

# STARTING OUT

...on your journey with Jesus



## A note to adults

**Starting Out** is designed to use with children. Use the first part (pages 3 - 18) to explain to a child how they can take the first steps to be a follower of Jesus. Take time with this, working at a pace to suit the child's understanding and readiness. Several short sessions of talking will be preferable to one long one.

The second part has a few purposes. It helps the child to get a sense of what it means to belong in God's family. Our hope is that anyone who decides to follow Jesus will find and join a church or faith community, so we introduce some of the typical behaviours and practices of Christians. It also introduces the child to the Bible in nine short readings, which help the child to understand what it's like to live as a believer and follower of Jesus. A child could work through these alone, with their family or with your help.

Finally, in the back of the book is a Leader Guide and a Glossary. You could read these if you're confused about the words, or wondering why we've written things in the way we have.

Find an interactive version of this book at

**starting-out.com**

## Who Made Starting Out

First published by Scripture Union in 1987.

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Prayer Menu (page 33) based on Beth Barnett's Party On, session 2.

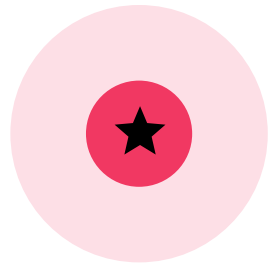
Influenced by the Theology of Ron Buckland.

Scripture quotations marked (CEV) are from the Contemporary English Version  
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# You Are Valuable

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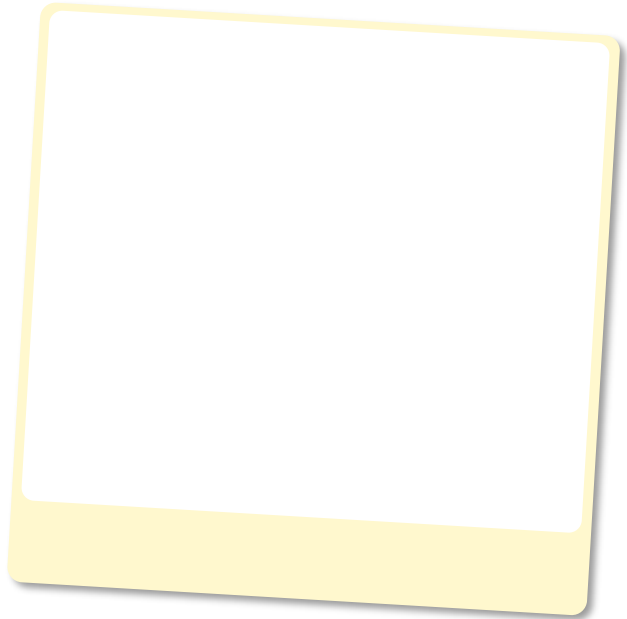
AND SO ARE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS



## *Put yourself in the picture*

Paste your photo or draw  
your face into this selfie:

You can draw in your family  
or friends around you too!



## **God made you**

There is no one else quite like you in the whole world.

God made you and knows you very well.

God loves you and cares for you all the time - no matter what .

## **God wants to be friends with you**

God wants to be friends with you. God isn't going to make you be friends -  
you get to choose. God wants you to grow as a friend and follower of Jesus.  
Jesus is God's son, who we'll hear more about as we go.



# Four Friends

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Here are four friends who are thinking about following Jesus.  
And they're all different...

## Hannah

Is not sure about following Jesus at the moment. Hannah wants to find out lots more about what it means before she makes up her mind. This book will help, especially reading about God's invitation.

## Jackson

Started following Jesus a little while ago. Jackson would like to understand and find out more about what this means. This book will remind Jackson how he became Jesus' friend. Pages 14, 15 and 18 will help a lot. So will the second half of this book.

## Kendra

Is very interested in following Jesus, but she's not sure how to start. Kendra is ready right now to think very carefully about it. This book will help Kendra think about following Jesus.

## Asha

Believes that Jesus has always been their special friend. Asha is still finding out more about how to follow Jesus. This book will remind Asha about their special friend. The second part of this book will help a lot.



*Are any of these four people like you right now?*



# What is God Like?

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Now let's start at the beginning... the very beginning... God!

GOD NEVER BEGAN

GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN HERE

GOD WILL ALWAYS BE HERE –  
FOREVER

The Bible tells us lots  
of things about God:

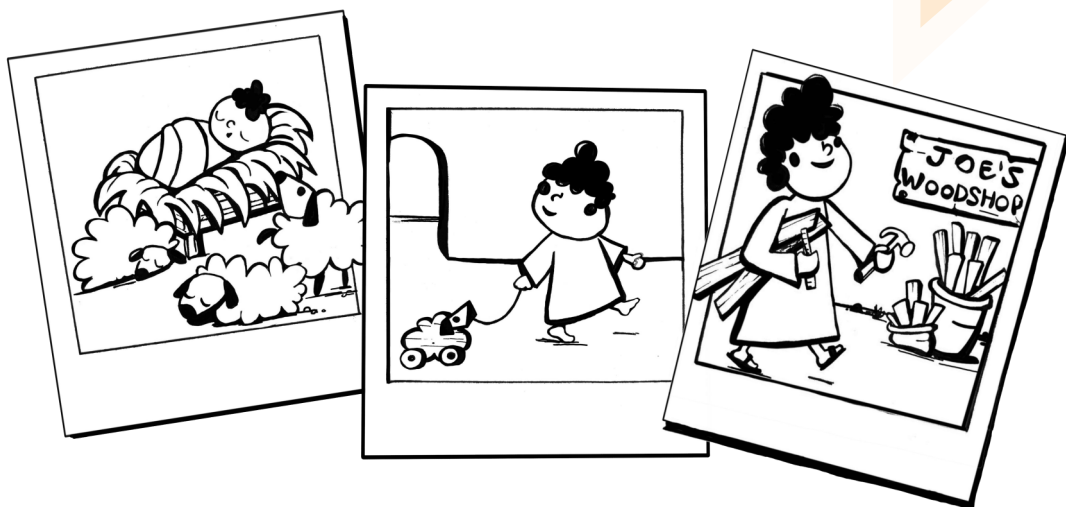
- GOD CREATED EVERYTHING
  - GOD IS LOVE
    - GOD IS GOOD
      - GOD IS OUR PROVIDER
        - GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT – YEP, EVERYWHERE!
        - GOD IS ALL POWERFUL
          - GOD IS FAIR
          - GOD IS HOLY

