

Welcome to Issue One

The Book of Beginnings



XTB stands for **eXplore The Bible**.

Read a bit of the Bible each day. Investigate the beginning of everything in the book of **Genesis**. Zoom in on **Matthew** and **Acts** to find out who Jesus is and why He came.

Are you ready to explore the Bible? Fill in the bookmark...
...then turn over the page to start exploring with XTB!



This book belongs to

.....

Sometimes I'm called

..... (nickname)

My birthday is

.....

My age is

.....

My favourite dinosaur is

.....

Table Talk FOR FAMILIES

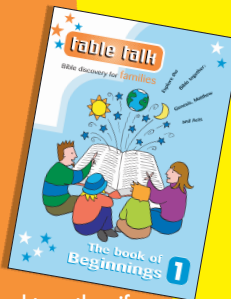
Look out for **Table Talk** – a book to help children and adults explore the Bible together. It can be used by:

- Families
- One adult with one child
- Children's leaders with their groups
- Any other way you want to try

Table Talk uses the same Bible passages as XTB so that they can be used together if wanted. You can buy Table Talk from your local Good Book Company website:

UK: www.thegoodbook.co.uk • N America: www.thegoodbook.com

Australia: www.thegoodbook.com.au • N Zealand: www.thegoodbook.co.nz



OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

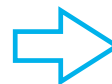
NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation



How to find your way around the Bible...

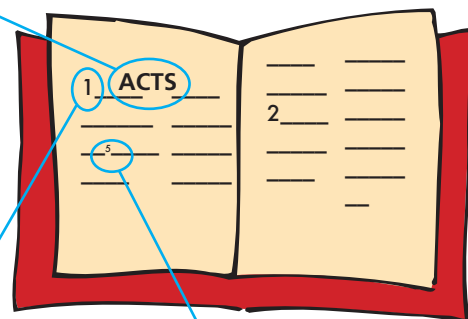
Look out for the **READ** sign.
It tells you what Bible bit to read.



READ
Acts 1v1-5

So, if the notes say... **READ Acts 1v1-5**
...this means chapter 1 and verses 1 to 5
...and this is how you find it.

Use the Contents
page in your Bible to
find where Acts begins



The chapter numbers
are the **GREAT BIG**
ones


The verse numbers are the
tiny ones!

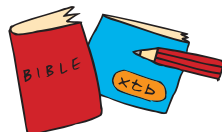



Oops! Keep getting lost?

Cut out this bookmark and use it to keep your place.


How to use

1  Find a time and place when you can read the Bible each day.

2  Get your Bible, a pencil and your XTB notes.

3  Ask God to help you to understand what you read.

4  Read today's XTB page and Bible bit.

5  Pray about what you have read and learned.

6  If you can, talk to an adult or a friend about what you've learned.



Promise stickers



This copy of XTB comes with free **Promise** stickers.

We're going to explore three Bible books—Genesis, Matthew and Acts. We'll discover the same thing in all three of them—that God always keeps His promises.

Be ready to stick in a Promise sticker every time you read about one of God's Promises.

Are you ready to spot your first Promise? Then hurry on to Day 1.



DAY 1 ACTION MEN

xtb

The Book
of Acts

DR. LUKE

ACTS is the second book written by a doctor called Luke. His first book (Luke's Gospel) tells the life of Jesus.



Have you read any
of Luke's Gospel?



Maybe you used **Christmas Unpacked**
or **Easter Unscrambled** to help you.

ACTION!

ACTS is short for "Acts of the Apostles".

It's all about how the disciples (now called apostles) began to spread the good news about Jesus.

Their main **ACT** was to tell people all
about Jesus. They were real
ACTION men!



ACTS

NICKNAMES

Do you have a nickname?

What is it? _____



ACTS tells us about the first followers of Jesus. They
believed that Jesus was the **Christ**
(God's chosen King), so they were given
a nickname—**Christians**.

People who follow Jesus are still called Christians today.

CHATTERBOXES



Are you a chatterbox?

A chatterbox **can't** stop talking. The first Christians couldn't
stop talking about **Jesus**.

Look out for the **chatterboxes** as you read
ACTS. *Start now on the next page.*



DAY 1

CONTINUED

THE NEVER ENDING STORY

xtb

Acts
1v1-5

Spot the difference. There are eight to find.



Luke's first book is the life of Jesus.



His second book tells us what happened after Jesus died and came back to life...

READ
Acts 1v1-5

What did Jesus tell His followers to wait for?

Wait for the g_____ my F_____
p_____ (v4)

The apostles are going to be telling people about Jesus. They're to be **chatterboxes**!
And they'll get into BIG trouble as a result!



Jesus knew they needed help. God the Father promised to send them a gift—a **Helper**. Who was the Helper? (v5)

The H _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _

Stick a Promise sticker here



**THINK
+
PRAY**

The Holy Spirit isn't a force (like electricity). He's a **person**. He's **God**! He helped the apostles to keep following Jesus—and to tell others about Him. Following Jesus can be difficult sometimes. We need help too. Ask God to help you—even when it's hard.

DAY 2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

Jesus has spent 40 days with His followers. But now He's going to leave them...



READ Acts 1v9-11

What did the two angels say?

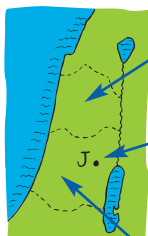
Jesus has been taken into heaven. But He will c_____ b_____ (v11)

The disciples seem to be on their own—but they're not! God is going to send them the Holy Spirit. Read what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would help them to do.

READ Acts 1v8

Can you read backwards?

The places on the map are written in **mirror writing**. Can you read them? (If you're stuck, a mirror will help.)



labeled

S _____

terusalem

J _____

labeled

J _____

The ends of the earth

The e_____ of the e_____

Check your answers in v8.

The disciples were to talk about Jesus in all these places!

xtb

Acts
1v6-11



It seemed an **impossible mission**. A bunch of ordinary men telling the whole world about Jesus. But the Holy Spirit helped them to do it!

Where do you live?

Try writing it in mirror writing!

The news about Jesus has spread far beyond Jerusalem and Israel. It has reached **you** and **me** as well. Who tells **you** about Jesus? _____ Ask God to help them.

