

**NOW,
RIGHT
AWAY!**

12

W

WORD OF LIFE

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Lk 3:4)

In depth...

During the season of Advent we are invited to live a new Word of Life. It repeats the words of St. John the Baptist who announced that Jesus would come soon. The Church, in this period before Christmas, invites us to rejoice because, as John the Baptist told everyone, the King is coming! **God will fulfill his promises, forgive sins and grant salvation.**

But even though this Word of Life gives us joy, it also asks us to make a complete and radical change in the way we live.

John the Baptist tells us to prepare the way of the Lord – **but what does this mean? What is "the way of the Lord"?** Before starting his public life and his preaching, Jesus spent time in the desert. That was *his* way. In the desert he found deep union with his Father, but he also had temptations. By going through that trial, he made himself one with all of us who go through difficult moments. **And he came out victorious!**



Jesus used the same way during his death and resurrection. He went right to the end, and he became THE way for all of us who are still on the road.

As human beings, we are called to live in full communion with the Father – and Jesus himself is the way we have to follow to reach this goal and totally fulfill ourselves.

How can we prepare the way for him?

By removing every obstacle, one by one, such as our limited way of seeing things, or our weak will.



We have to have the courage to choose between our way and his way for us, between our will and his will, between the plan we have for ourselves and his plan, which is a result of his infinite love for us.

The saints are people who are totally fulfilled Christians. They teach us a good, practical, intelligent method to prepare the way, which is to **do it right now!** Moment by moment, trying to remove all the obstacles, so that it won't be our will, but his will living in us.

That's what happened to Stefan from India

Anyone can make a mistake
A little while ago, I was playing soccer with Rajiv and some other friends. At a crucial moment in the game, I missed a penalty kick. Of course my teammates were really upset with me and I got mad back at them. Rajiv, who is our captain, was *really* mad at me and called me all kinds of bad names. **That really hurt, and afterwards we refused to even look at each other. Then after a few days, I couldn't take it any more and I realized I had to forget the past.** So since we were preparing for an art test, I saw that Rajiv was having a very hard time drawing the pictures. I thought that this was my opportunity to take the first step. He looked at me with surprise, but was very happy for my help. Then we started to talk and he told me that anyone can make a mistake and that he had been wrong too when he called me names. **Since then we are very good friends again.**

Play and Learn

Mark down how many times we removed an obstacle along our way towards Jesus.

A path with obstacles (rocks) and a goal (star). There are 10 circles along the path for marking progress.

www.teens4unity.net