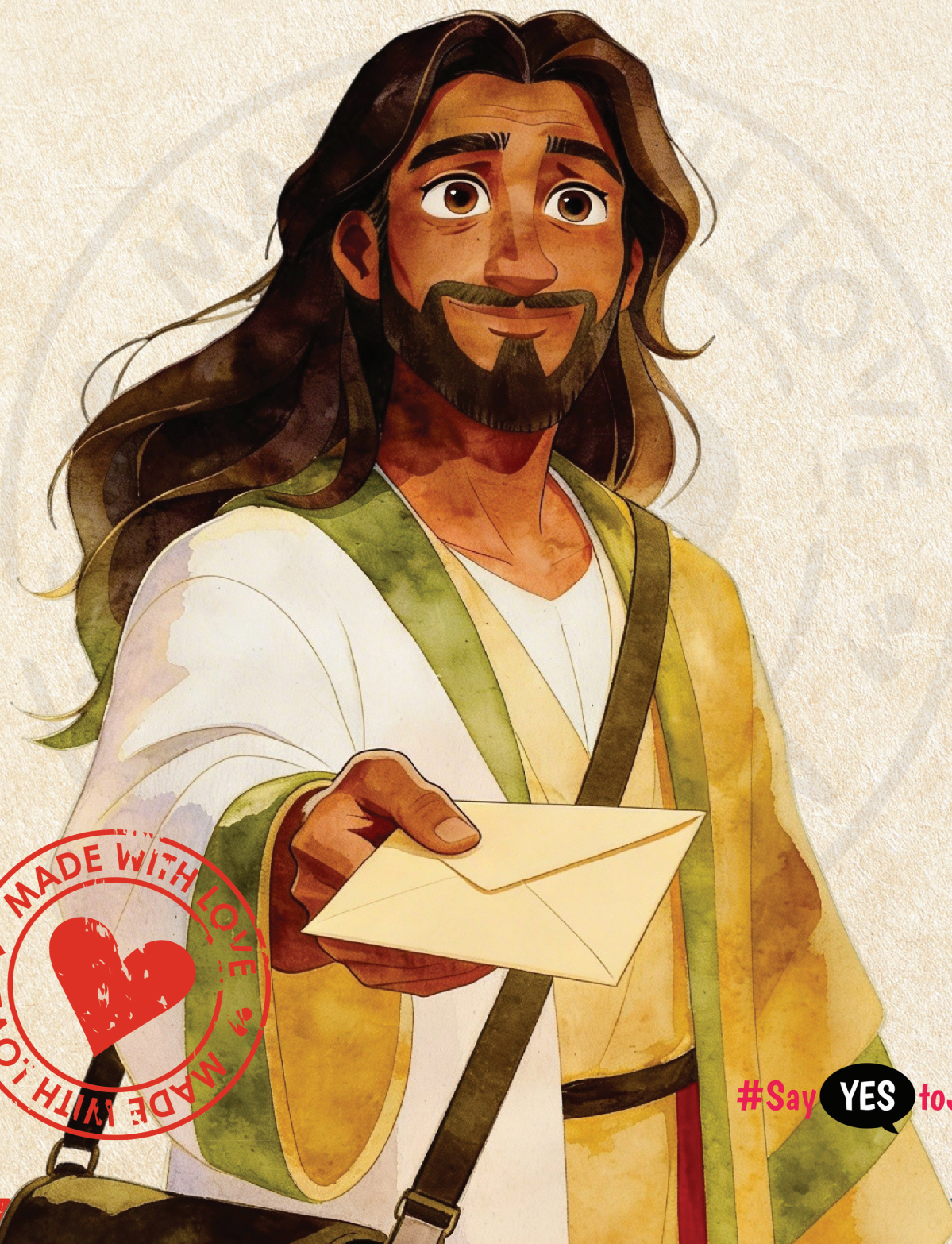


XoXo Jesus

MADE WITH LOVE & SENT FROM ABOVE!



#Say **YES** to Jesus

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

XoXo Jesus

MADE WITH LOVE & SENT FROM ABOVE!

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



North American Division
of Seventh-day Adventists®

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Children's Sabbath 2026 invites children, families, and the whole church to open their hearts — and their mail! — as we explore the life-changing truths found in the “letters” Jesus has written to each of us. Through storytelling, music, and intergenerational interaction, participants will discover six love letters from Jesus, each revealing a truth about who we are in Him: loved, known, forgiven, gifted, chosen, and part of God’s family. Rooted in 2 Corinthians 3:3, this program reminds us that we are living letters — written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God — sent out into the world to share His love.

Isaiah 41: 10 is the foundation and scripture verse for the program.

NIV and /CB for program scriptures



KEY VERSE

“You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.”

2 Corinthians 3:3 (NIV)



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Iconography



Key verse



Token



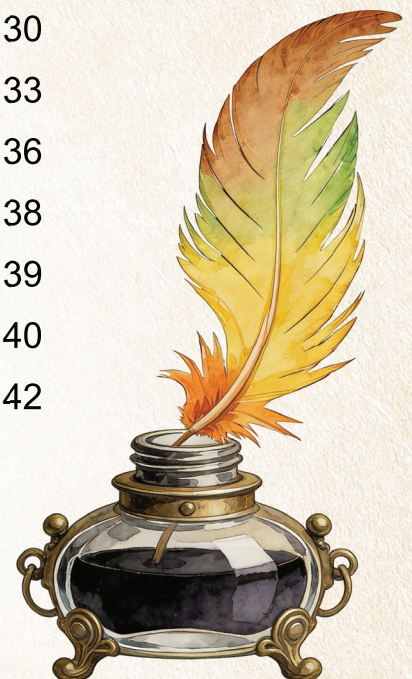
Notes



Supplies



Instructions



WHAT IS CHILDREN'S SABBATH?

Children's Sabbath is a special day set aside by churches worldwide to celebrate the incredible gift of children and the unique ways God works through them. This year's program, **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above**, invites children and families to discover the life-changing messages Jesus has written on our hearts — that we are loved, known, forgiven, gifted, chosen, and part of God's family. Children are encouraged to take active roles in worship through singing, reading Scripture, sharing stories, and leading in prayer. As we open these "letters from Jesus" together, our church family will be reminded that every generation is part of God's story of love. With thoughtful planning and participation, this special Sabbath can become a powerful opportunity to strengthen faith, build community, and share Christ's love with friends and neighbors.

WHY CHILDREN'S SABBATH?

Children are a vital part of your congregation — not just the church of tomorrow, but the living church of today. This year's Children's Sabbath, **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above**, celebrates the truth that Jesus has written His love on every heart, young and old alike. It invites children to take their place in worship as active participants, discovering through "letters from Jesus" who they are in Him: loved, known, forgiven, gifted, chosen, and part of God's family.

This special day provides a special opportunity to let children serve your congregation in meaningful ways; reading Scripture, leading songs, sharing stories, acting out scenes, or helping bring each letter to life. The program is designed with immersive activities, music, visuals, and short story style sermonettes that make it simple for every child who wishes to participate to have a role.

Children's Sabbath empowers young believers to use their gifts and voices for God, affirming their place in the body of Christ. Rooted in biblical truth and accessible for all learning styles, it encourages families to reflect together on identity, belonging, and purpose in Christ long after the service is over.

By giving children space to lead and share, we remind them, and ourselves, that they are not waiting to become the church; they are the church.

Each heart, stamped with love and signed "XOXO Jesus," becomes a living letter of His grace for the world to read.

INTERGENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Children's Sabbath is a fantastic opportunity for children and youth to connect with adults and seniors in their congregation — and for every generation to rediscover the joy of faith together. This year's theme, **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above**, invites the whole church family to open the "letters" Jesus has written on our hearts and celebrate the truth that we are all loved, known, and chosen by Him.

