

# 1

## Special Announcement: Good News!

ISAIAH 61:1-2a; LUKE 4:16-21



### GOAL

Children hear the story of Jesus reading Scripture in synagogue worship and explore ways of sharing good news.

- A** Art
- AM** Active/Movement
- C** Conversation
- D** Drama
- F** Food
- G** Game
- M** Music
- NS** Nature/Science
- QC** Quiet/Contemplative
- S** Service
- T** Technology
- X** Extra Prep

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.



### PRAYER

Holy God, open me to receive your message of good news and to share that good news with these children. Amen.

## THIS SESSION

Announcing, or sharing, good news is something we like to do. What some consider good news may be challenging to others. The good news of a baby may be welcome by all but may feel like an intrusion to a soon-to-be older sibling. The prophets had good news, hopeful news, to give people as messengers of God, but it was challenging news for those whose way of life it threatened to change.

## THE BIBLE STORY

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' first sermon took place in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. He was asked to read the Scripture. He read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, describing the new kingdom; a kingdom that will be marked by justice and mercy for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed and imprisoned. He proclaimed that his mission was to announce the good news of the coming of this kingdom for all God's people. This was not exactly what the people of Nazareth expected.

## CONNECTIONS WITH CHILDREN

Young children love to share good news. They like the excitement and want to experience their pleasure in the news they tell. There is an immediate sense of gratification that their good news has been heard and received. Advent, a season of the church year, is full of good news, but it is also a time of waiting and expectation. For young children, this may be one of their early experiences with the church year. All around them they see the excitement of Christmas, but the church sets a different pace. Stories are told that begin with announcements of new and exciting things for God's people, but there is no immediate gratification.

## SESSION PREPARATION

- "Good News Banner" (p. 8): Cut out letters that spell GOOD NEWS using a sheet of white card stock or construction paper for each letter.

Depending on the options you choose:

- "Making a Scroll" (p. 9): Make copies of Resource Page 4 on buff or tan paper. Obtain two 10"-12" dowel rods for each child. Cut ribbon into 12" pieces, one per child.
- "Using Our Hands" (p. 10): Obtain the *Go Tell* infographic poster ([bit.ly/FMInfographicPosters](https://bit.ly/FMInfographicPosters), Year 2 Set). Familiarize yourself with the sign-language motions to "Jesus Loves Me" using Resource Page 5 and/or the YouTube video "Jesus Loves Me Sign Language Virtual Choir 31 May 2020" ([bit.ly/FMJesusLovesMeASL](https://bit.ly/FMJesusLovesMeASL), 1:59).
- "Good News Newspaper" (p. 10): Obtain a newspaper.



## GETTING STARTED

- ☐ Prepared white card-stock or construction paper letters that spell GOOD NEWS
- ☐ Markers and/or crayons
- ☐ Mural paper, long enough for the GOOD NEWS letters and further additions in sessions 2, 3, and 4
- ☐ Glue sticks or tape



Keep the Good News banner for sessions 2, 3, and 4.

### GOOD NEWS BANNER

A C

Greet the children as they arrive. Place the letters that spell GOOD NEWS on the table and invite the children to color the letters with lots of colors. Children may work on any letter and work on letters together. As they are coloring, tell the children that the letters spell the words “GOOD” and “NEWS,” as you point to each letter. Wonder what good news they have to share about their week. When the children are done coloring, have them attach the letters to a piece of mural paper. Display the banner and tell the children that in the next three sessions they will add to it.

### TELLING THE GOOD NEWS

AM

Gather the children in a circle. Invite them to repeat your words and motions using the beginning of the refrain of the song “Go Tell It on the Mountain.”

Go tell it (*cup hands around mouth*) on the mountain (*make a mountain peak with hands*), /

over the hills (*move hand up and down as if moving over hills*) and everywhere (*open arms wide*). /

Go tell it (*cup hands around mouth*) on the mountain (*make a mountain peak with hands*), /

Wait! (*hold up right hand, palm out*) /

Go tell what? (*raise hands palms up and shoulders*) /

Jesus (*touch middle finger of right hand to left palm, then middle finger of left hand to right palm*) brought good news! (*wave hands in the air*) /



## INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

- ☐ Pictures cut apart from Resource Page 1

### WHAT’S THE GOOD NEWS?

C

Hold up a picture cut apart from Resource Page 1 and then pass it around so everyone can see it. Ask the children to describe what is happening in the picture using the following questions:

- Who is in the picture?
- What is going on?
- What might be the good news in this picture?
- What clues did you see in the pictures that helped you decide what the good news may be?
- Who might like to hear this good news?
- How might you tell others about the good news in this picture?