...and lots more!

*Some of these might not make sense yet and that's ok. You can spend your whole life getting to know God and not get bored.*

Of course, it's hard to get to know someone that you can't see, so...

Just over 2000 years ago - God's son Jesus came to live on earth. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus was a baby... then a child ... then a teenager ... then an adult. Just like everyone else! Unlike everyone else, Jesus is God. So when we think about Jesus, we are thinking about God.



## Jesus shows us what God is like!

To Jesus, everyone is valuable. He enjoys showing people that God loves them and wants to be their friend. **That means you too!**



# God Welcomes Us

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## God

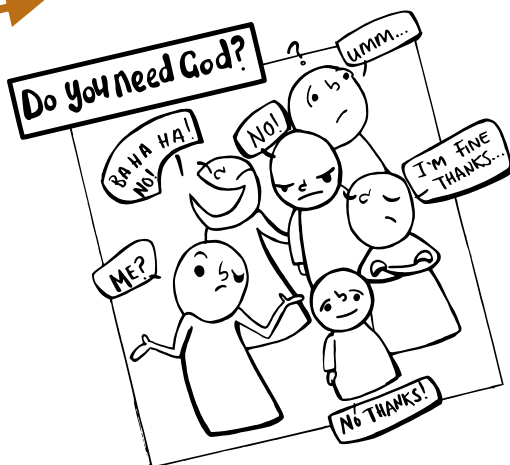
God loves us and wants to be friends with us. God wants us to be the unique and amazing person we were created to be. That happens when we grow to be like Jesus and live the way he teaches us.

## But,

Sadly there are times when we don't do what God wants us to do. Sometimes we don't really love God much at all. We might want to, but we don't. We might try to, but sometimes we just really want to do things our own way, not God's way. When we push God away from us like this it is called 'sin'. It might look, or feel, like this:



**Telling lies**  
 Not caring for amins and nature  
 Having things in our life that are more important to us than God  
**Saying things to hurt others**  
 Doing things that hurt people or communities  
**Not loving God**  
 Thinking mean thoughts  
 Being selfish and pushing other people away



**Remember**

You are valuable and precious to God!

God wants to be close with you (and everyone else too).

The sad thing is when our sin stops us from being close with God.



# God Wants Us to be Close

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SO JESUS CAME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT SIN.

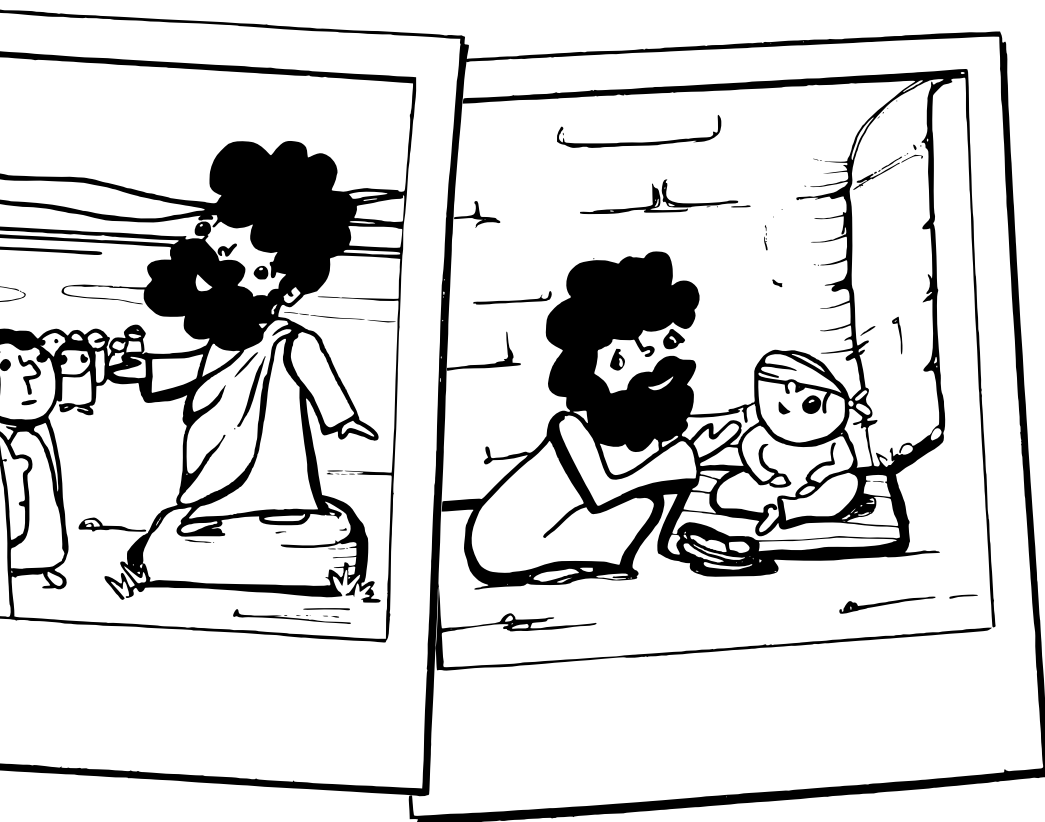
When Jesus lived on earth, he lived a life that was good and perfect in every way.