This initiative is perfect for meaningful mentorship and relationship building that is both fun and faith-filled. Every part of this special day reflects Jesus' call in Matthew 18:2–5, reminding us that to truly enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we must come with the humility and wonder of a child. This child-centered and Christ-focused experience not only strengthens the confidence of our children — assuring them that they matter, that they are seen, and that they are heard — but it also invites grown-ups to pause and rediscover the beauty of a childlike heart for Jesus.

So let's encourage everyone to join in this interactive journey, to make heartfelt connections across generations, and to respond to His invitation with joy and faith.

Let's say

#Say **YES** to Jesus



DEAR PASTOR AND COLLEAGUE IN MINISTRY,

Children's Sabbath is a day set aside by churches all over the world to highlight and affirm the gift — and the gifts — of children in our midst.

It is a time to celebrate children as active participants in the life of the church. On this special day, children can serve as worship leaders throughout the service, including preaching, singing, reading Scripture, and making announcements. It's also a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to bring their children and experience a service filled with joy, purpose, and participation. The more thought and preparation that goes into planning and promoting this special day, the more lasting impact it will have on your church family and community connections.

The North American Division Children's Ministries Department is excited to celebrate this very special Sabbath on October 3, 2026, throughout the division. For over seventeen years, churches have joined together in dedicating this Sabbath to recognize and empower children to share the gospel in their own voices and through their unique talents. This may be the very day when a future teacher, pastor, leader, or missionary begins to sense God's calling on their life for the very first time. This year's program, **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above**, invites children, youth, and adults to explore the "letters" Jesus has written on our hearts — messages of love, forgiveness, belonging, and purpose. Together, we will discover that each of us, from the youngest to the oldest, is a living letter from Christ (2 Corinthians 3:3), written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God.

To make this experience truly immersive, the "pulpit" may move beyond its usual place. Consider setting up interactive stations or storytelling spaces around your church property (weather permitting) where children and elders can collaborate to share these powerful letters from Jesus. Each short sermonette and letter segment is designed to be participatory, heartfelt, and accessible for all ages — a shared experience of faith across generations.

The NAD Children's Ministries team supports you in your ministry to the children of your church and prays for you as you prepare for this special Sabbath. Children's Sabbath 2026 will remind every child — and every adult — that they are loved, chosen, and known by Jesus. And as we celebrate together, we can help build a church family that reflects His love in action — one heart, one letter, one connection at a time.



*North American Division
Children's Ministries*



THEME AND BRIEF STUDY

The 2026 Children's Sabbath theme, **"XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above,"** invites the entire congregation—children and adults alike—to rediscover their identity as God's beloved. This year's focus moves beyond what we do for God, to who we are in Him—cherished, chosen, and sent as living expressions of His love to the world.

The "XOXO" in our theme represents the affectionate symbols of hugs and kisses, but it also echoes the heartbeat of the Gospel: divine love expressed and shared. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture is a collection of love letters—messages written by a God who continually reaches out to His children.

In 2 Corinthians 3:3, Paul reminds believers, "You show that you are a letter from Christ... not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." Every believer, regardless of age, becomes part of God's ongoing story—a living testimony of His grace and affection. For children, this truth establishes a foundation of worth and belonging that shapes their faith for life. For adults, it offers a powerful reminder that the love of Christ is not abstract but deeply personal—sent from above and made with love.

As we gather for this year's Children's Sabbath, each "letter" shared in the program will highlight an aspect of who we are in Christ: loved, forgiven, chosen, courageous, and sent.

Through storytelling, worship, and intergenerational participation, our children will help us see that God's message of love is still being written—through their voices, their service, and their joy. May this theme remind every generation that God's love is not just something to study—it's something to live, to share, and to send forward. Let us open the letters of grace He's written on our hearts and say together, with gratitude and conviction:

"XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above."

SERVICE OUTLINE AT A GLANCE

Introduction	Children's Ministry Leader
Opening Prayer	Child Volunteer
Handshake	Children's Ministry Leader
Key Bible Verse	Children's Group
Songs: VBS song 1 & 2	Children's Praise Team
Children's Story	Older Child Volunteer With Adult
Service - Whole Church Mail Run	Children's Ministry Leader

(separate into six groups and go to stations)

First Stop - Love Lane	Pastor and Child Volunteer
Second Stop - Chosen Court	Children's Ministry Leader and Child Volunteer
Third Stop - Forgiveness Fork	Elder and Child Volunteer
Fourth Stop - Wonder Way	Elder and Child Volunteer
Fifth Stop - Family Fields	Elder and Child Volunteer
Sixth Stop - Beacon Boulevard	Elder and Child Volunteer
Parcel Depot - (main sanctuary)	(All return to sanctuary)
Sermonette	Pastor
Theme Song	Children's Praise Team
Closing Prayer	



MAIL RUN PROGRAM

SET UP AND INSTRUCTIONS

MAIL RUN PROGRAM

- A** Six stops around the church property. Ideally, they are a little separated from each other. Each stop has a sign that says the name of the street stop and the number.
- B** Decorate with street signs, mailboxes, letters, etc. Stop One is in your church sanctuary. It is where you will start and end.
- C** The congregation is divided into six groups after the Children's Story. You can assign colors or numbers as they are welcomed to church that day, or you can get more creative and make up some fun names that are related to the theme.
- D** Each stop will have two characters, one postal worker and one Bible character who will share about their theme. (one adult/one child, ideally pastor/elder/children's min. leader).
- E** Each stop will have an activity that is associated with the theme for that particular stop. Children will receive a little token to represent that stop to put in their manila envelope.



MAIL RUN STOPS:

B



Love Lane

Theme - God Loves Me

Token Gift: Manila Envelope/Postcard



Chosen Court

Theme - I Am ChosenToken

Gift: Highlighter Pen



Forgiveness Fork

Theme - I Am Forgiven

Token Gift: Heart Eraser

7

MAIL RUN STOPS:



Wonder Way

Theme - I Am Wonderfully Made

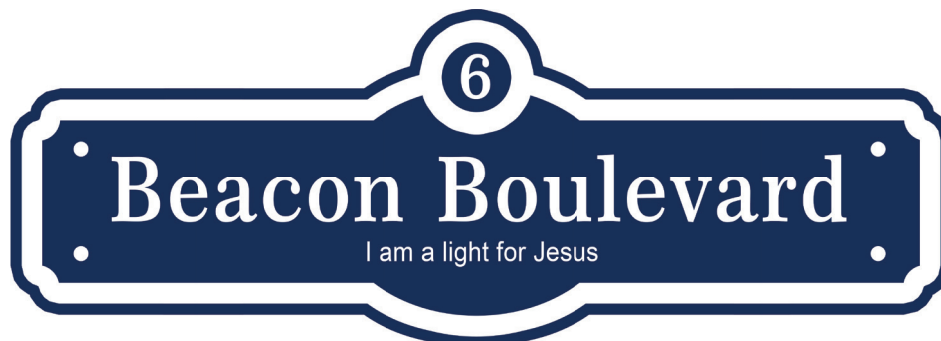
Token Gift: Small Mirror



Family Fields

Theme - I Am Part of God's Family

Token Gift: Small Keychain Of Beads



Beacon Boulevard

Theme - I Am A Light For Jesus

Token Gift: Glow In Dark Band



Time limit at each station - **7- 8 minutes**
Transition time to next station - **2 minutes**
Total time on story walk - **60 minutes**

ROTATION SCHEDULE



Here is an example of what your rotation could look like (Table 1). Groups have been classified with colour as an example but you can identify your groups in any creative way.



Red group



Orange group



Yellow group



Green group



Blue group



Purple group

Table 1.