THINK
+
PRAY

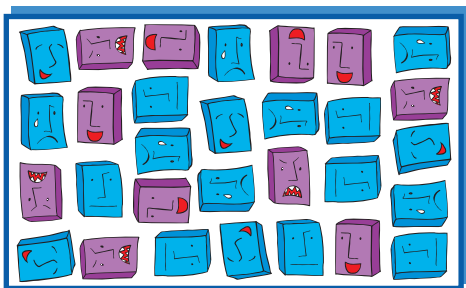
DAY 3 THE CHATTERBOX TEAM

xtb

Acts
1v21-26

How many correct chatterboxes (like this  and like this ) are hidden in the box? _____

Check your answer at the bottom of the page.



The disciples (now called apostles) are leaders of the ACTION team who would take the great news about Jesus to the whole world. A kind of **Chatterbox Team**! But there's a problem...
...One of them is missing!



There used to be **12** disciples—but one of them turned his back on Jesus—and helped Jesus' enemies instead.

Do you know his name?

J _____

Check Luke 22v48 if you're not sure.

Now it's time for the other apostles to fill the gap. What kind of person do they need? (Choose from the list)

Knew Jesus

Strong and brave

Clever

Good at making speeches

Liked cream cakes

Good at football

Follower of Jesus

Check what Peter said...

READ

Acts 1v21-26

Who was chosen?

M _____ (v26)

Matthias didn't have to be clever, or good at speeches. He had been **with Jesus** from the beginning. Now the **Holy Spirit** would help him to be an apostle, an **ACTION man**—helping others to follow Jesus and tell the world about Jesus.

Jesus wants the whole world to know about Him.

Who do you know who tells other people about Jesus?

THINK + PRAY

(In your church, or school? In another country?) Ask God to help them.

Answer: Well done if you spotted all eleven!

DAY 4 GREAT TONGUES OF FIRE!

Match each flag to its country and language. One is done for you.

UNITED KINGDOM

SPAIN

FRANCE

GERMANY



Le Seigneur soit loué!

Praise the Lord!

Lob den Herrn!

El Señor sea glorificado!

The puzzle says "Praise the Lord!" in four languages. In today's story, people praised God in **loads** of languages that they had **never learned**!

READ

Acts 2v1-4

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. What **three strange things** happened? Draw (or write) your answers in the boxes.

Verse 2

Verse 3

Verse 4

xtb

Acts
2v1-4



How will these new languages help

Jesus' followers to be chatterboxes about Him?



God kept His promise to send the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

Stick a promise sticker here.

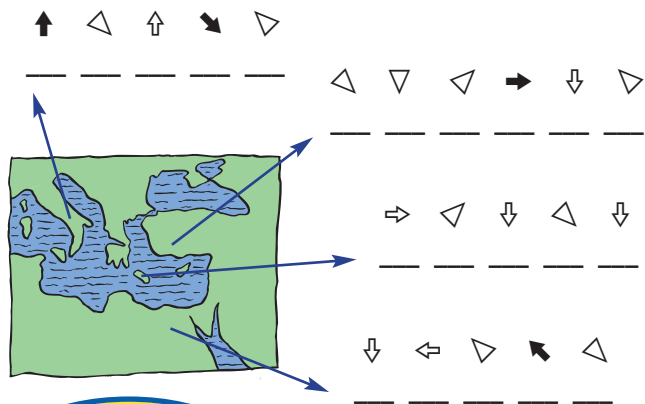


Thank God for always keeping His promises.

DAY 5

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

It was the day of **Pentecost**—a Jewish harvest festival—so there were loads of people in Jerusalem for the celebrations. Use the arrow code to find some of the places they came from.



READ

Acts 2v5-8

Some of these people had come a **H-U-G-E** distance. Travelling from Rome to Jerusalem is like walking from Land's End to John O'Groats or Sydney to Adelaide or New York to Chicago — **TWICE!**

Arrow
Code

A= ↑

C= ⇒

D= ↘

E= ↓

G= ⇐

I= ↑

K= ⇒

L= ↘

N= ↙

O= ⇐

P= ↙

R= ∇

T= ∇

U= ∇

Y= ∇

xtb

Acts
2v5-13

Who made sure these people were there at the right time?

⇐ ← ↘
— — —

God wants the whole world to hear about Jesus—so He brought people from **huge** distances, and gave the apostles all the **right languages** to speak in! **Brilliant!**

But not everyone listened. Some people laughed and

↘ ∇ ∇ ↙ ⇒

said they were — — — — — (v13)

More about that tomorrow.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

Have you been to any of the countries on the map? _____
The message about Jesus has spread **much further** than that. It's reached the whole world—including **you and me!** Thank God for the people who tell you about Jesus. Pray for anyone you know who teaches about Jesus in another country.

DAY 6 PETER PIPES UP

The apostles have been accused of being drunk—but Peter says **not**! Take the first letter of each picture to work out these key words from his speech.



Now use those words to find out the main things Peter said in his speech. Fill in the gaps.



God P _____ long ago that amazing things would happen when He poured out His S _____. It was always God's plan that J _____ would be killed—but God brought Him back to life again! J _____ is the promised C _____, and is ruling as King in heaven. Now He has poured out His S _____ on His followers.

Now read how Peter ended his speech...

READ

Acts 2v36

xtb

Acts
2v14-36

Use v36 to fill in the gaps.

God has made this J _____, whom you crucified, both L _____ and C _____



Peter told them that Jesus was the **promised King**—who came to **save** them—but they **killed Him**!

Stick a Promise sticker here



We'll find out tomorrow how the people reacted to Peter's news about Jesus. Are **you** thankful that God kept His promise to send Jesus? **Why**? Talk to God about your answer.

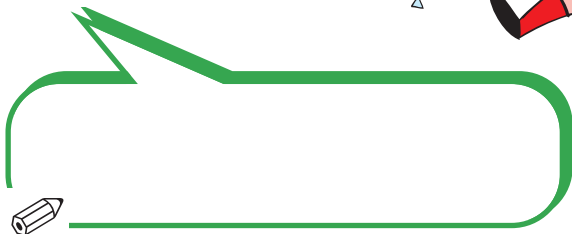
**THINK
+
PRAY**

DAY 7 WHAT SHALL WE DO?

xtb

Acts
2v37-40

What would you say to Joe?