Repeat the process and questions for each picture. Comment that good news is good to share. Wonder how sharing good news makes them feel. Tell the children that today’s story is about a message of good news for God’s people.



## FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

### HEARING THE STORY

C

Set the stage for the Bible story. Show the children the Bible and flip through pages of the Old Testament while you explain that part of the Bible tells stories about God's people before Jesus was born. Then flip through pages of the New Testament and comment that the second part of the Bible tells the stories about Jesus and his followers.

Turn to Isaiah 61 and tell the children that, long before Jesus was born, God gave God's people a message through the prophet Isaiah. Explain that a prophet is someone who speaks God's message to people, and the words of Isaiah had been written down for God's people to read and hear for many years. Then turn to Luke 4 and tell the children that, in the book of Luke, there are stories about Jesus' life.

Read aloud the adapted Bible story from Isaiah 61:1–2a and Luke 4:16–21 from Resource Page 2. Reflect on the story with the children using the questions below. Begin with some questions to check for understanding and then ask the open-ended questions. Allow the children to ponder for a moment and encourage them to wonder by wondering with them.

- What were some of the things that Isaiah told God's people when they were sad and discouraged?
- Many years after Isaiah spoke to God's people, who read Isaiah's words and said he was the one God had sent to bring good news?
- How do you think Jesus felt standing up in front of all those people reading Isaiah's words?
- What do you think the people listening to Jesus were thinking?
- How do you think Jesus would bring good news to people?

- 
- Bible
  - Resource Page 2



## FINDING THE PRACTICE ALL AROUND US

Choose one or both options.

### MAKING A SCROLL

A

Tell the children that, in Jesus' time, the Scriptures were not in a book like we have, showing them a Bible. Explain that the stories about God and God's people were written on large scrolls that were rolled up and then unrolled during worship time to read, showing Resource Page 3. Provide copies of Resource Page 4 and crayons. Tell the children that they will make a scroll with the important words that Jesus read. Invite them to decorate their scroll. Help the children tape a dowel rod at each end of their scroll. Show them how to roll the scroll from each end and tie a ribbon around it. Encourage the children to take home their scrolls and share the message of the good news that Jesus read.

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- Bible
  - Resource Page 3
  - Copies of Resource Page 4 printed on buff or tan paper
  - Crayons
  - Two 10"–12" dowel rods for each child
  - Transparent or masking tape
  - 12" piece of ribbon for each child

- Go Tell infographic poster (Year 2 set)
- Copies of Resource Page 5

## USING OUR HANDS

AM

Wonder together about all the different ways good news could be shared. Show the children the *Go Tell* infographic poster and invite them to point out different ways that good news has been shared, such as talking with people, learning in Sunday school, reading Braille, watching television, and texting. Wonder how the children might share good news with their bodies. Invite them to demonstrate.

Tell the children that there is a way that people communicate with one another using their hands. Ask the children if they or anyone they know uses sign language to communicate. If so, invite them to share their experiences with sign language.

Invite the children to repeat your words and motions as you teach them the signs for the song “Jesus Loves Me” using a copy of Resource Page 5. Practice several times so the children are familiar with the signs. Provide the children with a copy of Resource Page 5 and encourage them to take it home and tell the good news of Jesus’ love with their families using the signs they have learned.

To add music and singing with the signs, see “Singing the Good News” (below).



## PRACTICING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or both options.

- Hymnal with “Jesus Loves Me,” “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,” and “How Great Thou Art”
- Internet-connected device

## SINGING THE GOOD NEWS

AM M T

Tell the children that singing songs about good news is a good way to tell an announcement. Comment that there are many songs that tell the story of God’s good news for God’s people. Show the children the hymnal and explain that it is a book full of songs about God’s good news for God’s people, which is used in worship.

If the children learned the signs for “Jesus Loves Me” in “Using Our Hands” (above), point out that song in the hymnal and tell them that they will add music to their signs so that they can sing while they sign. Show the YouTube video “Jesus Loves Me Sign Language Virtual Choir 31 May 2020” ([bit.ly/FMJesusLovesMeASL](https://bit.ly/FMJesusLovesMeASL), 1:59) and invite the children to sing along with the children in the video and do the signs they learned.