1

2

3

4

5

6

Rotation	Love Lane	Chosen Court	Forgiveness Fork	Wonder Way	Family Fields	Beacon Boulevard
1	Red	Purple	Blue	Green	Yellow	Orange
2	Orange	Red	Purple	Blue	Green	Yellow
3	Yellow	Orange	Red	Purple	Blue	Green
4	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	Purple	Blue
5	Blue	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	Purple
6	Purple	Blue	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red



JESUS - TOKENS

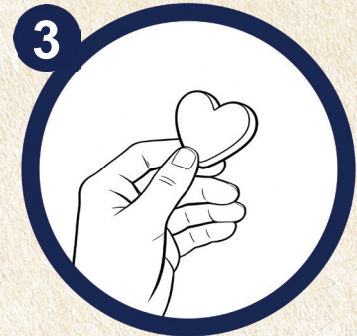
Each child collects different items as they travel through the different stops on their mail run.



Stop 1 - Gift: A small manila envelope and a postcard with key verse and heart stickers
(We are loved)



Stop 2 - Gift: A highlighter - to symbolize that God highlights each of us for a chosen path to follow Him
(We are chosen)



Stop 3 - Gift: Small heart shaped eraser to symbolizing forgiveness and a fresh start
(We are forgiven)



Stop 4 - Gift: Clay star or heart- a personal reminder that I am wonderfully made. **(We wonderfully made)**



Stop 5 - Gift: Bead key chain - a son/daughter of God **(We are a part of God's family)**



Stop 6 - Gift: Glow in the dark band or light stick
(We are a light)

HAND SHAKE GREETING

XoXo Jesus

MADE WITH LOVE & SENT FROM ABOVE!

1



1. Blow two air kisses to each other...

2



3



2. Then one self hug

3



3. And finally, give a one-sided hug to the person beside you.

SERVICE OUTLINE DETAILS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome, everyone, to Children's Sabbath 2026! Today we are going to have a fun, interactive, and meaningful morning as we go on a very special Mail Run about a very special message.

This day is all about our children—and about helping everyone here remember that in God's family, each of us matters and has an important place in His Kingdom.

Our theme this year is **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above!**

(Speaker blows two kisses to audience and then gives self one hug and side hug to a neighbour. (symbolizing, love your neighbor as your self)

As we journey through today's program, we will discover the love letters Jesus has written on our hearts—messages that remind us of who we truly are in Him. We are children who are deeply loved, fully forgiven, wonderfully made in His image, and chosen for a purpose. We belong to His family, and His light shines in us so that we can share it with the world around us.

"XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above!"

Through stories, interactive stations, and hands-on activities, both children and adults will explore what it means to live out our identity in Christ. We will see that being a child of God isn't about what we do—it's about who we are: beloved, accepted, and sent to reflect His love in every part of our lives.

Get ready for a morning of adventure, discovery, and joy as we experience together the truth of **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above!**



OPENING PRAYER



Note. you can choose to have a child write out their own prayer, or you can use the sample prayer below.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude,
knowing that You have made each of us wonderfully in
Your image, deeply loved, and chosen for a purpose.
Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, as a living letter of Your love,
reminding us that we belong to You and are part of Your family.

Lord, we invite You into this time of worship and discovery.

As we go on our Mail Run today, help us to see and
remember who we are in Christ: loved, forgiven, gifted, and
called to shine Your light in the world.

May every story, activity, and message we
experience remind us that our identity comes from
You and that we are sent to share Your love with others.

Bless the children, the volunteers, and every
person here today. May this time strengthen our faith,
deepen our understanding of who we are in You, and
inspire us to live boldly as Your children,
carrying Your love wherever we go.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



KEY BIBLE VERSE

DELIVERY OF TEXT

Preparation

- 4 Large envelopes labeled with the letters L, O, V, E.
- Divide the verse into four segments (see below). Write or print each segment on a card to put inside its envelope.

Suggested Verse Segments:

- L – “You show that you are a letter from Christ”
 - O – “the result of our ministry, written not with ink”
 - V – “but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone”
 - E – “but on tablets of human hearts.”
- Volunteers: Ideally 4 children or mixed-age teams to hold the envelopes.

Presentation Flow

Introduction:

Leader: “Today, we are going to see God’s love in action through His letters to us. Each envelope represents part of the message He has written on our hearts. Watch carefully!”

Envelope Reveal:

Children or volunteers come forward holding the envelopes in order L-O-V-E. As each envelope is opened, a volunteer reads aloud the verse segment inside. (Optional: Have the child holding the envelope place it on a display board or hand it to a leader, creating a visual spelling out of LOVE.)

Interactive Element:

After all envelopes are revealed, the leader or children can point to the congregation and say:

“God’s love is written on each of your hearts. You are His living letter—loved, chosen, forgiven, wonderfully made, and sent to shine!”

Connection To Theme And Mail Run:

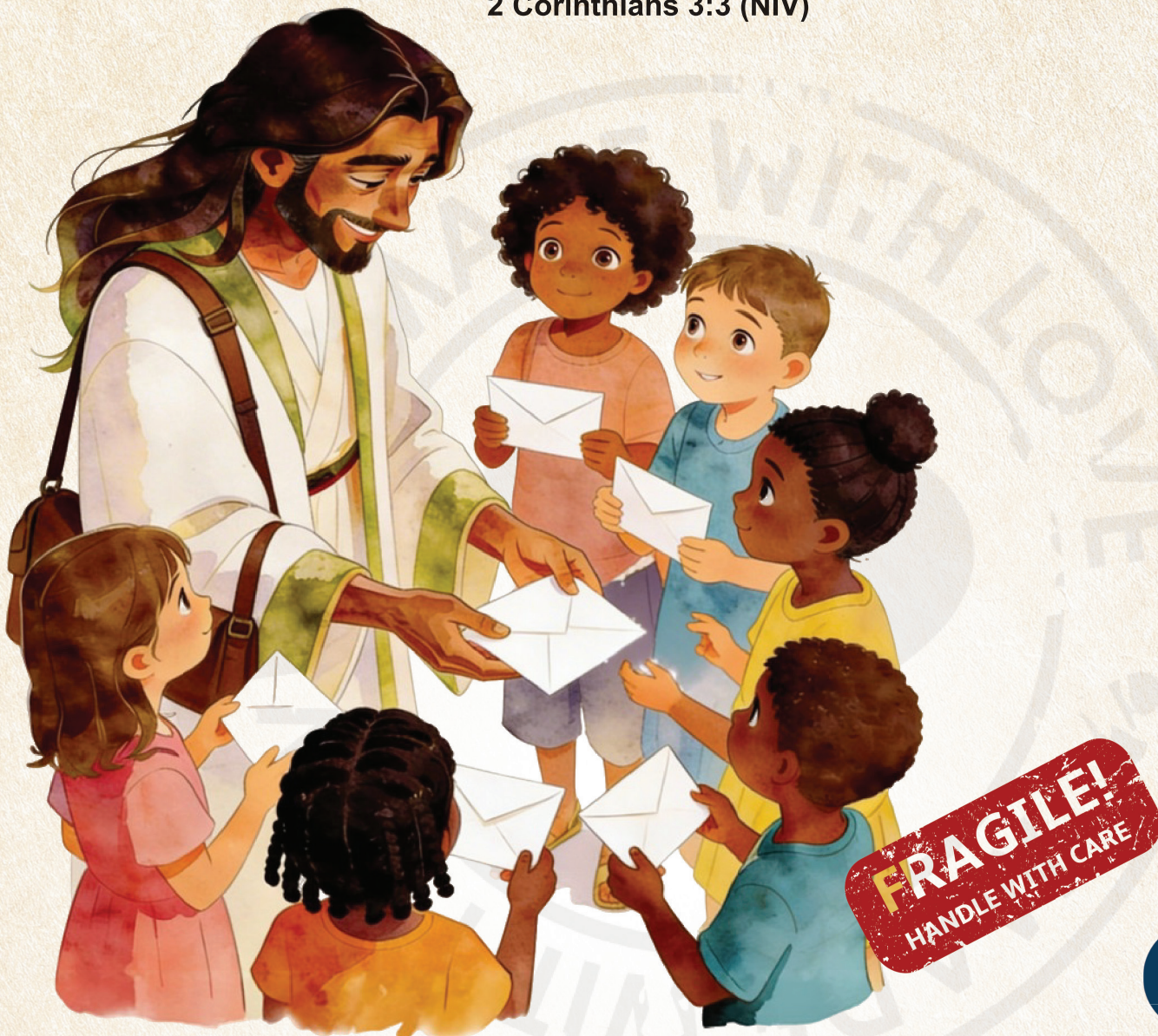
Leader: "Just like these letters were delivered today, God has sent each of us letters of love in our hearts. As we go through our Heavenly Mail Run, we will discover what it means to be His letters—loved, chosen, and sent to share His love with the world!"