Joe can pretend the broken window is nothing to do with him—or he can own up and **do something about it**.



Like Joe, the people who heard Peter's speech can pretend it's nothing to do with them—or own up and **do something about it**. What will they do...?

READ

Acts 2v37-40

Peter says they must **turn away** from their sins (repent) and **turn towards** Jesus. If they do:

1. Their sins will be **forgiven**
2. They'll get the gift of the **Holy Spirit**

Verse 39 means that this promise is for **us** too—even though we live 2000 years after Peter!

Peter says our sins can be forgiven because of **Jesus**. Turn to **God's Rescue Plan** on the next page to find out more.



- Have you been forgiven by Jesus?
 - Do you want to be?
- (Read **God's Rescue Plan** again if you're not sure.)



PRAY

To repent doesn't just mean saying sorry. It means asking God to help you to **change**, and to do what He says. Do you want God to help you to change? If so, pray now.

GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

Why did God rescue us—and **who** is the Rescuer? John 3v16 explains it.

God loved the world so much...

This is the reason for the Rescue Plan.
God's **everlasting love** for you and me.
He wants us to know Him and to be His friends. But there's a problem. **SIN** gets in the way.

What is Sin?

We all like to be in charge of our own lives.
We do what **we** want instead of what **God** wants. This is called Sin.

Sin gets in the way between us and God. It stops us from knowing Him and stops us from being His friends. The final result of sin is death. You can see why we need to be rescued!

GOD

SIN



...that He gave His only Son...

God sent Jesus to be our Rescuer—to save us from the problem of sin.

How did Jesus rescue us?

At the first Easter, when Jesus was about 33 years old, He was crucified. He was nailed to a cross and left to die.



As He died, all the sins of the world (all the wrongs people do) were put onto Jesus. He took all of our sin onto Himself, taking the punishment we deserve. He died in our place, as our Rescuer, so that we can be forgiven.

...so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life. (John 3v16)

When Jesus died He dealt with the problem of sin. That means that there is nothing to separate us from God any more. That's great news for you and me!

GOD

We can know God today as our Friend and King—and one day live in heaven with Him for ever.



Did you know?

Jesus died on the cross as our Rescuer—but He didn't stay dead! After three days God brought Him back to life! Jesus is still alive today, ruling as our King.

Have YOU been rescued by Jesus? Turn to the next page to find out more...

AM I A CHRISTIAN?

**Not sure if you're a Christian?
Then check it out below...**

Christians are people who have been rescued by Jesus and follow Him as their King.



You can't become a Christian by trying to be good.

That's great news, since you can't be totally good all the time!

It's about accepting what Jesus did on the cross to rescue you. To do that, you will need to **ABCD**.

A **Admit** your sin—that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask Him to forgive you, and to help you to change. There will be some wrong things you have to stop doing.

B **Believe** that Jesus died for you, to take the punishment for your sin; that He came back to life, and that He is still alive today.

C **Consider** the cost of living like God's friend from now on, with Him in charge. It won't be easy. Ask God to help you do this.

D **Do** something about it! In the past you've gone your own way rather than God's way. Will you hand control of your life over to Him from now on? If you're ready to ABCD, then talk to God now. The prayer will help you.

A prayer

*Dear God,
I have done and said and thought things that are wrong. I am really sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. From now on, please help me to live as one of Your friends, with You in charge. Amen*



Do you remember Jesus' promise?—"everyone who believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life."
John 3v16

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to Him. If you have put your trust in Him, He has rescued you from your sins and will help you to live for Him. That's great news!

DAY 8 GROWING ALL THE TIME

xtb

Acts
2v41-47

READ

Acts 2v41-47

How many people believed Peter's message? (v41)

3? 30? 300? 3000?

The new believers were all baptised. It must have taken **ages**!



Did you know?

Getting baptised means being washed in water to show that you follow Jesus.

Being **baptised** is like being washed on the **outside**.

Being **forgiven** is like being washed on the **inside**.

Baptism is an **outside** sign of an **inside** change.

Cross out every **X** & **Z** to find out what the new believers were like.

SXHXAZRXIZNZG with each other

XGZIXVXIZNZG to those in need

MZEZEXTZIXNXG together **DZAXIZLXY**

PZRZAXIZSZIXNZG God together

The believers were like this because the Holy Spirit was changing them on the inside.

Now fit the five words into the puzzle below.



What word do the shaded boxes spell?

S

Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being **S** (v47)

This means more and more people with the nickname **Christians** – because they had become followers of **Jesus Christ**.

PRAY

Look again at the list of words in the puzzle.

Do you want to live like this?

Talk to God about your answer.

DAY 9 THE THREE O'CLOCK MIRACLE

xtb

Acts
3v1-10

READ

Acts 3v1-10

Spot the mistakes in the story below. There are **ten** to find.

Circle each one.

One day Peter and Paul were going to the cinema. It was five o'clock in the afternoon. They saw a lame camel, standing by the Ugly Gate. He asked them for jam tarts. Peter said, "Wink at us! I have loads of money, but I'll give you something better. In the name of Jesus Christ of Norway, get up and ski."

Read verse 6 again.

Copy the last part of the verse into the box.

In the name of



It wasn't Peter who made this man well.
It was **Jesus**!

What was the man doing as he went into the Temple? (v8)



- Why could the man **walk**?
- Why do you think he was **jumping**?
- Why was he **praising** God?



He was **so excited**. He could walk again! He easily could have forgotten to thank God. **But he didn't!**

PRAY

It's easy to forget to thank God for the great things He has given us. Think of some things to thank and praise God for. Then do it!

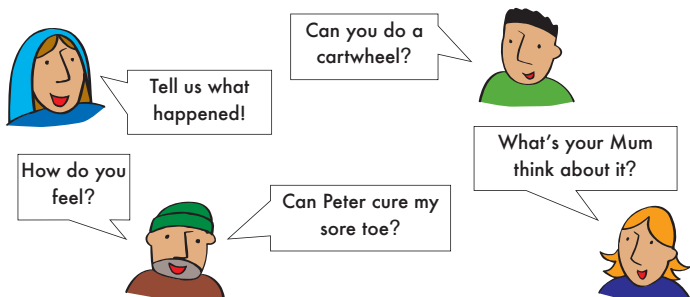
Answers: The mistakes are—Paul, cinema, five o'clock, donkey, ugly, jam tarts, wink, loads, Norway, ski.