- Meeting people's needs
- Caring and healing
- Teaching
- Standing up for people who were bullied
- Showing God's love and power
- Doing what God showed him to do



Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, some leaders were jealous. He cared for everyone and welcomed everyone and this made them uncomfortable. Most people loved being with Jesus, they listened to him, and lots of people followed him. The leaders hated this. Finally, they killed Jesus by nailing him on a cross.

*At Easter, people who follow Jesus  
remember that Jesus died for us.*





# God's Good News

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At Easter, people who follow Jesus also remember that God brought Jesus back to life again.

This was God's way of showing that sin (and brokenness and hate and even death) could not win in the end. God's love is stronger than all those things. So, sin does not have to win in our lives either.

*God*

LOVING US

WELCOMING US

HELPING US

LIVING WITH US

*Us*

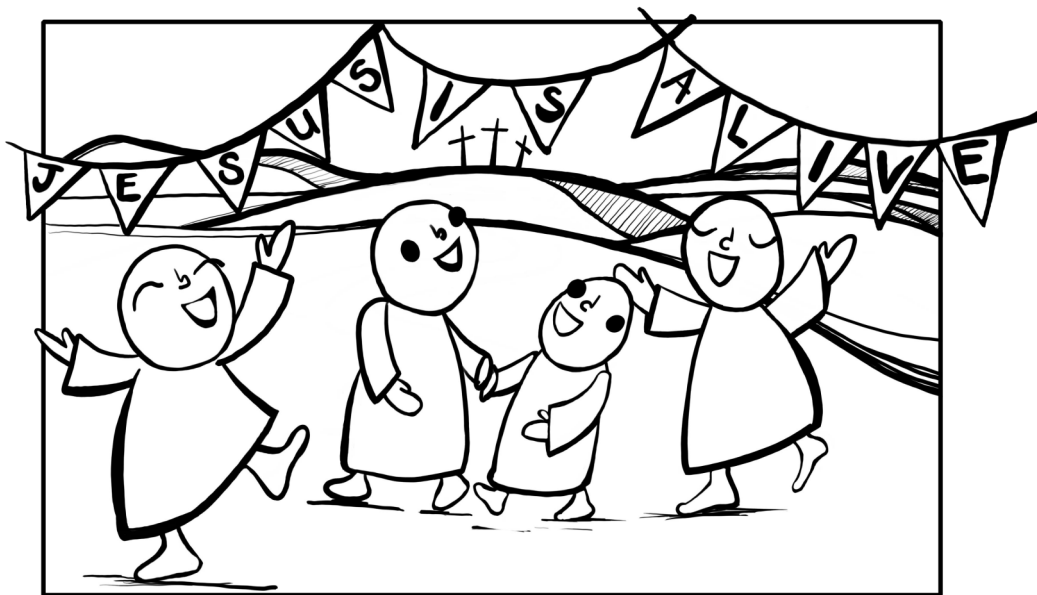
LOVING GOD

FOLLOWING JESUS

LEARNING ABOUT JESUS

CARING FOR OTHERS  
LIKE JESUS DID

Because Jesus died on the cross and our sin died with him, God can forgive us and give us a new beginning - to live life with God, with God's Spirit (Holy Spirit) in us.



Jesus is alive! We're invited to follow Jesus, loving God and loving others, with God's Holy Spirit to be with us and help us.



# A New Beginning

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Kendra really wanted to know how to follow Jesus.

Now we can tell Kendra... and you... how to begin following Jesus.

If we choose to follow Jesus it means that our lives will change. It will no longer be about doing what we want to, it will be about doing what God wants us to. God made us and knows us, so doing what God wants is the best possible thing for us. God wants us to love God and love other people. Of course, this will be impossible to do on our own, but it is possible with God's help.

*God is inviting  
everyone,  
including you,  
to be God's  
friend and to  
follow Jesus.*



When you ask, God says YES! You are God's friend!

God is excited about being friends with you and celebrates!

If you want to be God's friend and follow Jesus you can pray a 'thankyou - sorry - please' prayer. It goes like this...

## **Thank you**

Say thanks to God for always loving you and for the promise to always forgive you. Thank Jesus for coming to show us the way to live, and for dying for our sin and promising to always be with us.

## **Sorry**

Tell God what you are sorry for, and ask God to forgive you.

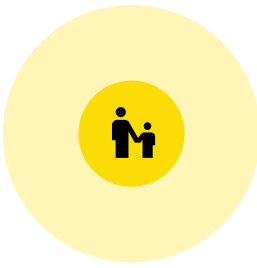
## **Please**

Ask God to come into your life and give you a new start. Ask for God's help to follow Jesus.

Say a prayer like this in your own words. Perhaps write it on a piece of paper. Be sure to tell what you've done to someone else that you trust.

