Name: _____

QUICK LESSON

Comfort First

BIG IDEA	God speaks comfort first; repentance is our response to his promise.
READINGS	Isaiah 40:1–2; Mark 1:4–5

1 The first word

Isaiah 40:1–2 "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. "Speak comfortably to Jerusalem; and call out to her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins."

1. **Exiles who had failed God hear his first word. What is it, and why is it surprising?**

2 The road comfort builds

Mark 1:4–5 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. All the country of Judea and all those of Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan river, confessing their sins.

1. **How does John’s call to repent relate to the comfort of Isaiah 40:1–2?**

2. **Where do you need to hear “Comfort” this Advent?**

3 Pray

Lord God, you speak comfort to your people and pardon our sin. Make straight in us a way for your Son, and keep us trusting your Word, which stands forever. Amen.

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