

Preparing Well

Key Word: **Prepare**

Key Verse: ... repent, and believe in the good news. *Mark 1:15b*

Zebedee was nervous. He had been chosen to sing a solo in church with the adult choir. He knew all the words, and all the notes, but he was still nervous. He practiced the song over and over. He wanted it to be just right. After all, he wasn't just singing for his parents, or his friends, or his church family, he was singing to praise Jesus!

At practice on Wednesday before the song was scheduled, Zeb stood up to sing and his voice cracked a bit. Then he got really scared. What if he cracked at church on Sunday? What if he forgot the words? What if he tripped going up to stand with the choir? What if...?

By the time he had brushed his teeth and gotten into bed that night he had convinced himself that someone else would do a better job and he should back out. He called to his mom. "Mom, come here, please. I need to talk to you!" he shouted. His mom listened carefully and quietly as

he told her about his fears. When he finished she leaned over and kissed his forehead.

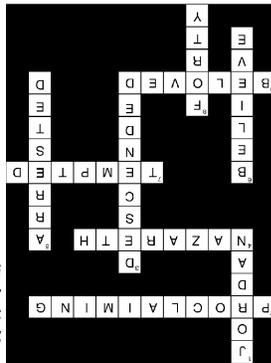
"Zeb," she said, "the choir director chose you. She knew you were right for the song. Your voice is right for it, but more importantly, you sing it from your heart. You truly are praising Jesus with the gift he has given you. Now, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and say your prayers. You will be fine on Sunday. Jesus will be helping you."

Mom was right. Zebedee sang beautifully and the congregation was full of joy and praise because of the beautiful music. He had prepared and prayed well.

Questions

What made Zeb so frightened?

How was Jesus tested in the desert?



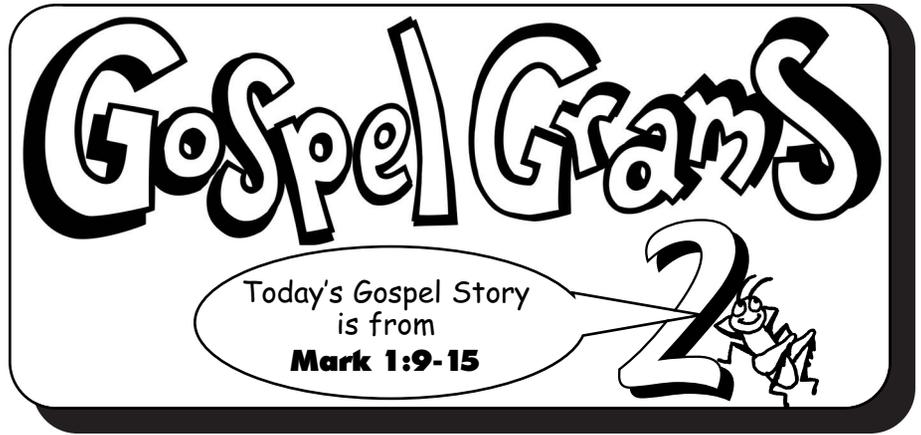
Letter Tile Puzzle
YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED.
WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED.

Crossword

Answers

Picture Differences

1. Flower
2. Arms
3. Bird
4. Bread
5. Belt
6. Mouth
7. Haystack
8. Hand Repositioned
9. Hill
10. Sandals



Letter Tile Puzzle

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message from today's Gospel story. Each tile has the same number of characters (letters, spaces, and punctuation). Spaces are shown as blanks in the letter tiles.

W	E		A	M		Y		S		E		B		V	E	D		Y	O	U		A	S	E
;	W		A	R		Y	O	P	L	E		E	M		T	H	O	N	,					
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Crossword Puzzle

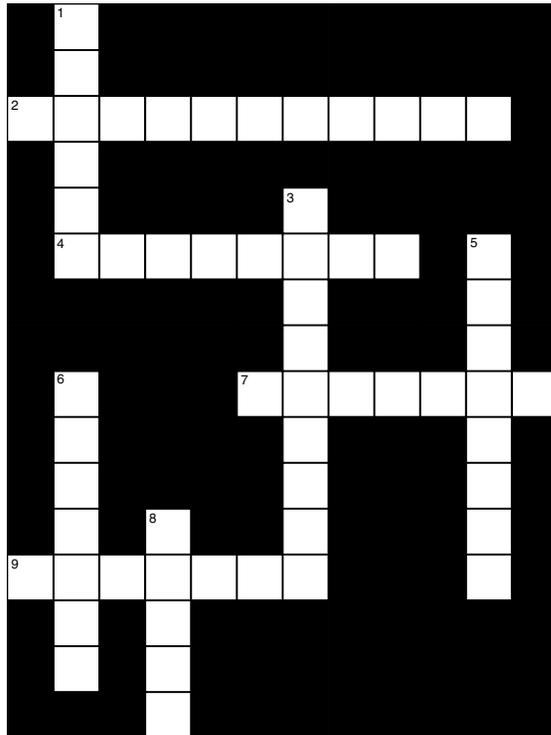
Fill in the blanks using the clues from today's Gospel story.

ACROSS

- Jesus was ___ the good news. (vs. 14)
- Jesus came from ___. (vs. 9)
- Jesus was ___ by Satan. (vs. 13)
- You are my son, the ___. (vs. 11)

DOWN

- Jesus was baptized in the ___ River. (vs. 9)
- The Spirit ___ from the heavens. (vs. 10)
- John was ___. (vs. 14)
- Repent and ___ in the good news. (vs. 15)
- Jesus was in the wilderness for ___ days. (vs. 13)



Picture Differences

In the Gospel story pictures below there are 10 differences. Circle each one as you find it.