*Write here the date when you prayed this prayer:*

It's a special day when you first pray this prayer. You can also pray it as many times as you like for the rest of your life.



# We're All Different!

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Think again about Hannah, Asha, Jackson and Kendra and their different responses to the invitation to be God's friend.

*Who is most like you?*

## *SOME OF US ARE LIKE* **Hannah**

If you are still not sure about being a friend of Jesus:

- Remember you are precious to God
- If you want to, you could ask God to show you that God is real
- Talk to someone who has followed Jesus for a while and ask them about him
- Remember God wants to welcome you and you can accept that invitation any time
- You can read all the pages in this book again and again, as often as you like!

## *SOME OF US ARE LIKE* **Asha**

If you have been friends with Jesus for a long time:

- Thank Jesus for being your friend
- Talk to someone who has followed Jesus for a while and ask them about their journey
- Read the second half of this book, to help you follow Jesus more closely



*SOME OF US ARE LIKE* **Jackson**

Maybe you have prayed a prayer like the one on pages 14 and 15. Perhaps you don't feel any different and you are wondering 'Did God really hear me?'

To understand more about what it means to be a friend of Jesus:

- Read about God's promises on page 18
- Talk to someone who has followed Jesus for a while and ask them about it
- Read the second half of this book. It will help you grow in your friendship with Jesus
- Go on following and trusting in Jesus, remember that God heard you and said YES so God is always there to help you



*SOME OF US ARE LIKE* **Kendra**

If you're ready right now to begin a new life with Jesus:

- Talk to someone who has followed Jesus for a while
- Think carefully about the ways Jesus could make a difference in your life. He loves you and wants you to be the best you can be
- As it is a very important step to take, you may want to talk it over with someone you really trust and consider what things it might change in your life
- When you are ready, pray a prayer like the one on pages 14 and 15
- Read the second half of this book. It will help you grow your friendship with Jesus



# Things to Remember

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If you have prayed a prayer like the one on pages 14 and 15, you can be sure God has heard you and that God says YES.

Here are some important things to remember:

YOU ARE WELCOMED INTO GOD'S FAMILY

YOUR SIN IS FORGIVEN – YOUR FRIENDSHIP  
WITH GOD IS FULLY RESTORED

HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO LIVE IN YOU TO  
HELP YOU LIVE AS JESUS' FRIEND

JESUS IS WITH YOU ALWAYS AND WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

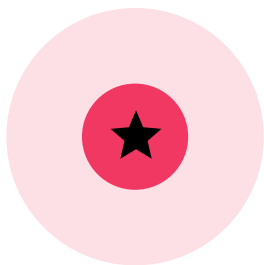
## These are God's promises to all of us.

A person who is a friend of God and a follower of Jesus (who is sometimes called Jesus Christ) is usually called a 'Christian'.

All Christians are part of God's family.

# New Life with Jesus!

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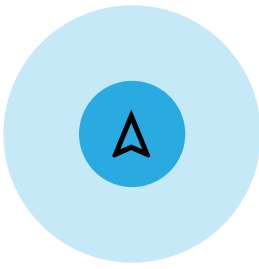
If you have prayed a prayer like the one on pages 14 and 15, you have started a new friendship with Jesus! The second part of this book will help you live your new life with Jesus.

*What things do you do with your friends?*

*write or draw them here...*

You might spend time together, listen and talk to each other, do things together and care about each other.

It is the same with Jesus!



# Prayer

(TALKING WITH GOD)

We can talk with God about anything! Just like a best friend.  
When we talk to God it is called prayer.

We can pray about:

- Things we are finding hard
- Things we are excited about
- Things we are sorry about -  
this is called 'confession'
- Things we need or would like God  
to do for us or for other people

When praying, we can sing, talk aloud or in our heads, write or draw, and we can do it anytime and in any place.

A prayer might be just one word or lots of words or it might not even use words at all!

Prayer isn't just you talking, you can listen to God too!  
Leaving silence is one way to hear God speak - which God might do in different ways such as through an image, an idea or a feeling.

# Try It

Sit quietly for a minute now.

You might close your eyes, or open them to look around.

Do you think God is saying something to you?

WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

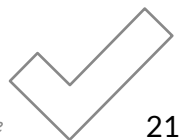
WHAT DO YOU SEE?

WHAT DO YOU FEEL?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

One big way God talks to us is through the Bible. We can read, watch or listen to the Bible to hear God's voice.

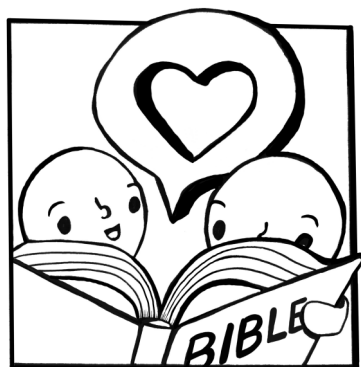
*Colour in the tick when you have finished the page*





# The Bible

(HEARING GOD'S VOICE)



We can get to know God by reading the Bible. The Bible is lots of books written by different people, all put together into one big book. It includes stories, songs, letters and poems.

Sometimes the Bible is called the Scriptures or God's Word - as its message comes to us from God.

The Bible is a big story made of lots of little stories that show how God has been interacting with all creation (and especially with people) over many thousands of years.

