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# “Getting to know Jesus”

Let's get started!



# Getting Started:

Lots of things in life seem important. We can find loads of things to do. But nothing is as important as getting to know Jesus.

Paul wrote some of the books in the New Testament. That is the second part of the Bible. Paul said,

“I consider everything to be nothing compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. To know him is worth much more than anything else... I want to know Christ better.”  
Philippians 3: 8 & 10.

- Have you heard of Jesus?
- Do you want to know more about him?
- Are you a Christian but you want to get to know Jesus better?

Then you need to spend time with him.

## Here's how...

Get a copy of the Bible you find OK to read. Most of the time, we are going to use the New Testament Accessible Edition, (NirV).

Decide what time of day you are going to spend getting to know Jesus. It does not have

to be the same time every day, but it really helps if it is. It helps you make time for what is so important. You will soon find it's the best bit of your day!

Every day, before you start to read the Bible, ask Jesus to help you. You could just say,

**“Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to get to know you better today.”**

We get to know Jesus through reading the Bible. And talking to Jesus. That's called praying. Something else that's very important and really helps is going to church. You need to go to a church where the pastor preaches about Jesus Christ. A church where you can make Christian friends.

If you know someone who is a Christian, ask them to help you find a church. Tell them you are trying to get to know Jesus better. They will pray for you. They might help you if there is stuff you don't understand.

Now get started. This is going to be the most exciting and important thing you've ever done!

# Welcome to “Getting to Know Jesus”!

We are going to read the first book in the New Testament. It’s called Matthew, or Matthew’s Gospel. Matthew was one of the followers of Jesus, when Jesus was on earth. We will find out lots about Matthew when we read Matthew 9, because that tells us how Matthew got to know Jesus!

## How do I find the right bit in the Bible?

If you’ve got an NIV New Testament, look at the start, where it says **HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY ROUND THE BIBLE**.

The name, like Matthew, is the book we are reading. The first number is the chapter. The second number is the verse. Don’t worry... you will soon get used to it.

## But what is the Bible?

The Bible itself says it is God’s Word to us. The Bible is not an ordinary book. Sometimes it’s called the Scriptures.

In the Bible, in 2 Timothy 3:16, it says, “All Scripture is breathed out by God” (ESV).

The people who wrote the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit, who is God. God spoke through them, by the Holy Spirit. God breathed out the Bible. He inspired the Bible.”

In another book in the Bible, Hebrews 4:12 says, “The word of God is alive and active.” The Bible isn’t a dead, old book. God speaks to us in our hearts when we read the Bible.

The Bible is God’s Word to us and God will help you understand it. You are starting on a very special journey!



## What's coming up?

Day 1	Who is Jesus?	Day 24	Meet Matthew
Day 2	Does God care about me?	Day 25	We need Jesus
Day 3	The best gift ever	Day 26	Jesus heart breaks
Day 4	Our broken world	Day 27	God cares for you
Day 5	Weird but special!	Day 28	Jesus encourages John the Baptist
Day 6	Be prepared to be amazed!	Day 29	Are you listening?
Day 7	A tough time	Day 30	The family of Jesus
Day 8	Turn right round!	Day 31	Jesus tells a story
Day 9	Following Jesus!	Day 32	Which is you?
Day 10	Jesus is amazing!!	Day 33	Finding treasure!
Day 11	Jesus sees into our hearts!	Day 34	What about John the Baptist?
Day 12	A message from the mountain	Day 35	A very big picnic!
Day 13	Being Different!	Day 36	"You really are the Son of God!"
Day 14	Ouch!	Day 37	"You are the Messiah"
Day 15	Not for show	Day 38	No way!
Day 16	How to Pray	Day 39	What's important to you?
Day 17	Don't worry!	Day 40	Did that just happen?
Day 18	Don't judge!	Day 41	God's awesome rescue plan
Day 19	There's no one like Jesus	Day 42	Jesus knows our worries
Day 20	When the rain comes!	Day 43	Upside down!
Day 21	A man nobody wanted to touch	Day 44	We are so important to God
Day 22	Everybody needs Jesus	Day 45	Praying together is special
Day 23	Who is in the boat?	Day 46	Let it go!

Day 47 "Don't send them away!"  
Day 48 Money got in the way  
Day 49 Grumpy workers!  
Day 50 Jesus talks about the cross  
Day 51 The disciples fall out  
Day 52 Jesus is passing by  
Day 53 Who is this?  
Day 54 The children got it right!  
Day 55 A story hits home  
Day 56 A big wedding dinner!  
Day 57 Trying to trap Jesus  
Day 58 Loving God the way we should  
Day 59 What's important to God  
Day 60 Jesus is so sad  
Day 61 The end of the world  
Day 62 Jesus is coming back!  
Day 63 Ready for Jesus!  
Day 64 The sheep  
Day 65 The goats  
Day 66 Something beautiful  
Day 67 Jesus is betrayed  
Day 68 The Lord's Supper  
Day 69 "I'll stand by you!"