If the children did not learn the signs for “Jesus Loves Me,” turn to it in the hymnal, as well as “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” and “How Great Thou Art,” telling the children the good news that is proclaimed in these songs.

Invite the children to dance and sing along with a song that is about a book that has all the stories of God’s good news: the Bible! Show the YouTube video “The Bible Song—Dance-Along with Lyrics—Kids Worship” ([bit.ly/FMBibleSong](https://bit.ly/FMBibleSong), 1:26).

- Newspaper
- Newsprint
- Copies of Resource Page 6
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils

## GOOD NEWS NEWSPAPER

C A

Show the children the newspaper and wonder what one finds in a newspaper. Point out headlines, stories, and pictures. Comment that the newspaper reports news that is sometimes good news and sometimes bad or sad news. Tell the children that they are going to make their own newspaper page of good news to share with others.

Provide copies of Resource Page 6 and drawing supplies. Suggest that the first thing they will choose is the name of their newspaper. Write the following suggestions, or ones of your own or the children's, on newsprint: Good News Gazette, Good News Times, The Good Morning News, The Voice of Good News. Point out where the title of the newspaper goes. Have them choose a name they like and write it on the lines provided. Assist with writing as needed. Write today's date on the newsprint and have the children fill in the date on their newspaper as well.

Then show the children where the story and the picture are on the newspaper page. Invite the children to draw a picture of the good news they learned about today in the picture spot. Have the children take turns telling a leader about the story that goes along with the picture and have the leader write their story in the story space provided.

At the bottom of the page, point out where the information about the writer of the article goes. Have them draw a picture of themselves. Invite the children to tell a leader three facts about themselves to go in the information box about the writer.

Display the children's newspapers in a place where the congregation can see them and read about the good news that the children have shared.



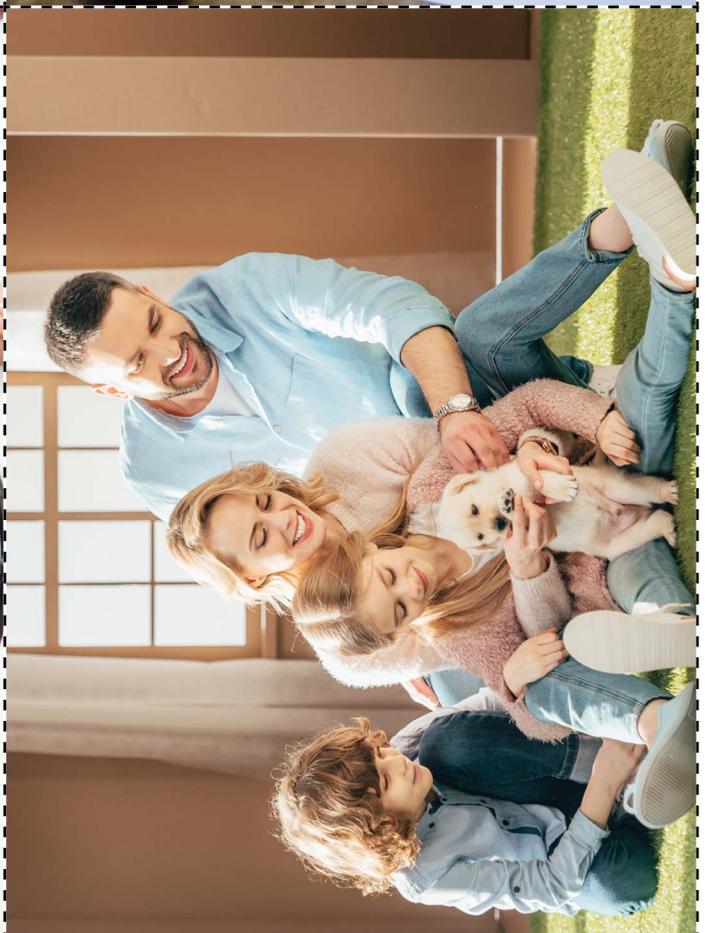
## FOLLOWING JESUS

### GOOD NEWS CHEER

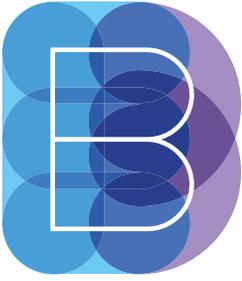
Gather the children in a circle. Invite them to repeat after you as you lead them in the following cheer, another way to announce good news!