KEY VERSE

"You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts."

2 Corinthians 3:3 (NIV)



CHILDREN'S STORY

Children's Story: "The Letter in the Locker"
(Hold a large envelope or mailbox prop)

Good morning, boys and girls! Have you ever received a letter? Maybe for your birthday, or a card from someone who loves you? Letters are special because they remind us that someone was thinking about us. Today, I want to tell you a true story about a girl named Mia who decided she wanted to share Jesus' love in a quiet way at her school.

Every day, Mia saw kids who looked sad, lonely, or like they didn't have any friends. So one weekend, Mia prayed, "Jesus, I want people to know how much You love them — can You help me?" Then she got an idea. She took out her paper, markers, and envelopes, and started writing!

She wrote little notes that said things like:

"You are loved."

"Jesus made you special."

"You are never alone."

"God has a plan for your life."

She didn't sign her name — she just prayed over each one and asked Jesus to send it to the right person. On Monday, she quietly slipped the letters into lockers all around her school.

Days went by... and then one afternoon, a teacher came to her class and said, "Someone in this school has been leaving kind letters with Bible verses — whoever you are, I want you to know that one of

those letters changed a student's life today."

There was a girl who had been feeling very sad and didn't think anyone cared. But that day, when she opened her locker, she found a letter that said, "You are loved, and God has a purpose for you."

That letter reminded her that she wasn't forgotten — that God saw her.

Mia smiled quietly, because she knew it wasn't her words that changed anything — it was Jesus' love written through her.



When you show kindness, when you forgive, when you share His love — it's like putting His message in someone's heart.

So today, remember: **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above!**

Because every time you love like Jesus, you're delivering His letter to someone who needs it most.



Set up little notes under the front row of pews or chairs with positive message to mimic what the little girl was passing out.



1ST STOP - LOVE LANE

The Heart of the Message

Character: Mary of Bethany

Special Delivery Message: I am loved.

Key Verse: Romans 8:38–39

“Nothing can ever separate us from God’s love.”

Welcome to Love Lane, the first stop on our XOXO Jesus Mail Run!

Here, the message is all about love — the kind of love that sees you, knows you, and never lets you go.

Decorate the space warmly with soft colors (pinks, creams, golds), a small vase of flowers, and an “alabaster jar” prop to remind us of Mary’s story. At the center, place a giant envelope cutout where heart-shaped papers or tokens will be added throughout the morning.

Mary’s Letter (Monologue)

(Mary steps forward holding an old letter or scroll. She smiles as if greeting friends from long ago.)

Dear Friends,

My name is Mary of Bethany, and I want to tell you about someone who changed my life — Jesus. I once sat at His feet, listening to His voice, while others hurried and bustled around. From the moment He spoke, I felt something I had never known before: pure, personal love. When Jesus looked at me, He saw my heart. Not my chores, not my worries — me. Later, I poured out a jar of perfume at His feet, a gift from my heart. Some thought it was wasteful, but Jesus called it beautiful. He told me my love would always be remembered. That’s how Jesus loves — He notices the smallest acts, the quietest hearts, the hidden tears. His love is constant. It doesn’t fade when we fail or change when we forget. His love says, “You are known. You are valued. You are Mine.” So today, as you walk this Love Lane, remember this: Jesus loves you with an ever lasting love!

With all my love,

Mary of Bethany

P.S. His love letter to you was written long before you were born — and sealed with the cross.



Activity: "Love Letters from Heaven"



Supplies:

- Heart-shaped papers or plastic hearts
- Markers, pens, or crayons
- Giant envelope display, clothespins, string, or sticky dots
- Optional: soft background music ("Jesus Loves Me" instrumental)



Instructions:

1. Give each child (and adult) a heart and invite them to write: "Jesus loves [name]."
2. Then have them place their heart on the giant envelope display using clothespins, string, or sticky dots.

As hearts are added, the display becomes a giant visual Love Letter from Heaven, showing that every participant is loved personally and eternally by Jesus.

XOXO Jesus: Tie-In:

Just like a letter is sent with care and a message inside, every heart placed here carries the truth: you are loved, cherished, and never forgotten by Jesus.



Token Takeaway

Manila envelope covered with heart stickers that children can add at this station.

LETTERS FROM CHARACTERS - MARY

Love Lane – Mary of Bethany
Character: Mary of Bethany

Special Delivery Message: I am loved.

Key Verse: Romans 8:38–39
**“Nothing can ever separate us from
God’s love.”**



Dear Friends,

My name is Mary of Bethany, and I want to tell you about someone who changed my life — Jesus. I once sat at His feet, listening to His voice, while others hurried and bustled around. From the moment He spoke, I felt something I had never known before: pure, personal love.

When Jesus looked at me, He saw my heart. Not my chores, not my worries — me. Later, I poured out a jar of perfume at His feet, a gift from my heart. Some thought it was wasteful, but Jesus called it beautiful. He told me my love would always be remembered. That’s how Jesus loves,

He notices the smallest acts, the quietest hearts, the hidden tears. His love is constant. It doesn’t fade when we fail or change when we forget. His love says, “You are known. You are valued. You are Mine.” So today, remember this: Jesus’ love is not just for everyone — it’s for you.

Signed with so much love,

Mary of Bethany

2ND STOP - CHOSEN COURT

The Royal Message of Purpose

Character: Queen Esther

Special Delivery Message: I am chosen.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 2:9

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

Welcome to Chosen Court, the royal courtyard of God’s calling! Here, we remember that being chosen isn’t about being the best, the loudest, or the most important — it’s about being willing.

Esther was an ordinary girl who found herself in an extraordinary position, chosen by God for a divine purpose, “for such a time as this.”

Decorate the space like a royal court — deep purples, gold accents, crowns, and star garlands. At the center, place a large banner reading “Stamped with Purpose.”

Esther’s Letter (Monologue)

(Esther steps forward wearing a simple crown, holding a parchment scroll. She speaks warmly, with both strength and humility.)

Dear Friends,

My name is Esther, once just a young woman from a faraway land — now remembered as a queen. But before the crown and the palace, I was an ordinary girl who often wondered, “Why me?”

One day, I learned that God doesn’t choose people because of where they live, what they have, or how perfect they are. He chooses them because He loves them — and because He has a plan for them.

When my people were in danger, I was afraid. I didn’t feel brave or special. But my cousin Mordecai reminded me that maybe God had placed me right where I was for such a time as this. So I stepped forward — not because I felt ready, but because I trusted the One who had chosen me. And you, dear one, have been chosen too.

Chosen to love. Chosen to shine. Chosen to carry God’s message into the world. Never forget — the King of Heaven has placed His seal upon your heart.