DAY 10 CHATTERBOX TIME

xtb

Acts
3v11-16

Wow! A man who has been lame all his life is suddenly cured! *Imagine the excitement...*



Then the crowds turn to Peter. He seems to be the guy who did it all. What will he say?



Peter doesn't talk about **himself**—and says very little about the **miracle**. **Who** does he talk about instead?(v16)

READ

Acts 3v11-16

J _____

The Holy Spirit is helping Peter to be a **chatterbox** about Jesus. Just as Jesus had promised.



Fill in the gaps in verse 15.

Use these words.



life
killed
dead
God

You _____ the
one who gives _____
but _____ raised him from
the _____.(v15)

It sounds a bit like Peter's last speech doesn't it?

- **not** very popular stuff!
- **not** what the people were expecting
- but it's what they **needed** to hear (as we'll see on Day 12).

If you want to *sneak a peak* at how people react, check out Acts 4v4.



**THINK
+
PRAY**

Notice how Peter takes every opportunity to be a chatterbox for Jesus. Do **you**? Who can you tell about Jesus this week? Write their name here.

Ask God to help you.

DAY 11 SIGNPOSTS

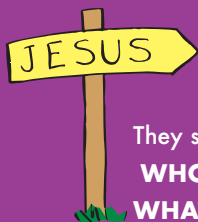
John's book about Jesus (John's Gospel) tells us something mega-important about miracles...

These miracles have been written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.



John 20v31

Underline the words that tell us **who Jesus is**. Circle the words that say **what we should do**.



Jesus' miracles are like **SIGNPOSTS**, pointing to **Jesus**.

They show us **WHO Jesus is** and **WHAT we should do**.

Peter's miracle was like a signpost too. It pointed to **Jesus**.

READ

Acts 3v16

Fill in the gaps.

They all say the same name!

Peter made it clear to the crowd that

J _____ did this.

Dead men don't do miracles. But

J _____ didn't stay dead! He came back to life!

Even though people couldn't see **J** _____ any more – He really was alive. This miracle was a signpost pointing straight at **J** _____

This page is all about **JESUS**. Count up how many times the name **Jesus** is on the page.



WOW!

Jesus is still alive today. We can't see Him or touch Him—but we can know that He is with us. Jesus sends us His Spirit to live inside us and help us to follow Him.

What day is it today?

THINK + PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank you that You are still alive today. Please help me to follow you always.

Amen

DAY 12 PROMISED LONG AGO

xtb

Acts
3v17-26

The crowd Peter was speaking to were Jewish—so they knew all about these people from the Old Testament part of the Bible...

MOSES

God promised that He would send a **PROPHET** (God's messenger) like Moses. The people must listen to this new prophet.



THE PROPHETS

The Old Testament prophets spoke of a time when God would send a **RESCUER** to His people, called the Messiah or Christ.



ABRAHAM

God promised that one of Abraham's family would be God's way of **BLESSING** the whole world.



So what did Peter tell the people to do?

READ
Acts 3v19

It's the same message as before—to **turn away** from sin and **turn towards** God—but it's about to get Peter into BIG trouble, as we'll see tomorrow...

Peter showed that **Jesus** came as the answer to **all three promises...**

READ

Acts 3v22-26

Peter said that Jesus was...
(Fill in the missing letters: e, i + o)

- The **pr_ph_t** like Moses
- The **r_scu_r** the prophets spoke about
- The **bl_ss_ng** who came from Abraham's family

God kept His promises. **Stick a Promise sticker here**



PRAY

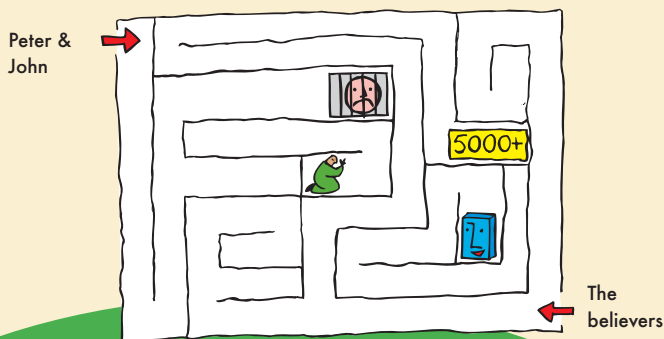
God promised that Jesus would come—and He did! He came to rescue His people and bless the whole world—just as God had said. Thank God that we can trust Him to **always** do what He says.

DAY 13 B—I—G TROUBLE

xtb

Acts
4v1-12

A lame man has been **cured**, and Peter has been teaching the **great news** about Jesus. Follow the maze to see what happens next to Peter and John—and to the group of believers.



What did you find? Copy the pictures here.

Peter & John

The believers

Peter and John spent the night in **prison**, because they told the **truth** about Jesus. Next morning they're dragged in front of the Jewish Council. These were the men **who had Jesus killed!**

What will Peter say...?

READ
Acts 4v7-12

Wow! Even after a night in prison, Peter is still being a chatterbox!

Who helped him? (v8) The H_____ S_____



Who does Peter say is the
ONLY way to be saved? (v12)

J_____

And look what happened to the believers.

Read v4. Now there's more than 5000 of them! And that's just the **men**! There would have been lots of women and children too.

Think Spot



Do your friends laugh at you for following Jesus? Or say that church is b-o-r-i-n-g? The Holy Spirit will help you to stand up for Jesus—just as He helped Peter.

PRAY

Ask God to help you to stand up for Jesus—even if that means being laughed at sometimes.

DAY 14 STOP TALKING!

The story so far...

Draw in the faces—here are a few ideas.



A man had been lame for over 40 years. Now he was cured. The crowds were amazed! Peter told them they had turned their backs on God but that Jesus had come to save them. Lots of people became believers. The Jewish leaders were angry, and threw Peter and John into prison. But the Holy Spirit helped them to be brave and to keep telling people about Jesus.

READ

Acts 4v13

The Jewish council realised why Peter and John were so **bold**. Because they had been with J_____



The council decided to tell Peter and John to **stop** being chatterboxes!

READ

Acts 4v18-22

Peter and John have been told **not** to talk about Jesus.

