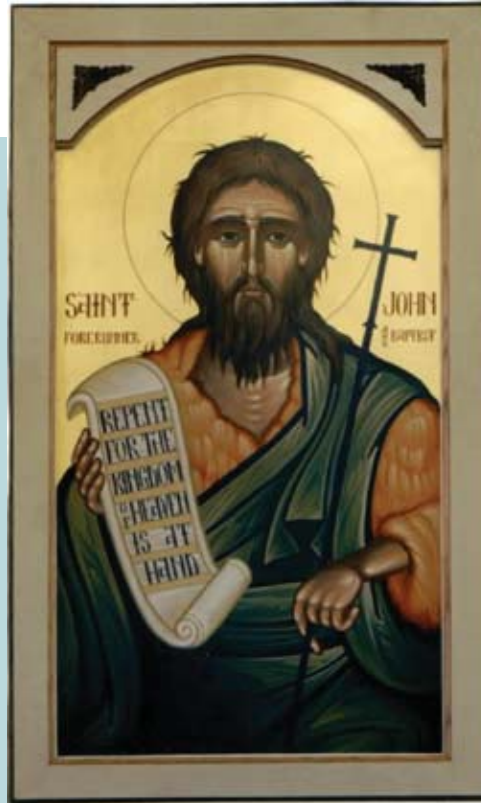
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1. Take a few minutes to write this story as a news report. What kind of picture might appear with your story?
2. How does your report present John?
3. How would your classmates react to John if he was your teacher?
4. How is this part of John's life preparing the way for Christ?
5. What does this suggest about how Christians should treat people who appear strange?
6. What do you think about that?

The beginning

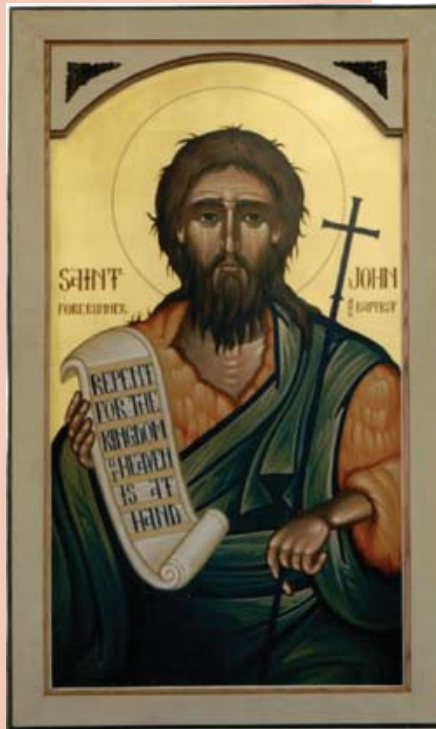
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2. How does your report present John?

3. How would you or your friends react to this kind of story if you saw it on television?

4. What does this say about preparing the way for Christ?

5. What does this suggest about being a Christian?

6. What do you think about that?