With royal love,

Esther

Activity: “Stamped with Purpose”



Supplies:

- Star- or crown-shaped cookie cutters
- Washable paint (gold, silver, purple, blue)
- Large sheet of paper or fabric banner



Instructions:

1. Invite everyone to dip the edge of a star or crown cookie cutter lightly into paint and stamp their mark onto the “Stamped with Purpose” banner. As they make their stamp, have them say aloud: “God chose me — for such a time as this.” Each stamped star or crown represents a life chosen and marked by God’s love.
2. When finished, the banner becomes a vibrant royal mural — a reminder that we are all part of His chosen people, sealed and sent to shine for Him.

XOXO Jesus: Tie-In:

Just like a letter is stamped before being sent, each of us carries God’s royal seal, chosen, loved, and sent with purpose into the world.



Token Takeaway

Highlighters — symbolize we are chosen.



LETTERS FROM CHARACTERS - ESTHER

Chosen Court – Queen Esther

Character: Queen Esther

Special Delivery Message: I am chosen.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 2:9

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”



Dear Friends,

My name is Esther, once just a young woman from a faraway land — now remembered as a queen. But before the crown and the palace, I was an ordinary girl who often wondered, “Why me?”

One day, I learned that God doesn’t choose people because of where they live, what they have, or how perfect they are. He chooses them because He loves them — and because He has a plan for them.

When my people were in danger, I was afraid. I didn’t feel brave or special. But my cousin Mordecai reminded me that maybe God had placed me right where I was made, “for such a time as this.”

So I stepped forward — not because I felt ready, but because I trusted the One who had chosen me. And you, dear one, have been chosen too.

Chosen to love.

Chosen to shine.

Chosen to carry God’s message into the world.

Never forget — the King of Heaven has placed His seal upon your heart.

Esther

3RD STOP - FORGIVENESS FORK

The Message of Mercy

Character: Peter

Special Delivery Message: I am forgiven.

Key Verse: 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Welcome to Forgiven Fields, the third stop on our XOXO Jesus Mail Run!

Here, the message is all about forgiveness — the incredible truth that God restores us, even when we stumble.

Decorate the space with soft green and blue fabrics, fish netting, and ocean-themed props to echo Peter’s life as a fisherman.

A small tub, bucket, or mini “well” can serve as the symbolic ocean for the activity.

Peter’s Letter (Monologue)

(Peter steps forward holding a scroll and fishing prop, speaking warmly and with heartfelt honesty.)

Dear Friends,

My name is Peter. I was one of Jesus’ closest friends, but I wasn’t perfect. I made mistakes — big ones. I even denied knowing Him when I was afraid. I felt shame and thought I could never be restored.

But Jesus didn’t give up on me. He forgave me completely, looked into my heart, and said, “Feed my sheep.” Through His forgiveness, I learned something amazing: God’s love doesn’t leave you behind. Mistakes don’t define you. When we confess and turn to Him, He restores our hearts and gives us a fresh start. You too, dear one, can experience this. God’s forgiveness is personal, powerful, and permanent.

With a grateful heart,

Peter

P.S. Just like the fish I catch in the sea, God can take away the things that weigh us down — our mistakes and sins — and place them at the bottom of His ocean of mercy.



Activity: “Ocean of Forgiveness”



Supplies:

- Small slips of paper (pre-cut to fit in children’s hands)
- Markers or crayons
- Small tub, bucket, or “well”
- Blue water, optional: clear water with a few floating toy fish
- Optional: a small strainer or scoop for dramatic effect



Instructions:

1. Give each child (and adult) a slip of paper and markers.
2. Invite them to write or draw one thing they want to leave behind — a mistake, worry, or fear.
3. As they finish, invite them to crumple the paper and drop it into the “Ocean of Forgiveness”.

The slips dissolve (if using water-soluble paper) or simply sink to the bottom, symbolizing that God’s forgiveness removes it completely, just as sins go to the bottom of the ocean.

4. As they drop their papers, leaders can softly say:
“I am forgiven by Jesus!”

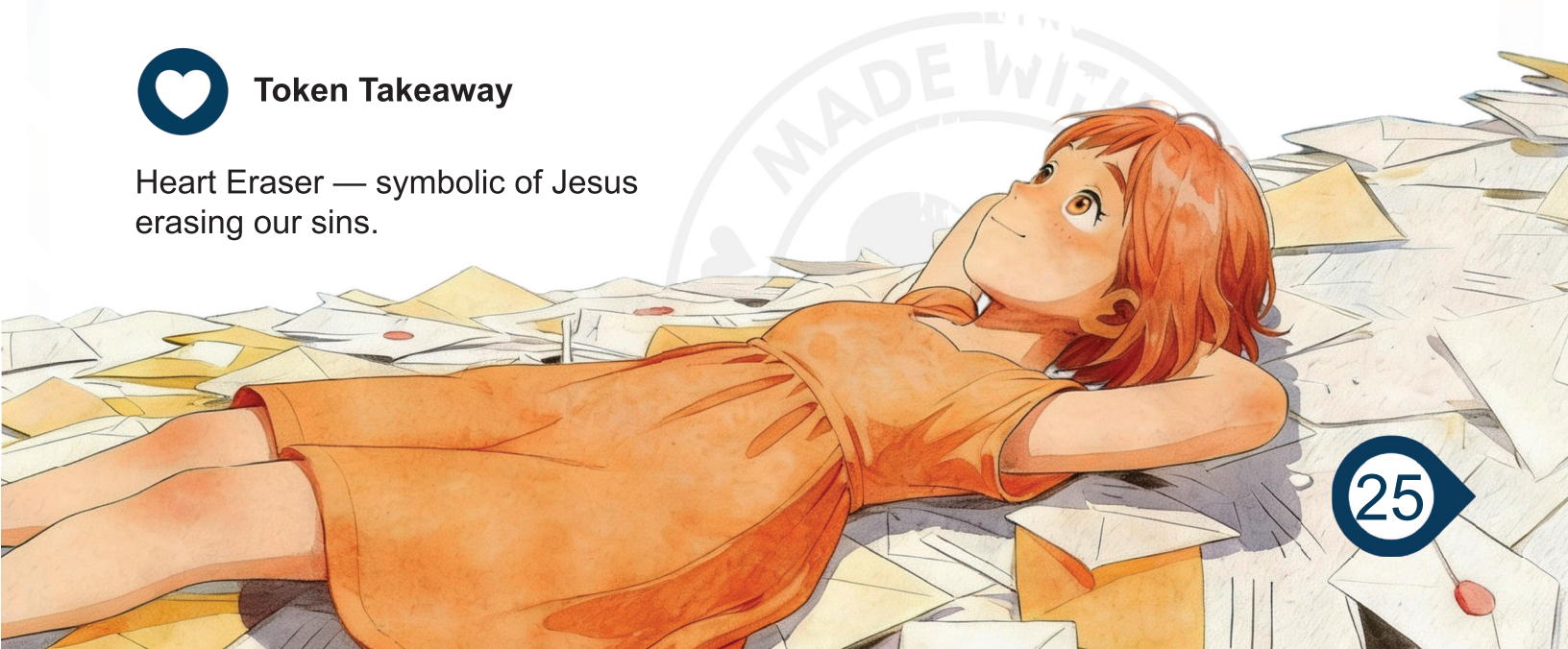
XOXO Jesus: Tie-In:

Just as Peter cast his nets into the sea and trusted God to provide, we can trust Jesus to forgive and restore us. Each paper in the ocean reminds us that our sins are gone, forgiven, and forgotten — safely at the bottom of His ocean of mercy.



Token Takeaway

Heart Eraser — symbolic of Jesus erasing our sins.