Did Peter agree? (v20)



The council warned them **again** not to talk about Jesus—and let them go.

xtb

Acts
4v13-22



Peter knew that God had to come **first**—no matter what happened. The Jewish council were very powerful—but God was **more powerful**.

Does God come first in **your** life? What about when your friends want you to tell lies for them? Or you can't be bothered to go to church or read your Bible? Think about the times when you find it hard to put God first. Ask God to help you—just like He helped Peter and John.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

DAY 15 BE BOLD!

Peter and John have been set free from prison—but told **not** to talk about Jesus again! So what did they do? They asked God to help them **be bold**—and to keep talking about Jesus!

READ
Acts 4v23-30

The believers reminded themselves of what **God is like**. Crack the code to see what they remembered.



God is     (v24)

God     everything (v24)

God is in       (v28)

Wow! You can see why they are so sure that God can help them!

BOLD CODE

A = 
C = 
D = 
E = 
G = 
H = 
I = 
K = 
M = 
N = 
R = 
S = 
W = 

So how did God answer their prayer?

READ
Acts 4v31

The room **shook**! They were filled with the **Holy Spirit**. And spoke about Jesus **BOLDLY**!

Why did this happen?

 God       prayer

THINK + PRAY

I have a sign above my door that says "**God is able**". When I pray, it reminds me that God is able to answer all my prayers. What difference does it make to you that God is your King, who made everything and is in charge of our world? Thank God that He is able to answer all your prayers.

DAY 16 INTRODUCING GENESIS

xtb

The Book of
Genesis

Do you like history?



Yippee!



Yeurch!

HISTORY is HIS STORY

It is **God's** Story

—and we're starting right at the very beginning with the book of **Genesis**.

GENESIS is a Greek word.

Crack the Creation Code

to find out what it means.



= B



= G



= N



= E



= I

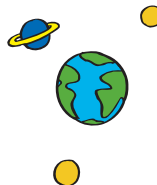
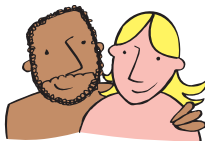


= S



Genesis is a book of beginnings.

- The beginning of the **universe**.
- The beginning of the **human race**.
- The beginning of God's special family, the **Israelites**.



In **Genesis**, we see what **God** is like.



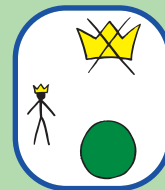
We see God as the **Star-Maker** and **Promise-Giver**. (So be ready to stick in some Promise stickers.)



We see that God is **King** of the world that He made.



Sadly, we also see that people don't want Him to be their King.



Let's start at the very beginning...



DAY 16 IN THE BEGINNING...

CONTINUED

xtb

Genesis
1v1-5

Finish each picture.



When you draw a picture you need

- something to draw with
- and paper to put it on.



But God is **so powerful** that He created the universe out of absolutely nothing!

READ

Genesis 1v1-5

Before anything else existed, **God** was already there.
He created EVERYTHING—just by saying it must be made!

Wow!

God needed no help or tools or even cosmic dust to make it from! God just spoke—and the universe was made!



What was the first thing that God said?
(v3)

Unjumble the words

be there light Let

WOW!

God spoke. Just a word. That was enough for light to burst into the world!

Imagine if there was **no light**—and everything was always dark. You couldn't play football, watch TV or go roller blading. Even eating sausages would be tricky!

What else couldn't you do?



1

2

3

You can see why light is so **good!** (v4)

PRAY

Thank God for creating our world, and for the light to see and enjoy it.

DAY 17 HE ALSO MADE THE STARS

xtb

Genesis
1v6-25

READ

Genesis 1v6-25

Fill in
the gaps

Day 1
(v3-5)

birds
stars
animals
plants
night



Day &
n _____

Day 2
(v6-8)



S _____ &
water

Day 3
(v9-13)



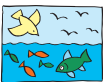
Sea, land &
p _____

Day 4
(v14-19)



Sun, moon
& s _____

Day 5
(v20-23)



Fish &
b _____

Day 6
(v24-31)



A _____
& people

Did you know?

There are over 10,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars! And God has named each one! (Psalm 147v4)

How many kinds of **plant** did God make? (v11)

one? a few? loads?

Some that look great, or smell nice, or taste scrummy, or give us medicines or are good to climb or...

How many kinds of **animal** did God make? (v24)

one? a few? loads?

Which is your favourite? _____



Did you spot the words that keep popping up? (In v4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25.)

God saw that it was good.

(Some Bibles say "God was pleased with what he saw" instead.)

Whichever words your Bible uses, they mean that what God made is **GREAT**—and just how **God planned it**. None of it happened by accident!

THINK
+
PRAY

When you pray, you're talking to the **Person** who created everything—including **you**! Think of some of your favourite things in our world. Stars? Spiders? Snow? Strawberries? Seahorses? Now thank God for making them.

DAY 18 SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

A duck



You

Draw yourself or sign your name

What's the difference between you and a duck? (!)

Genesis says you are **very different** from a duck!

READ

Genesis 1v26-31

Human beings are made in **God's likeness** (v26). That means made like God Himself!

- **We** are like God.
- Animals and birds (and ducks!) are **not** like God.

In what way are people made like God? (Cross out the x's)

"They will rxuxlxe over the fxixsxxh, birds and axnxixmxaxlxs." (v26)

God has put us **in charge** of His world, to look after it and enjoy it.



God created a good world for us to live in. What can **you** do to look after God's world?



xtb

Genesis
1v26-2v3

READ

Genesis 2v1-3

What did God do when He had finished creating the world? (v2)



God didn't stop because He was tired! He stopped because He had **finished** His work, and it was exactly how He planned it. Everything was perfect.

So what's God doing now?

God finished creating the world, but He carried on caring for it and helping His people.

PRAY

Think again about your answer to the **Think Spot**. Ask God to help you.

DAY 19 WHOSE JOB IS IT ANYWAY?

xtb

Genesis
2v4-17

READ

Genesis 2v4-9

Fill in the missing vowels: ☆=a;

★=e; ⊕=i; * =o; ☆=u



The world is G*d's place.

He cr★☆t★d it. (v4)



God created the first m☆n out of d★st!

