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Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 8, 2019

Second Sunday in Advent

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 3:1-12](#) [**Summary:** *John the Baptist Says "Repent"*]

Supplies Needed: 2 magnets - preferably large and different colors from each other (for viewing).

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- [*Hold up two magnets*] Can you tell me what these are?
- That's right. They are magnets.
- And can you tell me what magnets do?
- That's also right! They stick to metal (and attract metal items)
- Also, sometimes, they stick to each other.
- Like this [*show the two magnets connecting to each other*]
- But, if one of the magnets is facing the other way, then the two magnets no longer connect, instead they push away from each other, like this...
- [*flip one of the magnets around and try to put them together*]
- Can you see what's happening? [*wait for answers*]
- That's right – the two magnets just will NOT stay together. In fact, do you see how they push away from each other?
- [*If you want, let some of the kids try to put them together*]

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture story, we hear about John the Baptist who is telling the Israelites to get ready (or *prepare*) for the Lord (meaning: Jesus).

- John tells the people that one of the ways to prepare for Jesus is by "repenting."
- The Greek word that we translate into English as "repent" is called "metanoia."
- Can you repeat that word after me? *metanoia*
- "Metanoia" simply means, "To turn around"
- John is telling the people to turn around because, just like the magnets, if the people aren't facing towards God, if they are not paying attention to God, then they will have trouble connecting to Jesus. [*show the magnets repelling each other*]
- And John the Baptist doesn't want that to happen.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- John is trying to get the people to turn around so that they CAN connect with Jesus.
- And, if the people do connect with Jesus [*show the magnets connecting to each other*] then John says that they will receive God's Holy Spirit.
- And God's Holy Spirit is what helps the people from the Bible stories (and all of us here today, including you and me) share God's healing, blessing and abundance with those around us.
- This is the Good News for today – when we turn our attention toward Jesus, we can then connect better with Jesus, who then helps us to better receive God's Holy Spirit.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Help us to turn our attention to Jesus...

Help us to turn our attention to Jesus...

...so that we can better connect with Jesus...

...so that we can better connect with Jesus...

...and better receive your Holy Spirit.

...and better receive your Holy Spirit.

Thank you and Amen.