The Annual Nativity Play

Key Word: **Prepare**

Key Verse: This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ” *Matthew 3:3*

Roddy was depressed. It was the time of the annual nativity play. Roddy’s teacher called for volunteers to act in the play. There was no shortage of eager hands, so he sat back. When the main characters had been chosen, Roddy’s teacher began her pep talk with the class, assuring them that the choir was the most important part. Roddy continued to sit back. He realized the teacher was talking directly to him when he became aware of a hush in the class. “... important part of the work,” his teacher finished. Roddy assumed she had been talking about the choir.

“I *hate* singing!” he growled. “If you’d been listening,” she said, “you’d know I was asking you to be responsible for the scenery.” Roddy stared at her. What did she mean?

As though she’d heard his thoughts, she continued, “You’ll need a group to work with you, and to decide what scenery you’re going to use. Then you’ll be responsible for making it. Will you do it?”

Roddy felt excited. He loved making things with his hands, and he loved painting. He began to picture the scenes in his mind, and already he began to see exactly what he wanted to do. He nodded enthusiastically.

“One word of warning, Roddy. You are responsible for the largest part of the preparations. You need to make sure everything will run smoothly. If you get it wrong, the whole play will be a disaster.”

The day of the play, Roddy was really nervous. He was afraid the scenery would fall down, and the play would be ruined. But it went like a dream. He enjoyed the play more than he’d ever thought possible.

Afterward, everybody clapped for the cast and the choir. Roddy felt a bit left out. His work had been in the background, and nobody really noticed it. Then his teacher called him onto the stage. She said it was the best scenery they’d ever had, and the play had gone well because it was prepared so brilliantly by Roddy. It was the proudest moment of his life. He smiled and bowed to the audience, and felt like the herald who prepared the way for Jesus.

And he just couldn’t wait for next year!

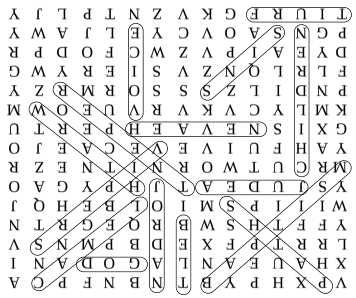
Questions

In the story, why wasn’t Roddy listening to his teacher?

Who does John the Baptist say is “coming after” him?

Answers

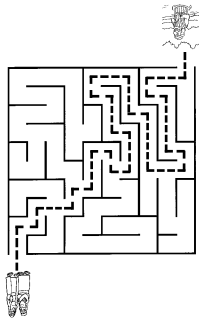
Word Find



Fallen Letter Puzzle

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Maze



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Gospel Grams 2

Today’s Gospel Story is from **Matthew 3:1-12**

Word Find

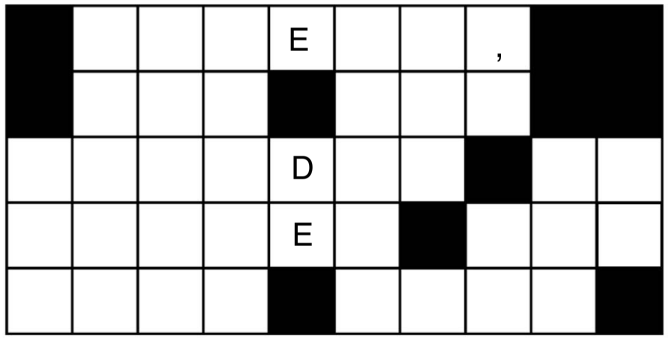
Here are thirteen words from today's Gospel story, Matthew 3:1-12. Some are printed upside down, backwards, or at an angle. One is done for you. How many others can you find?