God gave him l⊕f★. (v7)



God made a p★rf★ct g☆rd★n for the man to live in. (v8)

READ

Genesis 2v15-17



Man was put in the garden to w*rk and

t☆k★ c☆r★ of it. (v15)



God is K⊕NG. It is **His job** to decide what is g**d and b☆d. (v17)

There's one tree that the man **must not** eat from.

Which tree is it? (v17)

The tr__ of the knowledge of g__ d and b__ d.

If the man eats from this tree, he will want to decide for himself what's good and what's bad. But that's **God's job!**

We can put this all together in a picture. Fill in the gaps



God is **KING**. Deciding what is good and bad is H⊕s j*b, not ours.



Man is put in ch☆rg★, to look after and enjoy the world.

The world God created is g**d. It is exactly as God planned it.

THINK
+
PRAY

God gave the man a **choice**. He could obey God—or he could eat from the tree. We have the **same choice**. We can obey God and live for Him, or turn our backs on God and live our own way. Do **you** want to obey God and live for Him? If so, ask Him to help you.

DAY 20 SHE'S THE ONE

The first man—**Adam**—is living in a perfect garden, in a perfect world. But something is missing...



READ

Genesis 2v18-20

What did God say?

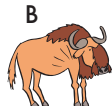
(v18)

It is n _ _ _ g _ _ _ _ for the man to be a _ _ _ _ _

So Adam met all the birds and animals. He chose names for them all. Can you match these unusual animals to their names?



A



B



C

Aadvark
Bandicoot
Gnu
Gopher
Llama
Sloth



D



E



F

God had created an **amazing** bunch of animals—but none of them could be Adam's companion, because people are **completely different** from animals. Look again at Day 18 if you're not sure why.

xtb

Genesis
2v18-25

So, how did God solve the problem?

READ

Genesis 2v21-25



God made a w _ _ _ _ _
out of Adam's r _ _ _ (v22)

Sounds painful! But Adam felt no pain because God put him into a deep sleep.

The woman was just what Adam wanted! She was **like** him—but **different**. The perfect companion.

Did you know?



She's
the one!

Adam's wife was very special to him, because she came from his own body. (v23) God says all marriages are special—**two** people come together and form **one** partnership.

PRAY

Thank God for creating both men and women. Thank Him too for His great gift of marriage.

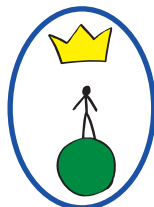
Answers: A=Aadvark, B=Gnu, C=Gopher, D=Sloth, E=Bandicoot, F=Llama

DAY 21 SNAKES AND LADDERS

xtb

Genesis
3v1-7

Do you remember what we discovered on Day 19?



God is **KING**. Deciding what is g ___ d and b ___ d is **His job**, not ours.

BUT there's someone in the garden who wants to spoil everything...

READ
Genesis 3v1-7

Follow the snake down the middle of the page. Use these words to fill in the gaps.



Adam
ate
Eve
lies
more

The snake told
I _____ about
God. (v1,4,5)

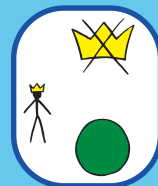
E _____ listened to the
snake's lies. (v1,6)

Eve wanted
m _____ than
God had given
her. (v6)

Eve took the fruit and
a _____ it. (v6)

She gave some fruit to
A _____ (v6)

Adam and Eve had
broken God's rule.
They wanted to decide for
themselves what was
good and bad.



We don't want **you** to
be King!

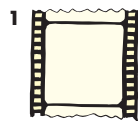
They chose to do what **they** wanted
instead of what **God** wanted. This is
called **SIN**.

The snake was the devil
in disguise. The devil always
wants us to disobey God.
Ask God to help you **not to**
listen to the devil's tempting
ideas.

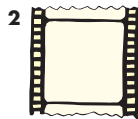
PRAY

DAY 22 SIN SNAPSHOTS

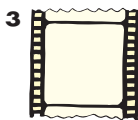
Adam and Eve have disobeyed God. They have **sinned**. These snapshots show what happened next. Copy each picture into the right photo frame.



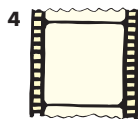
Adam & Eve hide from God among the trees.



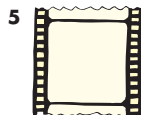
Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the snake.



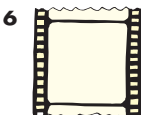
The snake is cursed by God, and will be hated by people.



God says Eve will now have great pain when she gives birth to children.



God says Adam will have to work very hard to grow enough food to eat.



They are banned from the garden. A flaming sword keeps them away from the tree of life.

READ

Genesis 3v8-15

If you have time, read the rest of the story in verses 16-24.

The snake, the woman and the man have all been punished by God. Adam and Eve have been sent out of the garden, away from the tree of life. They won't live with God for ever (as they were meant to). Instead, they will **die**. This is the result of **SIN**.

But in the middle of all this **punishment**, there's a great **promise** too...

xtb

Genesis
3v8-24



Read verse 15 again.

"Her offspring will crush your head."



It sounds odd doesn't it? But God is promising that one of Eve's family (her offspring) will beat the devil (the snake). This promise is all about **Jesus**—who came as our Rescuer to beat the problem of sin for ever.

Stick a Promise sticker here



Sin separates us from God. But Jesus came to solve the problem of sin, so that we can be forgiven. Thank God for keeping His promise to send Jesus as our Rescuer.

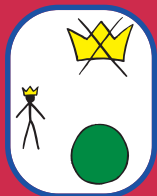
PRAY

DAY 23 THE BEST WAY TO LIVE

xtb

Genesis
4v1-16

We don't want
you to be King!



It's tempting to think that being in charge of our own lives must be better than being told what to do. **But God knows the BEST way for us to live.**

This horrible story shows us what happens when people live **without** God's rule.

1 Adam & Eve had two sons. Cain was a farmer. Abel was a shepherd.



2 Cain and Abel both gave an offering (a gift) to God. Cain gave God some of his crops.



3 Abel gave God the best of his flock. God was pleased with Abel's gift—but not with Cain's.



4 Cain was so angry that he took his brother Abel out to a field, and **killed** him.



Look how sin spreads:

- Cain is **a**_____ (v6)
—even when God says he shouldn't be.
- As a result, Cain commits the first **m**_____ (v8).
- And then he **l**_____ to God about it...

