

**1 Special Announcement: Good News!**

**WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME**

Announcing, or sharing, good news is something we like to do. Advent, a season of the church year, is full of good news, but it is also a time of waiting and expectation. There are announcements of new and exciting things for God's people but, like waiting to open a present that is under the Christmas tree, we need to wait. The good news of a baby that will change everything is a story that began long before the stable in Bethlehem. There truly is good news to tell!

- Read together *The Worst Christmas Ever* by Kathleen Long Bostrom (Flyaway Books, 2019) or watch "Mrs. Larison reads aloud "The Worst Christmas Ever" by Kathleen Long Bostrom" ([bit.ly/FMWorstChristmas](https://bit.ly/FMWorstChristmas), 9:08), a story about change and waiting. Although not about Christmas, another great book to read about waiting is "God's Coming to Visit" by Franz Hübner (Flyaway Books, 2021) or watch the YouTube video "God's Coming to Visit Read-Aloud" ([bit.ly/FMGodsVisit](https://bit.ly/FMGodsVisit), 3:43). Talk together about what good news you hear in the stories.
- Create a family announcement tradition when someone has good news to share. Ring a bell, make a banner, have a drum roll, or find another way to announce good news to one another.

Loving God, as we hear the message of good news, open us to share that good news with our friends and family. Amen.

**Note:** bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.

Unscramble the words to see the message from Isaiah that Jesus read.

E H T R I S P I F O

H E T L O D R S I

P O N U E M

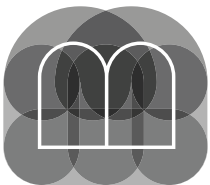
G U B E S E A H

A H S A E O N D I N T

E M O T N B R I G

O G O D E W N S

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring 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.