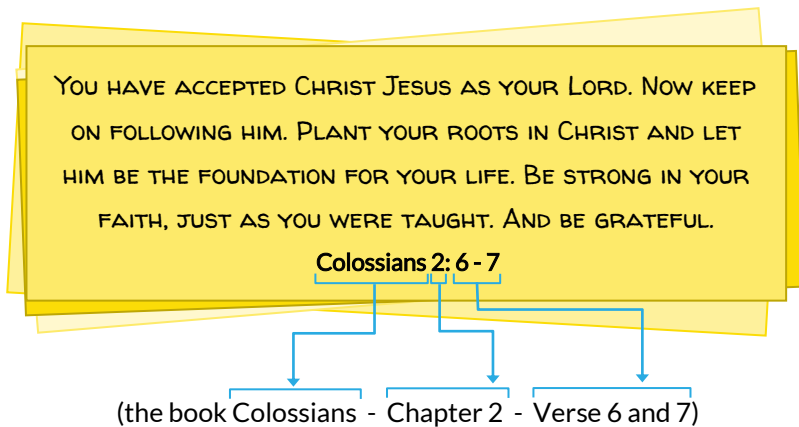
It's a special book that has been important to many generations of people all over the world.

## **The Bible shows us what God is like**

It tells us how much God loves us and what God has done for us, especially by coming close to us in Jesus. The people who wrote it were God's friends and wanted other people to love and know God too. Reading and thinking about the Bible helps us learn about God, Jesus and Holy Spirit and how God wants us to live in the world God made.

Over the next few pages you will find some words from the Bible. We've included the words within Starting Out, but you may also like to read them in a printed Bible (a **Contemporary English Version** can be easier to read than other translations) or using an app or a website like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

The Bible's books are divided into chapters and then verses to make parts easy to find. Here's an example of how to find them:



Step

1

On the contents page of your Bible, find the page number of the start of the Bible book (e.g. Colossians)

Step

2

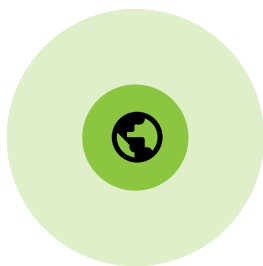
Turn to that page then find the right chapter (marked with a **big** number)

Step

3

Each verse has a small number. Find the verses you need. And read! You may want to read the verses a couple of times to help you to hear what God is saying.





# God's Family

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## Let's Look at the Bible

These words are from a letter sent to some Christians to encourage them to keep following Jesus.

WE SHOULD KEEP ON ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER TO BE THOUGHTFUL AND TO DO HELPFUL THINGS. SOME PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THE HABIT OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP, BUT WE MUST NOT DO THAT. WE SHOULD KEEP ON ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER...

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10 VERSES 24, 25

## Think about these words

People who love God and follow Jesus are like a big...



*Unjumble the letters*

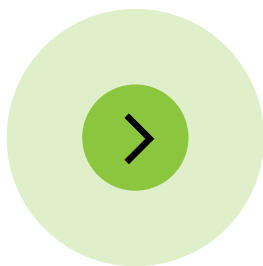


God's family can meet at a church building, in a hall, online, under a tree or in a house. Sometimes, in places where it is dangerous to follow Jesus, they might even meet together underground. God brings us into a BIG worldwide family when we become friends with God. How amazing is that?!

Hold this up to a mirror. Find out some of the things that God's family do together:

- Worship God
- Help others
- Have fun together
- Care for each other
- Eat together
- Be peace-makers
- Read the Bible
- Learn more about following Jesus





# Worship

## What is Worship?

We worship things we love and find awesome.

To worship God (and nothing else) is to say that God is

THE BEST!

## How can you Worship God?

You can sing, talk, think, write or draw; alone or with others; any time and in any place. When we worship we're saying how great God is and that God loves us. (Because we all *forget* this at times.)

## Let's Look at the Bible

YOU KNOW THE LORD IS GOD! HE CREATED US, AND WE BELONG TO HIM;  
WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, THE SHEEP IN HIS PASTURE. GIVE **THANKS** AND  
**PRAISE** THE LORD AS YOU ENTER HIS TEMPLE.

THE LORD IS GOOD! HIS LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS WILL LAST FOREVER.

PSALM 100: 3-5

This part of the Bible is called the Psalms. These are poems and songs written before Jesus was on earth. (The P in Psalm is silent. When you say Psalm leave out the P. It rhymes with farm). This bit is chapter 100, verses 3 to 5. If you spent a lot of time around sheep, you would love the bit about God being like a shepherd to us. It doesn't mean we need to start eating grass, it's just one way the Bible tries to explain who God is. The Bible has lots of interesting ideas for us to think about.

# Think about these words

Find two words that describe how we can worship God:








T

AND

P


Write your own name on the line:

God loves \_\_\_\_\_

For how long will God love you?

Use the code to find out

E	S	F	O	V	W	R
						

# Try It

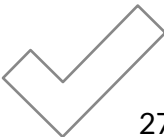
Write four things you can thank and praise God for:

1.

2.
3.

4.

*You might want to say these things out loud, or turn them into a song, or draw them or dance them or build them or share them.*





# Growing as God's Friend

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As you start to worship and pray with God, you will move closer to God. This is because God's Holy Spirit has come to live inside you when you said YES to Jesus. You have started a new wonderful friendship and your adventure with Jesus has begun!

## Let's Look at the Bible

These words come from a letter written by John, who wrote down the words of Jesus. He wrote about Jesus' life, to help other people follow Jesus too.

I CAME SO THAT EVERYONE WOULD HAVE LIFE,  
AND HAVE IT IN ITS FULLEST.