Fit these words in the gaps:

lies angry murder

READ

Genesis 4v8-12

When God asked where Abel was, what did Cain say? (v9)

I d_____ **k**_____

Cain lied, but **God knew** what he had done, and punished him for his sin. Cain wasn't able to grow crops any more. He became a wanderer, with no home. Verse 16 says that Cain was separated from God as a result.

Look at what sin does. It **spreads** (*getting worse and worse, as we will see tomorrow*). And it **separates** us from God.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

Say **sorry** to God for the last time that you disobeyed Him. **Thank** God that He's given us loads of help in the Bible to show us the best way to live.

DAY 24 BUILD A LIFEBOAT

Look at how much has changed between chapter one and chapter six of Genesis:

CHAPTER ONE

God saw all that He had **made**, and it was very **good**.

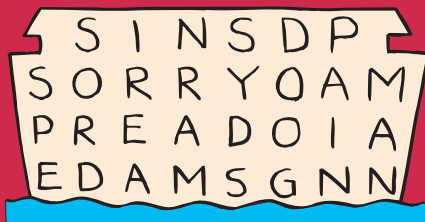
Genesis 1v31

CHAPTER SIX

The Lord was **sorry** that He had made **man** ... and His heart was filled with **pain**.

Genesis 6v6

Find the underlined words in the puzzle. Some are backwards.



The rest of the letters spell out what the problem was. Copy them here. **S** _ _ _ **S** _ _ _ _ _

God was so sorry that He had made man, that He decided to flood the earth clean. But there was one man who did obey God...

xtb

Genesis
6v5-22

READ

Genesis 6v8-22

Who was God pleased with? (v8)

N _ _ _

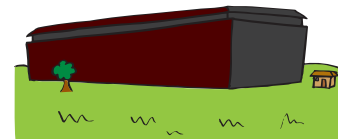


God told Noah what He planned to do—that He would flood the earth. But God **promised** that Noah and his family would be kept safe.

Stick a Promise sticker here



Imagine being told to build a h-u-g-e boat—miles away from the sea! Would you do it? What would your friends say?



PRAY

Read verse 22 again. Do you want to obey God as completely as Noah did? Then ask God to help you.

DAY 25 INTO THE ARK



Think of an animal beginning with each of these letters:

N
O
A advark
H
S

A
R
K



The ark had to carry **loads more animals** than these! It was like a giant lifeboat to keep Noah's family and all the animals and birds safe.

READ
Genesis 7v1-10

How many pairs of clean animals? (v2)

How many pairs of unclean animals?

Did you know?

The **clean** animals (like sheep) weren't better at washing than the others! They were the ones that could be offered to God as a gift.



xtb

Genesis
7v1-10

Noah had to do some **hard things** for God

- build a huge boat
- fill the boat with food for the animals and birds
- believe the flood would happen even though the sun was shining!

But God didn't tell Noah to do anything **impossible**. God knew that Noah couldn't

catch all those animals on his own—so God made the animals **come** to Noah! (v9)



Noah
obeyed
God.

Read verse 5 again. Noah obeyed God by doing the things he **could** do—and trusted God to look after the rest. God doesn't expect **you** to do impossible stuff either! Ask God to help you to obey what He says, and to trust Him to look after the things that seem impossible.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

The
animals
obeyed
God.

The flood
obeyed
God.

DAY 26 GOD'S GREAT RESCUE

xtb

Genesis
7v11-24

1 The Bible fits together like a
GIANT JIGSAW.

All the way through we find **the same two things**:

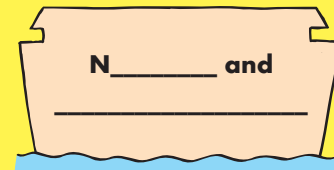
- 1 Sin must be punished.
- 2 God provides a way to be rescued.

2 SIN MUST BE PUNISHED
God's perfect world had been
made dirty by sin. It needed to
be washed clean.

READ
Genesis 7v17-24

How long did the flood
waters keep coming? (v17)
_____ **days**

3 GOD PROVIDES A RESCUE
God provided a way to be
rescued from the flood. Who
was rescued? (v23)



4 Why were Noah and his family
rescued?

- They were perfect
- They were good swimmers
- They trusted God to rescue them

✓X

✓X

✓X

5 SIN MUST BE PUNISHED
Everyone sins. We **all** disobey God.

GOD PROVIDES A RESCUE
Who does the Bible say is the
greatest Rescuer of all?

J _____

*Do you know why? Check Matthew
1v21 for the answer.*

6

PRAY

All sin has to
be punished—
including yours and
mine. Thank God for sending
Jesus to rescue us.

DAY 27 GOD REMEMBERS NOAH

xtb

Genesis
8v1-14



How do you remember things? My friend writes on the back of her hand. My dad puts a knot in his tie—and then forgets why!



What do **you** do?



Genesis 8v1 says, “God **remembered** Noah.”

God doesn’t forget things! When God “remembered” Noah, it means He **acted** on His promise to Noah. God always keeps His promises.

READ

Genesis 8v6-14

How did Noah check if the water had gone down?

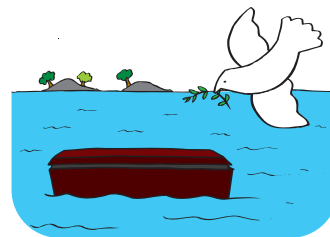
How long did Noah and his family live on the ark?

- a) 40 days and nights
- b) about 4 months
- c) over a year

Check your answer at the bottom of the page.



Imagine spending a year on a boat with all those animals. Think about the **noise!** And the **smell!** Why do you think Noah kept trusting God all that time? Do you think he found it easy?



God had promised to keep Noah and his family safe. God **kept** His promise.

THINK
+
PRAY

Stick a Promise sticker here. →



Ask God to help you to trust Him patiently, just as Noah did.

Answer: c) Look at Genesis 7v11 and 8v14. The gap is just over a year.

DAY 28 OUT OF THE ARK

After a year in a noisy, smelly boat, at last it's time to step back onto dry land. How do you think Noah felt? Circle your answers & add more of your own.

tired thankful relieved
worried surprised

READ

Genesis 8v15-20

How did Noah know it was time to leave the ark? (v15-16)

Noah wanted to thank God for saving him and his family. Do you remember how many pairs of **clean** animals and birds Noah took on the ark?