We've got good news! /  
What's the good news? /  
Jesus is coming! /  
Now that is good news! /









## BIBLE STORY

### BASED ON ISAIAH 61:1-2A AND LUKE 4:16-21

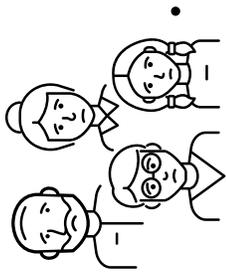
Long ago, long before Jesus was born, God's people were forced to leave their homes and their land. It was a sad time, and the people were sad and discouraged. The prophet Isaiah, a person who spoke God's messages to the people, told them that there would be a time when God would send someone to make things better for the people who were sad. This person would bring good news to those who had little. They would heal the hearts of those who were sad. They would set people free and tell everyone that God loved them.

Many years later, Jesus was born and grew into a man. Jesus had been traveling around the countryside teaching people about God's love, and every week he went to worship God, to praise God, and to hear God's word read from Scripture. One day, he was back in his hometown of Nazareth with his family and friends. When it was time for the Scripture to be read, Jesus was asked to read it. He stood up, unrolled the scroll, and read the words that the prophet Isaiah had spoken to God's people long ago: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news . . ." Jesus continued reading and then said that he was the one who would do these things! He was the one who would tell everyone the good news about God and God's love. And the people were all amazed at what he said.

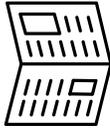




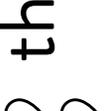




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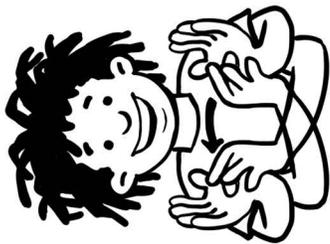
This  would heal the  of   .

This  would  and   that God   them.

**rebus key**

	someone/ person		Tell		hearts/ loved		set people free
	people who were sad		news		people who had little		everyone

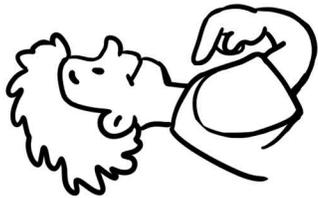
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.  
—Luke 4:18–19



JESUS



LOVES



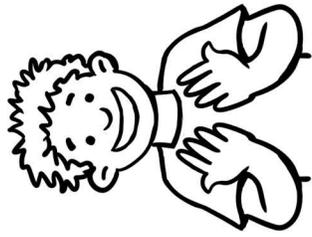
ME,

THIS I

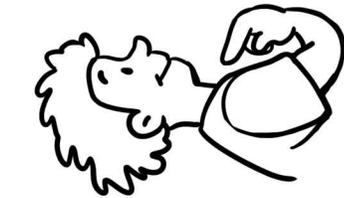


KNOW,

FOR THE BIBLE



TELLS



ME SO.



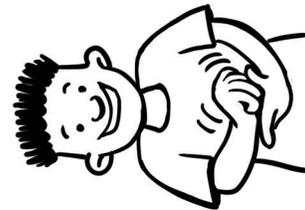
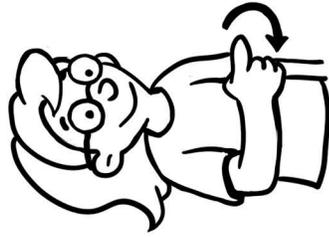
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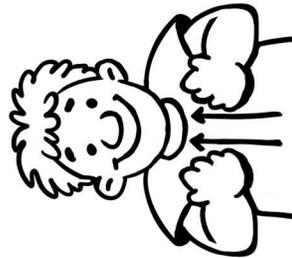
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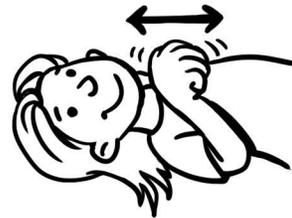
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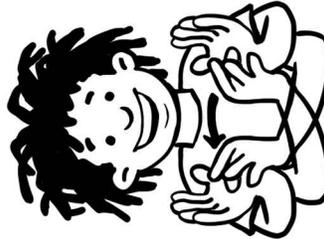
BUT HE



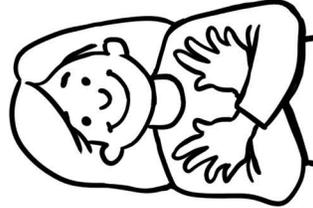
IS STRONG.