LETTERS FROM CHARACTERS - PETER

Forgiven Fields – Peter
Character: Peter

Special Delivery Message: I am forgiven.

Key Verse: 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”



Dear Friends,

My name is Peter. I was one of Jesus' closest friends, but I wasn't perfect. I made mistakes — big ones. I even denied knowing Him when I was afraid. I felt shame and thought I could never be restored.

But Jesus didn't give up on me. He forgave me completely, looked into my heart, and said, “Feed my sheep.” Through His forgiveness, I learned something amazing: God's love doesn't leave you behind. Mistakes don't define you. When we confess and turn to Him, He restores our hearts and gives us a fresh start.

You too, dear one, can experience this. God's forgiveness is personal, powerful, and permanent.

Just like the fish I catch in the sea, God can take away the things that weigh us down — our mistakes and sins — and place them at the bottom of His ocean of mercy.

With a grateful heart,

Peter

4TH STOP - WONDER WAY

The Message of Unique Design

Character: David (as a young shepherd boy)

Special Delivery Message: I am wonderfully made.

Key Verse: Psalm 139:14

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Welcome to Wonder Way, the fourth stop on our XOXO Jesus Mail Run! Here, the message is all about God’s amazing design — how each of us is created with purpose, beauty, and intentionality.

Decorate the space with bright, colorful fabrics, paper flowers, and banners with stars, hearts, and fingerprints. Include mirrors or magnifying glasses for kids to “see themselves” as God’s masterpiece.

David’s Letter (Monologue)

(David steps forward with a shepherd’s staff, looking lively and joyful.)

Dear Friends,

My name is David. I was just a shepherd boy, taking care of sheep, when God chose me for a bigger purpose than I could ever imagine. You see, God doesn’t look at the size of a person or how strong they seem — He looks at the heart.

Every detail of who you are — your laugh, your smile, your talents, even the things that feel like mistakes — are part of God’s amazing plan. He made you wonderfully and uniquely, just the way you are. So when you look in the mirror, or when someone doubts you, remember this: God created you with love, care, and purpose. You are His masterpiece. You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

With joy and wonder,

David

P.S. Even when I faced giants, I remembered that God made me strong and capable — just like He made you!



Activity: “Imprint of Wonder”



Supplies:

- Dollar-store air-dry clay or modeling dough
- Small cookie cutters in stars, hearts, or hand shapes
- Toothpicks or small markers for engraving names or symbols
- Paper plates or trays to hold the clay pieces while drying



Instructions:

1. Give each child (and adult) a small piece of clay.
2. Invite them to press into it and make a personal “imprint of wonder.” It could be a hand or heart etc.
3. Encourage them to write a favorite word, or a symbol into the clay to make it uniquely theirs.
4. Once complete, the clay pieces can dry and be taken home as a tangible reminder that they are wonderfully made by God.

XOXO Jesus: Tie-In:

Just as each clay imprint is unique and carefully shaped, God designed each of us with love and purpose. We are His masterpieces — perfectly formed to reflect His creativity and love in the world.



Token Takeaway

Small Clay Star or Heart — a personal reminder that I am wonderfully made.



LETTERS FROM CHARACTERS - DAVID

Wonder Way – David
Character: David

Special Delivery Message: I am wonderfully made.

Key Verse: Psalm 139:14

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”



Dear Friends,

Hello! My name is David. You may know me as a shepherd boy who faced giants, played my harp for the king, and loved God with all my heart. But before all that, I was just a boy — one among many brothers, small and overlooked.

God made me exactly as I needed to be, with my own gifts, my own heart, and my own courage. And He made you exactly as you are — your talents, your personality, your heart — all of it is a gift from Him.

You don't have to be the tallest, the loudest, or the strongest to be amazing. God delights in you because you are wonderfully made. When you feel unsure or compare yourself to others, remember that God made you on purpose, just as you are, and He has a plan for your life.

Shine your unique light, and celebrate all the ways God made you special!

With joy from the Shepherd,

David

5TH STOP - FAMILY FIELDS

The Message of Belonging

Character: Ruth

Special Delivery Message: I am part of God's family.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:19

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household."

Welcome to Family Fields, the fifth stop on our XOXO Jesus Mail Run!

Here, the message is all about belonging and connection — how God brings us into His family, and how we are connected to one another through love and faith.

Decorate the space with warm tones, banners, ribbons, and "family tree" displays.

Include a cozy seating area for children to sit together with adult mentors or volunteers.

Ruth's Letter (Monologue)

(Ruth steps forward holding a small scroll or envelope, speaking warmly and with a gentle smile.)

Dear Friends,

My name is Ruth. I once lived far from home, unsure of my place in the world. But God brought me into a family — a family full of love, care, and faith.

Being part of God's family doesn't mean everything is easy, but it does mean we never walk alone. We are connected to one another, to our parents, siblings, friends, mentors, and to God Himself. Each person is important, and every relationship is a gift from Him.

So today, as you walk through Family Fields, remember this: God has placed you in a family that loves you, surrounds you, and will always guide you. You belong — not just to people, but to Him.

With love,

Ruth

P.S. Just like I found a family that welcomed me, you are part of God's eternal family — included, cherished, and never forgotten.



Activity: Beaded Family Keychain



Supplies:

- Small key rings or keychain loops
- Assorted beads (different colors and shapes)
- String or cord for threading beads
- Optional: letter beads to add names or initials



Instructions:

1. Give each child (and adult) a key ring and cord.
2. Invite them to create a keychain by adding beads, with each bead representing a family member or someone important in their life.
3. Encourage children to think about people who love them and who they care for, and add a bead for each one.
4. When finished, tie the cord securely so it can be taken home as a reminder of God's family and their loved ones.

XOXO Jesus: Tie-In:

Just like each bead is strung together to make a beautiful keychain, God brings people together to form His family. Every person matters, every connection is precious, and you are never alone — you belong to Him and to His people.



Token Takeaway

Personalized Beaded Keychain — a tangible reminder that I am part of God's family, connected to others and loved by God.



LETTERS FROM CHARACTERS - RUTH

Family Fields – Ruth
Character: Ruth

Special Delivery Message: I am a part of God's family.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:19
"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household."



Dear Friends,

My name is Ruth, and I want to tell you about belonging. Life isn't always easy, and sometimes we feel alone. But God has a special way of placing people in our lives — family, friends, and others who care for us — to help us, guide us, and love us.

Even when we face challenges, we are never truly alone. God has made us part of His family, and that means we have a home with Him and with those who follow Him. Every act of love, kindness, and care helps build this family, and you are an important part of it.

Remember: you belong. You are seen. You are loved. And you always have a place in God's household, where your heart is valued and your life matters.

With love and belonging,

Ruth

6TH STOP - BEACON BOULEVARD

The Message of Light

Character: Angel Gabriel

Special Delivery Message: I am a light.

Key Verse: Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Welcome to Beacon Boulevard, the sixth stop on our XOXO Jesus Mail Run! Here, the message is all about shining God’s light in the world — showing how even small acts of kindness, courage, and love can bring hope to others.

Decorate the space with bright accents, clouds, stars, or lantern props to symbolize light shining into darkness.

Gabriel’s Letter (Monologue)

(Gabriel steps forward wearing a simple angel costume with a sash or wings, holding a scroll. He speaks warmly and encouragingly.)

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I am Gabriel, a messenger sent by God. My job is to deliver important news — and today, I bring a message for you!

God made you to shine — to be a light in the world. Even when it feels like no one notices, your kindness, courage, and love can brighten someone’s day. Every small act is like a hidden spark that can grow into a brilliant light.

Remember, your light doesn’t compete with others — it joins with all the lights around you to make the world brighter. Shine brightly, dear one, and trust that God sees your light even when others might not.