Day 70 Jesus prays in the garden  
Day 71 Jesus is in control  
Day 72 Jesus on trial  
Day 73 Peter under pressure  
Day 74 What about Judas?  
Day 75 "Crucify him!"  
Day 76 Making fun of Jesus  
Day 77 What the soldiers saw  
Day 78 What can I do for Jesus?  
Day 79 Jesus is alive!  
Day 80 They stole the body!  
Day 81 A job for every Christian  
Day 82 With us... to the very end!  
Day 83 An amazing Journey!  
Day 84 It's really me!  
Day 85 Where is Jesus now?  
Day 86 This will blow your mind!  
Day 87 Only Jesus  
Day 88 He's here!  
Day 89 The One and Only!  
Day 90 What now?



# Who is Jesus?

We start by skipping a bit of Matthew! Matthew 1:1-17 has a big list of names. But Matthew wrote this to show the family line of Jesus the Messiah, and his link with the Old Testament.

## Read - Matthew 1:18-25

You might have heard the Christmas story before. You might even have heard it lots of times. But this not a children's fairytale... it's real! This is a very exciting story. And it's a true story.

### Mary

Mary was only a young girl, but she loved God. She was engaged to Joseph. In Israel, over 2000 years ago, it was dangerous if a girl got pregnant before she was married. Her fiancé would end the engagement. She might even be killed.

This was a very scary time for Mary. But she trusted God. An angel told Mary she would become pregnant through God's

power. Even though she had never slept with anyone. Her baby would be the Son of God. She was to call him Jesus.

### Joseph

Joseph loved Mary. He was a kind man. Joseph was so upset when he found out Mary was having a baby. But he didn't want her to get hurt. Joseph was going to break off their engagement, but keep it quiet.

In a dream, Joseph saw an angel. The angel told Joseph he was to marry Mary and look after her. Mary had not been unfaithful. She was pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God.

Mary would have a little boy. They were to call him Jesus. That means "The Lord saves". He would save people from their sins.

A mega dream! Joseph trusted God and obeyed him. He married Mary and looked after her. He didn't sleep with her until after she had given birth to her son. Joseph called him Jesus.

## Have a think...

Was it easy for Mary and Joseph to do what God asked? They really loved God. They trusted God, even when they didn't understand what was going on. God looked after Mary and Joseph, and the baby, Jesus. But does he care about me?...

### Two great things to remember...

#### Number 1

The name "Jesus" is amazing. It means "The Lord saves". Jesus is God's Son. He was a real human baby, born by a miracle, through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is a real man but he is God as well. Difficult stuff!

Jesus came to our world to save us from our sins, like his name says. Sin is anything we think, or say, or do, which cuts us off from God. God cannot be around sin.

In another book further on in the New Testament, John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

#### Number 2

Jesus is really God and really man. So he understands us. Matthew 1:23 gives another name for Jesus... "Immanuel". That means, "God with us".

It's great when someone says, "Don't worry, I'm with you." But this is God saying it. He loves you so much that he sent his Son into our world to save you. If you believe in him, you won't ever be cut off from God.

### Time to pray...

"Dear Lord Jesus, help me understand who you are. Help me know how much you love me. Help me believe in you."



## Does God care about me?

Today we carry on with the story of when Jesus was little. Amazing things happen. No one could have dreamed this up. God was helping people understand who Jesus is.

Talk to God now and ask him to help you understand what we read today.

### Read - Matthew 2:1-8

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary stayed there for a bit to look after Jesus. But far away, maybe where we call it Iran now, some clever men had been getting very excited.

### Have a think...

Those clever men are usually called the “wise men”. They were brilliant at doing sums. They watched the stars in the sky. They noticed things changing in the night sky.

Are you excited to find out more about Jesus?

They knew the Jewish people were waiting for a very special king to be born. So they went to Jerusalem to find the baby.

### King Herod gets upset!

The wise men turn up in Jerusalem asking where the special baby is? The child born to be king of the Jews. They tell Herod they saw the baby’s star in the sky. King Herod was very upset! He thought, “Someone’s trying to take over from me!”

Herod got the Jewish leaders together. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. Messiah sounds a funny word. But it’s a very important word for Jewish people. It’s special for all of us. It means the person God has declared is the Saviour-King. “Christ” means the same thing.

About 700 years before Jesus was born, a man called Micah taught people about God. He said a very special king would be born in Bethlehem one day. He would be a king who would care for the people, like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jewish people knew Micah was talking about the Messiah.

So it was easy for the Jewish leaders to answer Herod's question. Straight away they said, "Bethlehem".

### **King Herod gets sneaky!**

Herod is out to get Jesus! Herod talks to the wise men in secret. He finds out when they first saw the star. Then he sends them off to Bethlehem. But he says, "When you find the baby, be sure to let me know, so I can come and worship him as well." Herod was being sneaky. He wanted Jesus dead!

Tomorrow we find out what happened next.

### **Does God care about me?**

People can be very unkind sometimes. People we think are friends might send a nasty text, or say unkind things. We can end up feeling nobody cares.