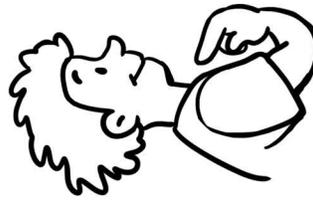
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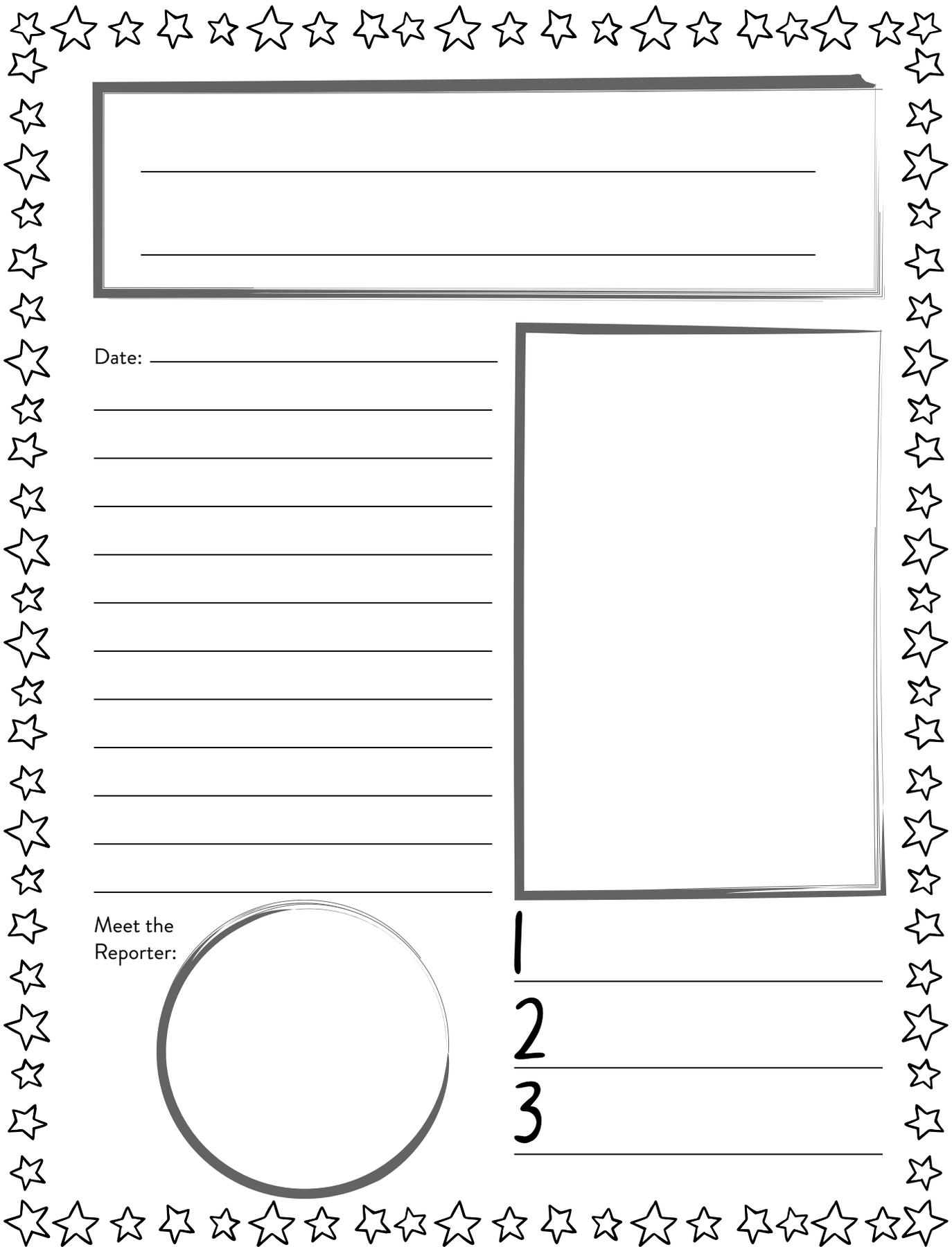
JESUS



LOVES



ME.



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Meet the Reporter:

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