

Children's Sermon for Dec. 8 (based on Mt. 3:1-12)

Items needed: paper, a brown and a green crayon or marker, scissors. (Optional extra: set of large garden clipping shears.)

Beforehand, use the crayons to draw a large picture of a tree, with the green part rounded. After kids come up, show picture of the tree. Does this look like a Christmas tree? No. What do Christmas trees look like--point to tree in the sanctuary, if you have one. Christmas trees look like a triangle, pointing up towards Heaven. That is because, while Christmas trees are growing, someone comes and cuts off parts of the tree's branches, so what's left becomes a triangle, pointing up towards Heaven. (Use scissors to "trim" your tree drawing, so it looks like a Christmas tree. If you have the garden shears, take them out and explain they are what's used on real trees.) In today's Bible reading, John tells people to "repent." Repenting is like cutting off parts of a Christmas tree, so it has the right shape. Just like you want a Christmas tree that points up towards Heaven, God wants my life to point up, towards God, For that to happen, I need to repent-- to cut out things in me that don't point towards God, things like greed, jealousy, and hate. When you see a Christmas tree, remember that God hopes that our lives will point towards God, like when we show kindness, patience, and forgiveness.

By Rev. Dave Quinn