

CHAPTER 1

IT JUST GETS BETTER



Well, **hello** there. How very **WONDERFUL** to see you, my friend. I don't know if we've met before, but in a way that doesn't matter because I'm meeting you **NOW!**

Allow me to introduce myself – my name is **Luke**. I'm




an **average** sort of guy, with **average** sort of hair and **average** sort of eyes, except I feel a bit like my eyes have been out on stalks these past few years,

because I've seen so many **AMAZING**, incredible totally **mind-boggling THINGS**.



Sorry – I'm getting carried away already. I meant to say, I'm a **doctor**, you know, the kind that makes people better when they're ill... But I don't want to **tell** you



about **FIXING** snotty noses, mending broken elbows  and clipping rotten toe nails. **NO**. I want to tell you a story that gets better and better and **BETTER** and **BETTER** and even more **BETTERER** still!


OK, so there are a few things you **NEED** to know. 12 things, in fact:



1 There was this guy called **JESUS**. He was pretty epic.

2 He was born in a barn, in **B**ethlehem, with some cows and sheep, and all their smells.  

3 His mum was called **MARY**, and his dad was **Joseph**. Well, sort of - Joseph was his dad, but **so** was **GOD** too (complicated - I **KNOW!**).

4 Angels had told MARY that she was going to have a super SPECIAL baby. 

5 And the angels were right. Jesus was SUPER special. 

6 When Jesus grew up he did some truly awesome stuff. He made sick people well, he walked on water, he fed THOUSANDS of people with two fish and five loaves of bread, and soooo much more. Jesus chose 12 lads to follow him. **IN FACT**, LOADS of people followed Jesus everywhere!  




If you want to find out a bit more about all the awesome stuff that Jesus did then grab a Bible and find a bit in it


called "The Gospel of Luke" or, if you like, you can

also find it here: www.diaryofadisciple.org.






7 So Jesus, **GOD'S** Son, did all these **AMAZING**

things, but he only did them because he wanted people to realise how wonderful God is and how much he    loves them.

He wanted everyone to know that God was giving them a **chance**  to love him back.

8 But even though Jesus did **GREAT** things, and he was God's Son, not **everyone** liked him very

much. **IN FACT**, some people  hated him — so much, that they  made a plan to **KILL** him. Nasty.

9 And they **DID**. One day, when Jesus and his mates were having a special meal together, he suddenly started saying that **SOMEONE** in the room was going to hand him over to the **bad** guys. And then everything happened so fast.  



10


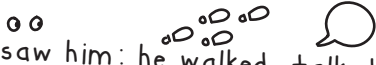
The **BAD** guys got him. They nailed him to a cross

outside **J**erusalem. They killed him even though



he'd done **nothing** wrong. That was the worst day



EVER. It was like **everything** had stopped.



11 But it hadn't. Because  three days later, he was back!  Mind-boggling, right? He was **DEAD**.

Definitely **TOTALLY DEAD**, inside a big tomb, with an enormous  rock in the way, and then he wasn't there any more! He was alive!! Loads of  people saw him: he walked, talked and ate fish.



12 Jesus hung around for a whole  40 days. And he had even more **AMAZING** things to say to his mates. He told them  they had to stay in Jerusalem and he promised that he'd send "the Holy Spirit" to help them. (I'll explain about that in a bit.) Then he disappeared. He was

carried up  to  heaven by a cloud.

Honestly -  he was! And when he went up, 

two scary glowing angel men came  down.



They asked Jesus' mates ^{??} **why** ^{??} they were staring at the



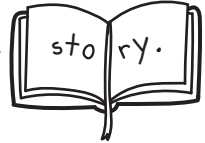
sky (I mean, I know I would've been staring with my mouth open like a fish), and then they said: "You've just seen

JESUS



go to **heaven**, but he'll come **BACK** again, too, just like he went."

And **THAT**, my friends, is where we start this











SO. When the disciples (that's the posh name for Jesus' mates) had managed to close their fish mouths

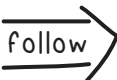


they walked back to **J**erusalem and went **back** to the

ROOM where they'd been hanging out.

Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew,

another **James, Simon** and **Judas** just wanted to  talk to God about **everything** that had happened.  **IN FACT**, that's *pretty much* all they did. They  prayed and prayed and prayed, and then prayed some **MORE**. **MARY** and her boys (Jesus'  mum and  brothers) joined in too, as well as a few **OTHER** women.

Peter   was kind of in charge, and when everyone got together (there were about **120** people by now) he'd  get up and do a **LITTLE** speech.

If you can count, you ^{1, 2, 3...} **might've** noticed I said there were **12** of Jesus' mates whom he chose to **follow**  him - and in that  list I just wrote down there were only **11**. 



I missed someone. **Judas**. (Not the one in the list, another one.) Judas was the one who let Jesus down.



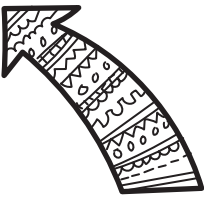
HE was the one who told the **bad** guys where they could find Jesus, all because they gave him a bag of silver.





Peter **told everyone** that Judas had bought a field with his bag of silver, but that when he'd gone to see it, he had a rather **HORRIBLE**, super **gory**, mightily messy accident and **DIED**. Eww. It was **SOOOO** gross and **GOOEY** that **everyone** who lived near the field called it "The field of blood". **BLEURGH**.



BUT, even though that was all a bit **GRIM**, Peter told everyone that God **KNEW** it was going to happen,



way way way before it did. God had said, "His field will be **empty** and no one will **EVER** live there ...
Someone will **HAVE** to take his place."

And so that's what happened. Peter said someone who'd
=====
followed Jesus from the **beginning**, someone who'd
seen it **ALL** and knew the story so far, would have to

take **Judas'** place. So the disciples said it would have to
be either **Barsabbas** or **Matthias**. But they didn't want
to choose - they wanted **GOD** to do the choosing.
hmm


So, they asked God to **SHOW** them who it should be.
And he did. **Matthias** became the new number **12**.



Now it all gets **PROPER EXCITING**. I can't
WAIT to tell you

what

happened

next!