With heavenly joy,

Gabriel



Activity: “Invisible Light Journals”



Supplies:

- Small journals or notepads (one per child/adult)
- Invisible ink pens (UV pens)
- Small UV keychain light or pen-top light to reveal writing



Instructions:

1. Give each participant a journal and an invisible ink pen.
2. Invite them to write a message of light — something encouraging, kind, or hopeful for themselves or someone else.

Example prompts:

“One way I can shine this week is...”

“A kind message I want to send is...”

3. Explain that the writing is “invisible,” just like sometimes the good we do isn’t always seen right away — but God sees it!
4. After writing, participants can reveal their messages using the UV light.
5. Encourage them to take the journal home as a reminder that they are a light in God’s world, even in places that seem dark.

XOXO Jesus: Tie-In:

Just like invisible ink needs light to be seen, your acts of love and kindness shine brightest when guided by God. Each journal message is a reminder that you are God’s light, and your words and actions can brighten someone’s world.



Token Takeaway

Invisible ink journal + UV pen/light — a fun, interactive reminder that I am a light, and my love and words can shine in dark places.



LETTERS FROM CHARACTERS

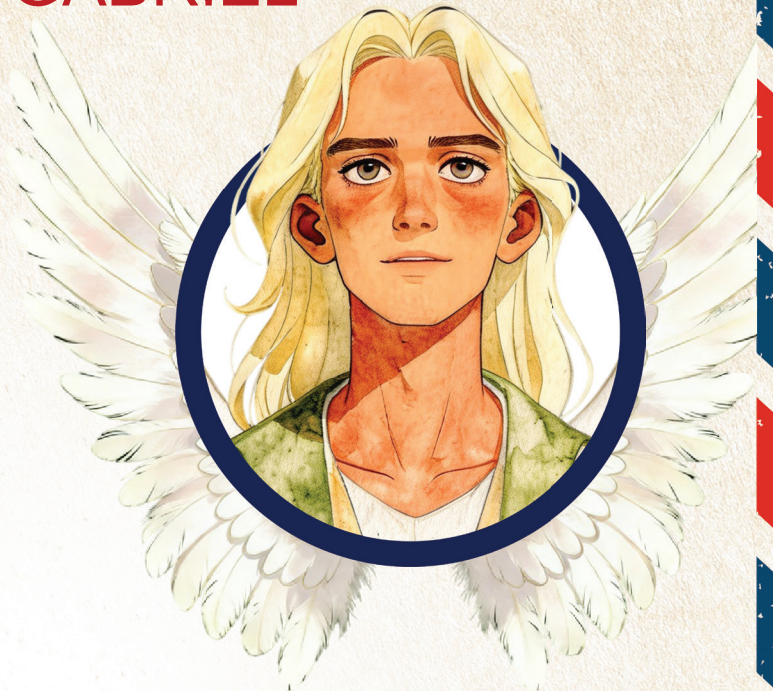
- ANGEL GABRIEL

Beacon Boulevard – Angel Gabriel
Character: Angel Gabriel

Special Delivery Message: I am a light.

Key Verse: Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”



Dear Friends,

Greetings! I am Gabriel, a messenger sent by God, and today I bring you an important message. God has made you to shine — to be a light in the world. Even when things seem dark, or when someone is lonely or afraid, your words, actions, and kindness can bring hope and brightness.

Every smile, every encouraging word, every act of love is like a candle lighting up the darkness. You may feel small, but your light matters. God sees it, and He will use it to touch the lives of others in ways you may never fully know.

Remember, your light doesn't compete with others — it joins with all the lights around you to make the world brighter. Shine brightly, and let everyone see God's love through you.

With heavenly joy,

Gabriel

FINAL MAIL CALL - “SIGNED WITH LOVE” BOULEVARD

Delivered by Pastor, Elder, or Children’s Ministries Leader)

(Hold up one of the large envelopes used earlier in the program.)

You’ve all been finding and opening letters today — letters filled with love, truth, and reminders from Jesus. But do you know what’s even more amazing than receiving a letter? It’s realizing that you yourself are a letter. That’s right — the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 3:3, “You are a letter from Christ... written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God.”

So, if Jesus were to “sign” His name on you, it wouldn’t be on paper. It would be on your heart.

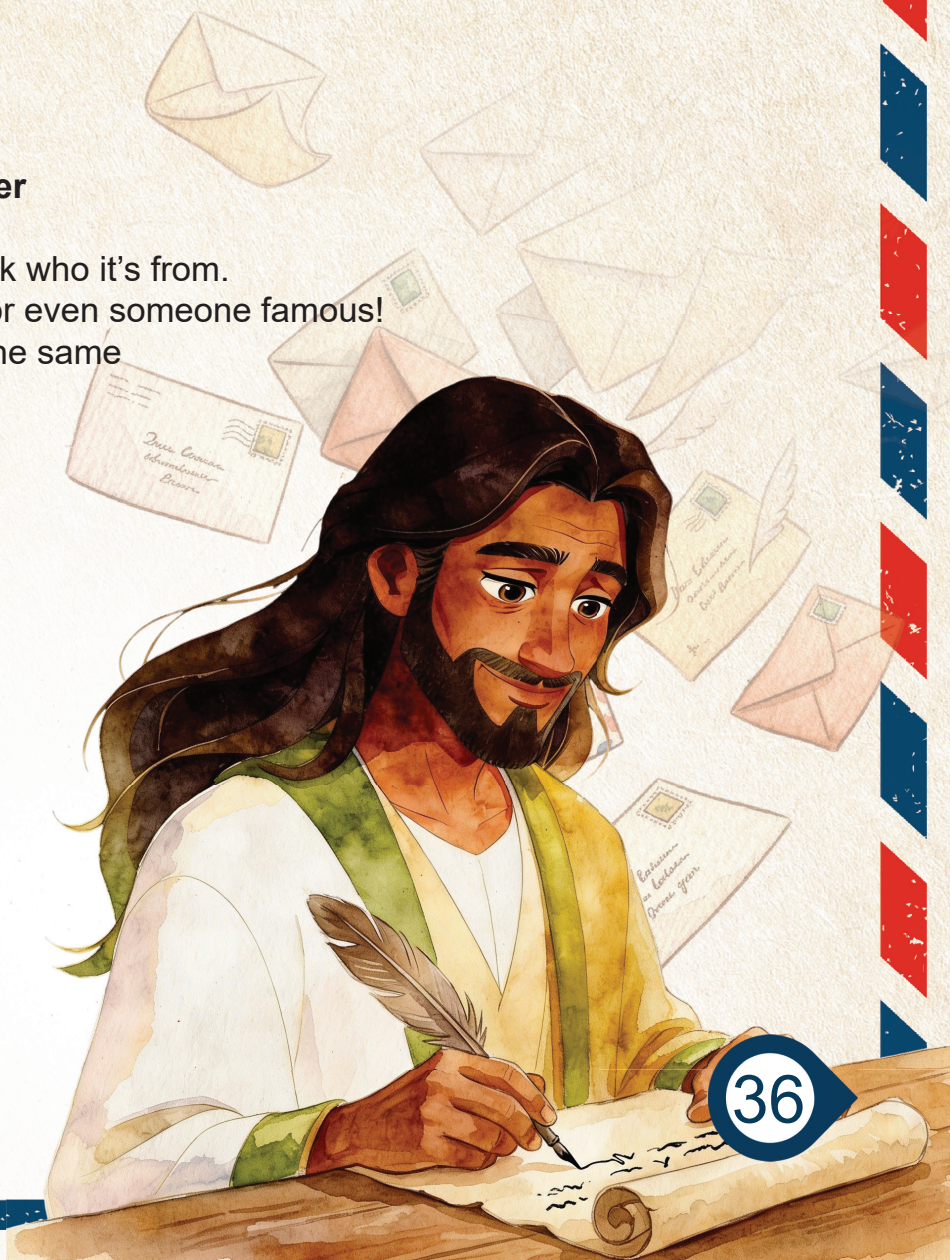
1 Every Letter Has a Sender

When we get mail, we always check who it’s from. Maybe a friend, a family member, or even someone famous! But today, every letter came from the same place — from Jesus Himself.