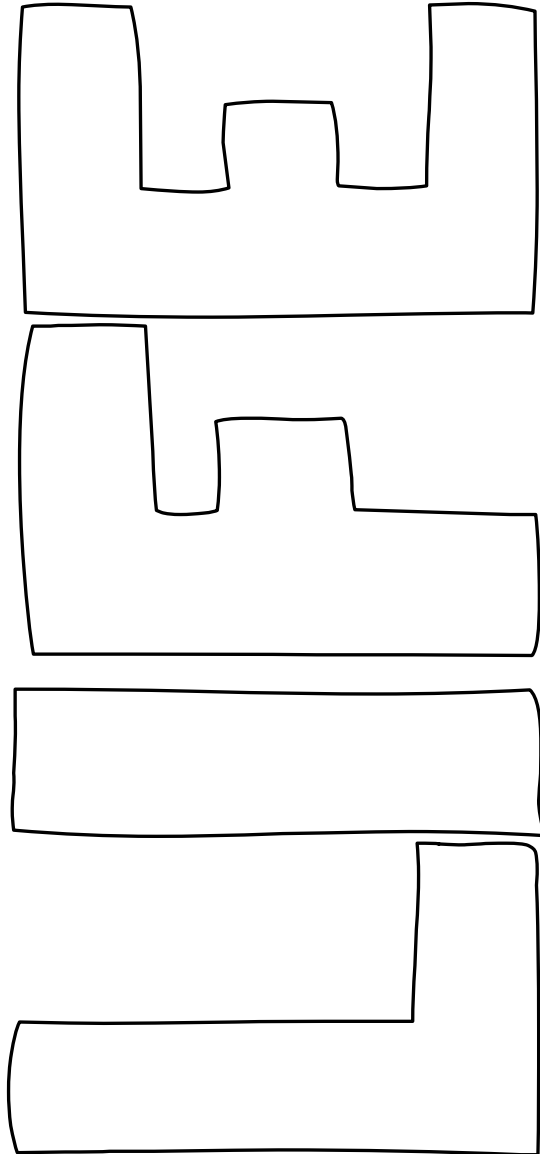
JOHN 10:10

## Think about these words

Jesus wants to give you real LIFE! As we grow in our friendship with God, we find God's Holy Spirit grows good things in our life - just like a tree growing good fruit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This is what Jesus means by "life in its fullest"! As these grow in us, we get to share these good gifts with others, too!

# Decorate

*Colour in and decorate the word to see how much life you can give it!  
Think about what God might want to grow in you.*





# Forgiving

## Let's Look at the Bible

There are three letters from John in the Bible, right near the end. They each have a number that comes before 'John', as well as the chapter and verse after.

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO GOD, HE CAN ALWAYS BE  
TRUSTED TO FORGIVE US AND TAKE OUR SINS AWAY.

1 JOHN 1: 9

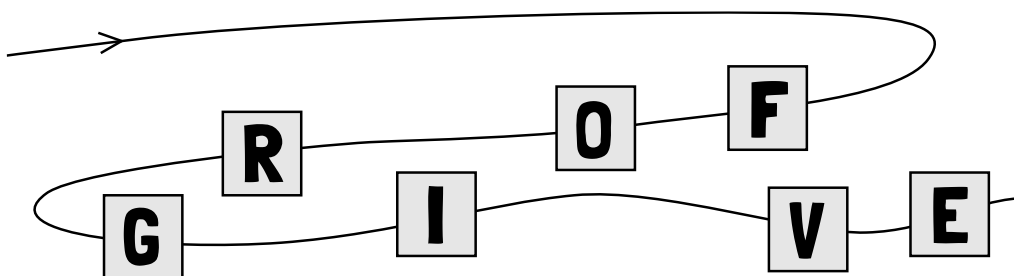
## Think about these words

Although when we ask Jesus to be our friend, he says **YES** and gets rid of our sin, we don't become perfect! We still disobey God at times. Just like with our other friends, we need to recognise when we have been selfish and turned away from God. As soon as you realise you have done something wrong tell God you are sorry, and ask God to forgive you.

**God loves to forgive!**

John tells us that God is always ready to forgive us. The first step is being honest. It's a good idea each day to tell God about the things in our lives that we're sorry about. What will God do?

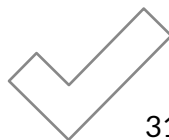
*Follow the line...*



When God forgives us it's like being washed clean from mud and dirt. Except God washes us on the inside. The sin that spoils our friendship is taken away forever! And in turn, we then get better at forgiving people who have hurt us!

## Try It

Go outside, wet your hands and dig around in the dirt. Get them really dirty! Then use soap and water to wash them clean. In the same way God loves to clean away our sin.





# Choosing

## Let's Look at the Bible

GOD IS WONDERFUL AND GLORIOUS. I PRAY THAT HIS SPIRIT  
WILL MAKE YOU BECOME STRONG FOLLOWERS AND THAT CHRIST  
WILL LIVE IN YOUR HEARTS BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITH. STAND  
FIRM AND BE DEEPLY ROOTED IN HIS LOVE.

EPHESIANS 3:16-17

## Think about these words

This book of the Bible was written by a man named Paul. He wrote lots of books in the Bible. This one was written to the people that lived in Ephesus (the Ephesians). Paul cared a lot for the Christians that he met and would write letters to encourage them. He knew that there would be things that would make it hard for them to follow Jesus. He knew they would have to give up other things to make Jesus the most important thing. It's the same for us, and Paul's letters can encourage us too!



