

# The Straight Furrow

Key Word: **Furrow**

Verse: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. *Mark 1:3b*

Sam was the envy of all his friends. His dad was a farmer, so he drove a tractor. On rare occasions Sam was allowed to sit in the tractor cab and even help drive. Sam's dad was entering a plowing competition, so he was spending quite a lot of time in the tractor practicing plowing in straight lines. Sam couldn't see why it mattered whether or not furrows were straight. He just liked to sit in the tractor and drive, without keeping a straight line.

When the day of the plowing competition came, Sam found he was as excited as anybody. It was a really great day out, with lots to see and do. Before the plowing competition there were sheepdog trials, the heavy horses, and all sorts of riding and jumping competitions.

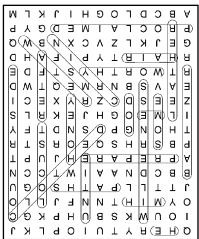
At last the time of the plowing competition arrived, and Sam found his heart beating fast for his father. Some of the entrants were very good, with hardly a wavy furrow among them. Even so, Sam knew his father was best of all. Sure enough, Sam's dad drove a perfect furrow, straight and true, and he won the Cup. Sam was so proud and excited. "I knew you'd do it, Dad," he told his father. "Ah," said his dad. "But do you know why?"

Sam shrugged. "Because you were best, that's why," he answered. His dad smiled, and shook his head. "No, of there were lots of others who were just as good as I was. I won because I believed in what I was doing, and that gave me the edge." "How do you mean?" asked Sam. "I believe it's essential to drive a straight furrow," explained his dad. "You see, a straight furrow gives the seeds the best possible chance to grow. They're spaced out properly. As soon as you get a wrinkle in the furrow, the seeds get bunched up and can't grow so well. I need my seeds to grow well so that they produce a good crop for harvest. I haven't been practicing driving my tractor just to win this competition, I've been practicing because I need that skill on the farm. Remember, Sam, whatever you're doing in life always drive a straight furrow if you want to produce good growth." And Sam did remember, all his life.

## Questions

Why did Sam's dad really want straight rows on his farm?

Why did John the Baptist ask us to make a straight path?

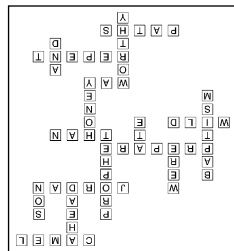


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PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,  
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

Letter Find

Answers



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