One of the names for Jesus is Immanuel... God with us. God loves you so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Sins are anything we do, or say, or think, that cuts us off from God.

*My Thoughts*

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### **Time to pray...**

"Dear God, thank you for loving me enough to send your Son to save me. Help me know how much you care about me."

# The best gift ever!

The wise men are nearly at the end of their journey. You are only at the start of your journey of getting to know Jesus!

## Read - Matthew 2:9-12

The wise men were so happy, because the special star went ahead of them. It stopped right over the place where Mary and Joseph were staying with Jesus. God can do anything to help people find Jesus.

## Have a think...

Have you ever had a really nice surprise? Do you have anything you keep, like a card that's very special? It's like treasure for you?

## Mary and Joseph get a huge surprise!

Mary and Joseph had a massive shock when the wise men walked in! The wise men bowed down in front of the baby and worshipped him. They were very important, but they knew they had found the baby who was going to be a very special king!

## Really special gifts!

The wise men bring out treasures for the baby. Presents for a king.

**Gold...** Gold is the right kind of gift for a king. Joseph and Mary were very poor. They needed money to look after Jesus. Things were going to get very tough.

**Frankincense...** Some Christmas candles have this word on them. Real frankincense is a very expensive oil. It smells beautiful. It was used in the Temple in Jerusalem. That's where the people of Israel went to get right with God. Men called priests used frankincense there.

Frankincense showed Jesus was a priest, as well as a king. He would make it possible for people to come close to God, instead of being cut off, because of their sins.

**Myrrh...** Myrrh was a kind of ointment. It was really expensive. It was used when a person died. It made the body smell nice before it was buried. So it's a sad gift to give to a baby.

Myrrh showed that, one day, Jesus would give his life for us. He did this because God loves the world so much. He did this so all our sins can be forgiven and washed away.

### **The best gift ever!**

It's great to get presents. But maybe you've not had many presents. Maybe you can't remember getting anything really special.

In Jesus, God gave us the best gift ever! When Jesus was born, the first people who heard about it were some shepherds. They weren't posh people. They were poor. The shepherds were the first people to visit the baby Jesus. God sent an angel, which made them very scared, but the angel said,

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." That's in Luke 2: 10-11. This is good news for all of us. Jesus came to be our Saviour, so all our sins can be forgiven.

### **Saying thank you to God...**

Further on in the New Testament, this good news is also called grace. A man called Paul, whose life changed for ever when he got to know Jesus, wrote,

"Let us give thanks to God for his gift. It is so great that no-one can tell how wonderful it really is!" That's in 2 Corinthians 9:15.

### **Time to pray...**

"Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus, the best gift ever."



# Our broken world

## Have a think...

- Is your life a bit tough?
- Do you feel nobody understands?
- Do you think like this?... “God doesn’t know what it is like to have bad times. So how can he get what my life is like?”

## Remember!!

God loves the world so much that he sent his only Son into the world. His Son became a real man, but he is God too. His name is Jesus. He understands us. Jesus was poor. He wasn’t born in a palace. Or a house. He was born in a place for animals.

Today you will read about people trying to kill the young Jesus. When he was very little, Jesus was a refugee, an asylum seeker. That’s not easy.

## Read - Matthew 2:13-23

The wise men went back to their own country. Herod had told them to let him know where Jesus was. That’s because Herod wanted to kill Jesus. God warned the wise men not to go back to Herod. Now God warns Joseph to escape....

## “Get up quick!”

Joseph was fast asleep. In a dream, an angel tells him to get up quick, take Mary and Jesus and run away to Egypt. They had to go fast, because Herod wanted to kill Jesus.

Joseph got up and right then, in the middle of the night, the little family set off for Egypt. It was 75 miles away.. a long walk! They were refugees, trying to escape. They needed to buy food and pay for somewhere to stay.

But the wise men had brought gold, so they would be ok. God knew and was looking after them.

Later on, Joseph took Mary and Jesus back to Israel. They went to Nazareth. It was a poor town, but a safe place for the family. That's where Jesus grew up.

### **Our messed up world**

Do you sometimes find the news on TV very sad? Some things we see make us want to turn the TV off.

God didn't make the world a sad place, or a cruel place. He made it very beautiful.

But God lets people choose right or wrong. Back in the beginning of the world, the first man and woman chose to disobey God. That's when sin started to mess up our world. The world is badly broken. We can all choose to do right or wrong. Some people do very cruel things to other people.

Herod didn't want anyone taking over from him. He didn't know where Jesus was. So he had all the baby boys in Bethlehem and around there killed. It was a terrible thing.

We see some horrible things in our world. This isn't how God made the world. Sin has messed up the world and it has messed up all of us.

But God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue us. Jesus gave his life for us. If we believe in him, all our sins will be forgiven.

Matthew 10:30 and 31 says,

**"He (God) even counts every hair on your head! So don't be afraid."**

### **Time to pray...**

**Talk to God now. Tell him anything you are upset about. Ask him to help you understand why Jesus came into our broken world.**