Wecqcanqqchqoqoseqjqesqusqqeqvqerqydqqay

*Cross out all the q letters to reveal a message*

## Prayer Menu

Life has lots of choices. Do you like making choices? You could choose some items on this menu as a prayer:

### Starter:

Dear God

Hi Jesus

Loving Holy Spirit

### Entree:

Thanks for loving me, no matter what

I love the amazing universe you've created

Thanks for my family

It's great that I can talk to you and hear you

### Main Course:

Sometimes I find it hard to believe that you really are real

I don't like the way that we're treating your creation

I think it's so cool that you lived on Earth

Sorry for the times that I'm mean to other people

### Dessert:

Show us how to make the world a fairer place for everyone

Please help me to feel how much you love me

Help me to tell my friends how good you are

Please let me understand more about you

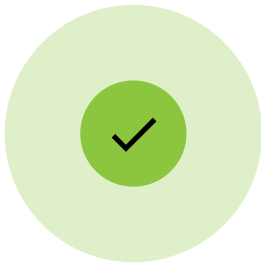
### Finisher:

Amen

I really mean what I said!

Thanks so much for hearing us

You are great!



# Being Sure

(THAT WE'RE FRIENDS WITH GOD)

## Let's Look at the Bible

EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE THAT THE FATHER HAS GIVEN ME  
WILL COME TO ME, AND I WON'T TURN ANY OF THEM AWAY

JOHN CHAPTER 6 VERSE 37

These words are another part of John's Gospel. Jesus wants us to be sure of his love for us. This is called **FAITH**.

## Think about these words

What will Jesus do when people come to follow him?

*(One answer is wrong. Cross it out and tick the others)*

☐ He will always welcome them

☐ He will usually ignore them

☐ He will never send them away

## Feel It

There are lots of things in our world that we can't see, but that we know are there. Go outside and feel for a strong wind or a gentle breeze. We can't see it, we don't know where it comes from or where it is going, but we know it exists. We can see the way it blows the leaves and we can feel it on our cheeks.

## Pray

Thank Jesus that he always welcomes us when we come to him. Tell him how you're feeling or what you're thinking right now. Ask him to help you grow in being sure about his care for you.





# Following Jesus

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## Let's Look at the Bible

Luke was also a follower of Jesus. These words are from his Gospel telling us about Jesus.

THE SCRIPTURES SAY, 'LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH, AND MIND.' THEY ALSO SAY, 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF.'

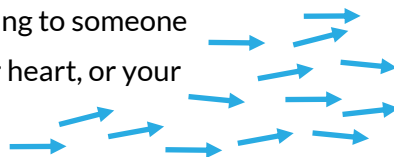
LUKE CHAPTER 10 VERSE 27

## Think about these words

Jesus gave us these two rules for life. Doing them is the best way to be the person that God created us to be.

## Try It

Think about something you can do to be loving to someone today, or this week. How could you use your heart, or your hands, or your brains, to care for them?



## Special Rule Number 1

Jesus wants us to love God. God is more important than anything else, so we try our best to love God as best we can. God is wise and made us, so God knows the best way for us to live. When we try to love God more than anything else, we are living the best way we can!

*Put A, E, I, O or U in the spaces:*



## Special Rule Number 2

Look at the words from the Bible on the left of the page.

*Draw a line under the second rule.*

These two rules only work together - they can't be separated.  
You can love God best by loving other people and you can love  
other people best by loving God.

Who could you tell about how great Jesus is?

Maybe they'd like to follow him too?





# Serving like Jesus

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## Let's Look at the Bible

AFTER JESUS HAD WASHED HIS DISCIPLES' FEET AND HAD PUT HIS OUTER GARMENT BACK ON, HE SAT DOWN AGAIN. THEN HE SAID:

"DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE DONE? YOU CALL ME YOUR TEACHER AND LORD, AND YOU SHOULD, BECAUSE THAT IS WHO I AM. AND IF YOUR LORD AND TEACHER HAS WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR EACH OTHER. I HAVE SET THE EXAMPLE, AND YOU SHOULD DO FOR EACH OTHER EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

JOHN 13: 12-15

SO DURING THE MEAL JESUS GOT UP, REMOVED HIS OUTER GARMENT, AND WRAPPED A TOWEL AROUND HIS WAIST. HE PUT SOME WATER INTO A LARGE BOWL. THEN HE BEGAN WASHING HIS DISCIPLES' FEET AND DRYING THEM WITH THE TOWEL HE WAS WEARING.

BUT WHEN HE CAME TO SIMON PETER, THAT DISCIPLE ASKED, "LORD, ARE YOU GOING TO WASH MY FEET?"

JESUS ANSWERED, "YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I AM DOING, BUT LATER YOU WILL UNDERSTAND."

JOHN 13:4-7

John wrote this. He was one of Jesus' special friends.

He was a **DISCIPLE**.

In the days of the Bible, the servants had to wash the dirty, smelly feet of the visitors. But Jesus was an important guest!

A disciple is a person who learns from a leader or teacher. There are millions of Jesus' disciples around the world.

Today they are usually called Christians. They are learning to serve others like Jesus did.

# Think about these words

Jesus wants us to follow his example.

People will laugh or get annoyed if we try to wash their feet! It is not a normal thing to do in our part of the world. When we serve others, we are doing what Jesus did and what He wants us to do. We are bringing hope and joy to other people! There are many ways we can serve like Jesus; at home, at school, at church, in our neighbourhood. It is always fun to serve (also called “mission”) with others. God sends us to serve like Jesus did.