Words to find:
BAPTISM
BELT
CAMEL
~~CHILDREN~~
FRUIT
GOD
HEAVEN
JORDAN
JUDEA
PATHS
REPENT
SINS
VIPERS
VOICE
WRATH

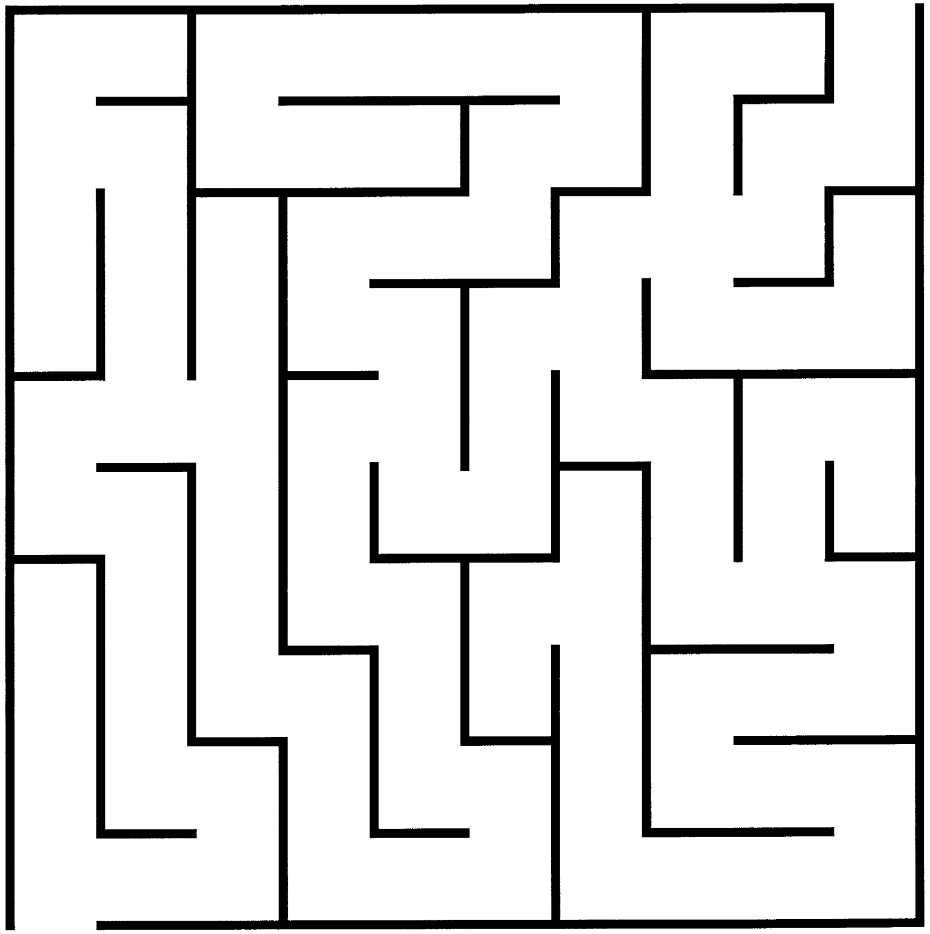
V	P	X	H	P	Y	B	T	N	B	N	F	P	C	A
X	H	A	U	E	A	N	L	A	G	O	D	A	N	I
L	R	R	T	P	F	X	E	D	B	P	M	N	S	V
Y	F	F	T	H	S	W	B	R	Q	E	G	R	T	N
W	I	I	I	P	S	M	I	O	L	B	E	H	Q	J
Y	S	J	U	D	E	A	T	J	H	P	Y	G	A	O
M	R	C	U	T	W	O	R	N	I	T	N	E	Z	R
Y	A	H	F	U	I	V	E	V	E	C	A	E	J	O
G	X	I	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	P	E	R	T	U
K	M	L	Y	C	V	K	V	R	V	U	E	O	W	M
P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

Fallen Letter Puzzle

Place one letter from each column into the spaces above to rebuild the words. The phrase is a verse in today's Gospel story, Matthew 3:1-12. One column has been done for you!



	R	M	R		N				
	I	N	E		T	E			
H	O	O	G	~~D~~	O	H	H	A	
K	F	A	V	~~E~~	N	T	E	O	S
C	E	E	P	~~E~~	N	M	A	R	F

Maze

In today's Gospel lesson, John the Baptist spoke to people from Jerusalem, from the province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. The people confessed their sins and he baptized them in the Jordan River. Help the people find their way to John the Baptist.