(See Day 25 to check.)

Noah took some of these and used them as an offering to thank God.

God was pleased with Noah's offering and thankfulness. He decided never to destroy the earth like this again.



READ

Genesis 8v21-22

God promised that as long as the earth exists there will be **cold, heat, summer, winter, day** and **night**.

Has God kept His promise? _____

xtb

Genesis
8v15-22

Fill in the
red words
from verse
22.



I'm writing this on New Year's Day, looking out at the **snow**! For me it's **cold, winter** and **day**. What's **your** weather like right now?



PRAY

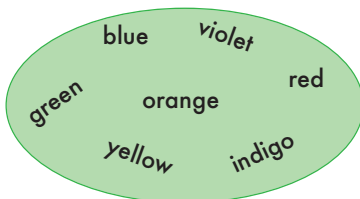
Look again at the list in verse 22. Thank God that these things remind you that God is keeping His promise to take care of our world.

DAY 29 RAINBOW PROMISES

xtb

Genesis
9v1-17

Do you know the colours of the rainbow?



Put
them in
order

R _____
O _____
Y _____
G _____
B _____
I _____
V _____



Making up a silly sentence can help you remember them. How about **R**unning **O**n **Y**our **G**erbil's **B**ed **I**s **V**aliant ...or try one of your own.

The flood is over at last. In verses 1-7 God tells Noah and his family how they are to live from now on. Then God makes them an amazing promise (called a covenant).

READ
Genesis 9v7-17

What does God promise Noah? (v11)

Never to...

What was the sign that God would keep His promise? (v13)

RAINBOW CHALLENGE



Next time you see a rainbow, tell someone why it reminds you of God's promises.



God knew that His rules would keep being



broken. But He gave people the whole of the earth to live in and enjoy. And He promised never to send another flood. What does that tell you about what God is like?

PRAY

"The Lord is good to everyone and has compassion on all He made." Psalm 145v9

Thank God that He is like this.

DAY 30 A PERFECT MAN?

Noah and his family were **not** perfect! At the end of Genesis 9, Noah plants the first vineyard, turns the grapes into wine—and gets drunk! *(There is only **one** perfect man. We start reading about Him tomorrow.)*



Noah wasn't perfect—but there's still loads to learn from his life. Read what the New Testament part of the Bible says about him...

READ
Hebrews 11v7



Noah had _ _ _ _ _ in God.



Noah _ _ _ _ _ God.

xtb

Hebrews
11v7



Think about all
you've learnt
about God in
the book of

Genesis. *(Check Days 23
and 27 to help you.)*

Does this help you to trust and
obey God as Noah did? Why?



Dear God,

Thank you that You always keep
Your promises. Please help
me to **trust** You.

PRAY

Thank you that You know
the best way for me to live.
Please help me to **obey** You.

Amen

DAY 31 MATTHEW MATTERS

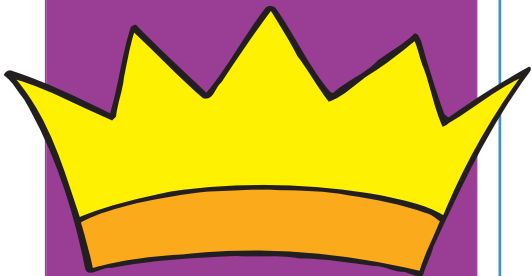
xtb

The Book
of Matthew

Welcome to Matthew's book
about Jesus, with some special
bits to look out for as you read it.

Bits from other books

Matthew squeezed in loads of
chunks from the Old Testament.
Why? Because the Old T is full
of promises about a new king.



Matthew shows us that **JESUS** is
this promised King.

PROMISES

Here are **three promises** from the Old
Testament to look out for.
*Be ready to stick in a Promise sticker each
time you find one.*

To Abraham

God promised that
one of Abraham's family
would be God's way of
blessing the whole world.



To David

God promised that one
of David's family would
be a **King** who would rule
for ever and ever.



To God's people

God promised that
He would send a
rescuer, called the
Messiah or Christ.



Waiting, waiting...

Do you find it hard to wait for things?



It had been 2000 years since
Abraham...

...1000 years since David...

...600 years since the promise to
send a rescuer.

Had God changed His mind? Maybe
He'd forgotten!

No way! God's not like that.
Read on to see what Matthew tells us
about the new King...



DAY 31

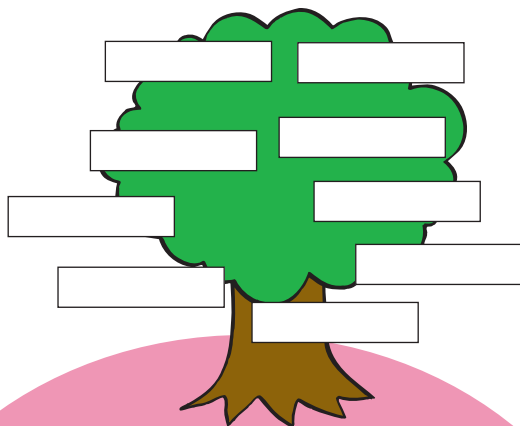
continued

FAMILY TREE

xtb

Matthew

1v1-17



Some families are huge. Some tiny.
What's yours like?

Write their names in some (or all!) of the
boxes on the family tree.

READ

Matthew 1v1

Matthew starts
his book with a
family tree.

Whose family is it?

J _____

Verses 2-16 give a l-o-n-g list of names.

Seems a bit boring? Actually, it's dynamite!



Do you remember the three Old Testament promises?
Check them out on the previous page. Now find some names in Jesus' family tree.

A _____ (See verse 2)

J O _____ (See verse 16)

D _____ (See verse 6)

M _____ (See verse 16)

Find all these names in the wordsearch. (Some are written backwards!)

J E A B R A H A M S Y
U S W H O I S C A L R
L E D I V A D D C H A
J O S E P H R I S T M

Copy the left over letters here.

(Check with verse 16)

Christ (or Messiah) means "God's chosen King".

Stick a Promise sticker here to remind you that
God kept His promise to send Jesus as King.



PRAY

God kept His promise to send King Jesus. Thank God for always
keeping His promises.