## Try It

Think about some ways to care for others, serve others, and show God’s love for others. They might be little things, they might look strange to others or they might mean we miss out on something, but they can mean a lot to others.

*How could you serve like Jesus this week?*

- [ ] Sit with someone who is alone at lunch
- [ ] Say something kind to someone who is feeling sad or scared
- [ ] Make a card for a friend or relative who is sick,  
reminding them of God’s love
- [ ] Stand up for someone who is not being treated nicely
- [ ] \_\_\_\_\_
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*Draw what you could do with others to serve like Jesus here:*



# What's Next?

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This book helped Kendra, Hannah, Jackson and Asha. We hope it has helped you on your journey with Jesus, too.

If you have more questions, talk to the person who gave you this book. And remember...

YOU ARE VALUABLE!

GOD LOVES YOU AND WELCOMES YOU!

Imagine Jesus is giving this special promise to you. You'll find it in Matthew chapter 28 verse 20:

*"I will be with you always..."*



# Keep Growing

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Reading the Bible every day helps us to grow as Christians. The best way to do this is with other people - who could you read the bible with?

**Scripture Union** has books to help with reading the Bible. Some of them give you a few Bible verses to read each day. Then there are explanations, puzzles, things to do, prayers and cartoons as well. Look for **Snap Shots** (ages 9–11) and **Hot Shots** (ages 7–8) through Resources for Ministry (Scripture Union Australia).

There's a **Bible App for Kids** that can help you read and explore the Bible on your devices at [bibleappforkids.com](http://bibleappforkids.com)

You can access all the words of the Bible any time online through [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and printed Bibles are available from Scripture Union or from any Christian bookshop. You might like to check out **The Big Rescue Bible**.

## Contact Us!

We'd love to know that you've finished reading **Starting Out**.

Let us know your name and where you live:

- For more information about the Bible reading books we have available
- For a list of SU camps and programs running near you
- For a recommendation of a church in your area that you could attend

If you're in Australia, email [admin@su.org.au](mailto:admin@su.org.au) or visit [scriptureunion.org.au](http://scriptureunion.org.au)

If you're somewhere else in the world, visit [scriptureunion.global](http://scriptureunion.global)

# Leader Guide

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There are many different ways to explain the Christian Faith and many ways to guide someone who is starting out. We've chosen a path that we believe is true and faithful to Jesus' way, is consistent with SU's approach around the world, and is relevant in Australia in this decade.

As you read Starting Out, either alongside a child or by yourself as an act of preparation, consider what language, what images and what concepts were meaningful for you when you were first starting out. What was confusing to you? What helped you through?

Scripture Union would love to help you. We have resources that step through helpful approaches, we offer training in frameworks of faith formation and we can have conversations with you about de-jargoning faith.

For a child Starting Out in their own faith, as for a leader wanting to be the best disciple and discipler they can be - the best thing to do is always find someone to ask. There are answers out there... and lots of really helpful questions too.

# Glossary

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## WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN?

- **Bible:** See pages 22 and 23. The Bible is full of mysteries, some of which are hard to understand. There are ideas in the Bible that adults have spent their whole life studying and still don't fully get. The Bible was written in a completely different time (when there were more sheep than mobile phones) so sometimes the examples don't mean much to us until we think about what life was like then. It's ok to say that something doesn't make sense to you and to ask lots of questions about the Bible
- **Christian:** a follower of Jesus Christ. Becoming a Christian is a big choice, and it changes the rest of your life. There are some things to think about before you make this choice.
- **Christmas:** the time of year that we remember Jesus coming to earth as a little baby. We give gifts to each other to celebrate, because Jesus is a special gift from God
- **Disciple:** the 12 special close followers of Jesus when he was walking on earth. We can also call ourselves disciples if we're following Jesus
- **Easter:** the time of year that we remember Jesus dying on the cross and we celebrate Jesus coming back to life
- **Follower:** someone who follows Jesus, who is trying to live like Jesus did by loving and serving God and loving and serving others
- **Lord:** is another name for God that's used in the Bible. Because the Bible was written in other languages and translated to English, we get a few different names for God and Jesus in our English Bible. A Lord is someone who is in charge. God is in charge of the whole universe.
- **Jesus:** the son of God, who also is God. (We get that this is confusing... no human has quite been able to work it all out yet!)
- **God:** God is a spirit. God has always existed and created everything else. It's a bit hard to get to know someone you can't see. God gets this so God sent Jesus to earth. Jesus was fully a man and fully God so when we look at Jesus we get to know God. See pages 6 and 7. We can also find out about God by looking in the Bible and asking questions. (In the Bible, God is sometimes called a 'he' but God isn't a man or a woman). You can spend your whole life getting to know God and still not get bored!
- **Sin:** pushing God away. See more under pages 8 and 9. There are lots of metaphors for sin - brokenness, lostness, darkness, rebellion (doing the wrong thing on purpose). They're all part of the picture
- **Spirit:** one of the parts of God. We say that God is a community of "three in one" and God's Spirit is part of this "one". Often called the Holy Spirit, though some people leave off 'the' to make it more like a person's name

# STARTING OUT



How to take the first steps in the greatest adventure of all. This book helps 7 - 11 year olds to discover how to be a follower of Jesus, and what the Bible teaches about living as a Christian.



[su.org.au](http://su.org.au)