He wanted to say:

“You are loved.”
“You are known.”
“You are forgiven.”
“You are gifted.”
“You are chosen.”
“You are part of my family.”

From the youngest to the oldest — the message hasn’t changed. Because Jesus’ love never gets lost in the mail.



2 Every Letter Has a Message

Every generation reads the same truth a little differently.

Children hear: “Jesus loves me.”

Adults might hear: “Jesus hasn’t forgotten me.

Grandparents hear: “Jesus is still using me.” But the message is one and the same: You matter. You were created on purpose, with purpose.

Sometimes the world writes other messages on us —“You’re not enough.” “You’re too old.” “You don’t fit in.” But Jesus keeps writing love notes over every lie, until the only thing left on the page is His truth.

3 Every Letter Has a Destination

A letter isn’t meant to stay sealed up. It’s meant to be sent out. So when Jesus writes His love on our hearts, He asks us to deliver it —to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and even to people we’ve never met.

Children can send it through kindness. Teens can send it through courage. Adults can send it through service.

Seniors can send it through wisdom and prayer. We’re all living letters —walking, talking reminders that Jesus loves the world. (Hold up the envelope again.) So today, as we close, remember:

You have mail — and you are the mail. Stamped with grace. Sealed with the Spirit. Signed, **XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above.**

Have youth dressed up as mail carrier and have special packages tied with string delivered to all the children in the church, with encouraging notes, book marks, activity books, sweets etc.

CLOSING PRAYER

Precious Jesus,

Thank You for this beautiful day where Your love has been felt in every smile, every song, and every story shared.

Thank You for reminding us that we are Yours — loved, chosen, forgiven, wonderfully made, and part of Your big, forever family.

You showed us what real love looks like — love that gives, that listens, that forgives, and that never gives up.

As we leave this place, help us to be Your messengers — carrying Your love like letters sent from Heaven into our homes, our schools, and our communities.

May every word we speak and every act of kindness we share whisper, **“XOXO Jesus: Made With Love & Sent From Above.”**

Bless every child, every parent, every grandparent, and every friend gathered here today.

Keep our hearts soft, our hands open, and our lives ready to deliver Your love wherever You send us.

We pray all this in the precious name of Jesus

Amen.



CELESTIAL POSTAL STOP

Set up a cute “post office” corner where kids can:

- Write or draw a “letter to Jesus” (prayer of thanks, forgiveness, or love).
- “Mail” it into a decorated mailbox.
- Later in the program, each child receives a “letter from Jesus” — a prewritten note with Scripture and encouragement (e.g., “You are loved. You are chosen. You are mine — Isaiah 43:1”).

(Optional twist: Have older youth dressed as “postal angels” deliver the letters near the end!)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EXTRA TOUCHES

Snack Station: “Baked with Love”

Simple cookies shaped like envelopes, hearts, or X's and O's.

Attach tags that say:

“A sweet reminder that you are made with love and sent from above!”

“Love Letters to the Community”

Set up a church-wide love letter writing campaign where children, youth, and adults write short, heartfelt notes to:

- Seniors in local care homes
- Hospital patients or staff
- Teachers, firefighters, police, or community helpers
- Refugee or newcomer families

Each note could include a simple message like:

“You are loved and seen by God today — XOXO Jesus.”





This becomes both service and worship.

“Generations of Love” Pen Pal Program

Pair children or youth with older church members or shut-ins for a one-month “letter exchange.”

They can write weekly letters, share Bible verses, and pray for each other.

End the program with a Meet Your Pen Pal Tea at church, where they finally meet face-to-face.

This is beautifully intergenerational and builds empathy, literacy, and spiritual connection.

Community Care Packages: “Sent with Love”

Children can assemble small care packages in manila envelopes or small boxes labeled “Made with love, Sent from Above.”

Ideas for recipients:

- Families in need (food bank tie-in)
- Hospital waiting rooms (snack packs)
- Shelter guests
- New moms (baby essentials)
- Include a hand-drawn note or verse card from a child.



RESOURCE LIST

Here are the list of supplies you will need:

Welcome & Setup

- Large “XOXO Jesus Mail Run” signage
- Welcome banner / posters
- Small table or podium for registration / check-in
- Name tags / colored wristbands or colored stickers
- Hand sanitizer and wipes
- Music player (optional for background instrumental worship)
- Clipboards or schedules for volunteers

Stop 1 – Love Lane (Mary of Bethany)

- Character costume: Mary of Bethany robe or tunic
- Prop: small “alabaster jar”
- Giant envelope cutout / display board for hearts
- Heart-shaped papers or plastic hearts (one per participant)
- Tape, sticky dots, or clothespins for attaching hearts
- Soft background music (instrumental “Jesus Loves Me”)
- Table for supplies

Stop 2 – Chosen Court (Queen Esther)

- Character costume: crown, sash, purple robe
- Scroll or envelope for Esther’s letter
- Props: gold or purple decorations, star garlands
- Large banner or sheet for stamping: “Stamped with Purpose”
- Star- or crown-shaped cookie cutters

- Washable paint (gold, silver, purple, blue)
- Paint trays / small plates for paint
- Protective table covering / aprons or smocks
- Wet wipes / paper towels

Stop 3 – Forgiven Fields (Peter)

- Character costume: fisherman tunic, hat, or fishing net prop
- Scroll or envelope for Peter’s letter
- Small tub, bucket, or mini “well” for activity
- Water-soluble paper slips (one per participant)
- Crayons or markers for writing sins/mistakes
- Optional: small toy fish for “ocean” effect

Stop 4 – Wonderfully Made Way (Creation Child/Angel)

- Character costume: child actor / angel
- Scroll or envelope for letter
- Assorted craft supplies for bracelets / bead necklaces
- String or elastic cord
- Colorful beads (assorted colors and sizes)
- Optional letter beads for initials/names
- Table for crafting
- Protective covering for table
- Instructions printed or displayed

Station 5 – Family Fields (Ruth)

- Character costume: Ruth-style tunic or robe
- Scroll or envelope for letter
- Table for activity
- String / cord / beads (similar to Wonderfully Made)
- Optional printed family tree or family template
- Markers, pens, stickers

Station 6 – Beacon Boulevard (Angel Gabriel)

- Character costume: angel wings, sash
- Scroll or envelope for letter
- Dark fabric / backdrop or “sky” display (optional)
- Glow-in-the-dark wristbands (one per participant)
- Optional: small LED tealights / lanterns for decoration
- Table for distributing wristbands
- Small journals or notepads (one per participant)
- Invisible ink pens (UV pens)
- Small UV keychain lights (one per group or child)

Final Mail Call – Personalized Envelope Packages

- Manila envelopes (one per participant)

Contents:

- Encouragement notes from Jesus (pre-printed letters)
- Activity or coloring books
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Small sweets / treats (optional, candy or chocolate)
- Stickers or small tokens from stations
- Table or station for distributing envelopes
- Decorations / signage for “Mail Call”
- Additional Supplies for All Stations
- Tables, chairs, and coverings as needed
- Trash bins and recycling bins
- Wet wipes / paper towels / hand sanitizer
- Volunteer name tags or identifiers
- Clipboards, pens, and printed instructions for volunteers
- Music player / speakers for background music
- First aid kit



CHILDREN'S SABBATH

XoXo Jesus

MADE WITH LOVE & SENT FROM ABOVE!

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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