

# START HERE



YOU'RE HOLDING THE  
BESTSELLING BOOK OF ALL TIME.

Welcome to the Bible!

We've made a film for you to watch before you get stuck in.

Head to [gnbyouthedition.co.uk/welcome](http://gnbyouthedition.co.uk/welcome)

# WHAT'S INSIDE...

## AN INTRODUCTION

|                     |   |                         |    |                                 |    |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|
| YOUR PROFILE        | 3 | WHAT IS THE BIBLE?      | 7  | THE BIBLE: HOW IT CAME TOGETHER | 12 |
| THE GALLERY OF      |   | HOW TO USE THIS BIBLE   | 8  | THE BIG QUESTIONS               | 13 |
| MEANINGFUL MOMENTS  | 4 | FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND | 9  | TIMELINE OF THE BIBLE STORY     | 14 |
| X MARKS THE SPOT... | 5 | MAKE A NOTE             | 10 | HOW DO I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?    | 18 |
| WHY READ THE BIBLE? | 6 | HOW TO READ THE BIBLE   | 11 | BIBLE READING PLANS             | 19 |

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

|              |     |               |      |
|--------------|-----|---------------|------|
| GENESIS      | 21  | ECCLESIASTES  | 789  |
| EXODUS       | 81  | SONG OF SONGS | 799  |
| LEVITICUS    | 130 | ISAIAH        | 809  |
| NUMBERS      | 163 | JEREMIAH      | 881  |
| DEUTERONOMY  | 207 | LAMENTATIONS  | 956  |
| JOSHUA       | 251 | EZEKIEL       | 965  |
| JUDGES       | 279 | DANIEL        | 1026 |
| RUTH         | 309 | HOSEA         | 1045 |
| 1 SAMUEL     | 314 | JOEL          | 1057 |
| 2 SAMUEL     | 353 | AMOS          | 1063 |
| 1 KINGS      | 387 | OBADIAH       | 1072 |
| 2 KINGS      | 425 | JONAH         | 1075 |
| 1 CHRONICLES | 463 | MICAH         | 1079 |
| 2 CHRONICLES | 501 | NAHUM         | 1086 |
| EZRA         | 543 | HABAKKUK      | 1090 |
| NEHEMIAH     | 557 | ZEPHANIAH     | 1095 |
| ESTHER       | 579 | HAGGAI        | 1099 |
| JOB          | 589 | ZECHARIAH     | 1102 |
| PSALMS       | 633 | MALACHI       | 1114 |
| PROVERBS     | 757 |               |      |

## THE MIDDLE BIT

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 400 YEARS OF SILENCE   | 1118 |
| SHHHHHHHHHHHH!         | 1119 |
| PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS | 1121 |

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

|                 |      |            |      |
|-----------------|------|------------|------|
| MATTHEW         | 1123 | 1 TIMOTHY  | 1419 |
| MARK            | 1171 | 2 TIMOTHY  | 1425 |
| LUKE            | 1202 | TITUS      | 1430 |
| JOHN            | 1252 | PHILEMON   | 1433 |
| ACTS            | 1288 | HEBREWS    | 1435 |
| ROMANS          | 1332 | JAMES      | 1450 |
| 1 CORINTHIANS   | 1352 | 1 PETER    | 1456 |
| 2 CORINTHIANS   | 1371 | 2 PETER    | 1462 |
| GALATIANS       | 1383 | 1 JOHN     | 1466 |
| EPHESIANS       | 1391 | 2 JOHN     | 1472 |
| PHILIPPIANS     | 1399 | 3 JOHN     | 1474 |
| COLOSSIANS      | 1405 | JUDE       | 1476 |
| 1 THESSALONIANS | 1411 | REVELATION | 1479 |
| 2 THESSALONIANS | 1416 |            |      |

## THE BIG ISSUES

|                            |      |                       |      |                 |      |
|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| BULLYING                   | 1502 | LIVING DIFFERENTLY    | 1505 | SOCIAL MEDIA    | 1509 |
| COMPARISON                 | 1502 | MAKING WISE DECISIONS | 1506 | SUFFERING       | 1510 |
| CREATION & THE ENVIRONMENT | 1503 | MENTAL HEALTH         | 1506 | WAR & TERRORISM | 1510 |
| EVANGELISM                 | 1503 | PORN                  | 1507 | WORRY & ANXIETY | 1511 |
| FAMILY                     | 1504 | POVERTY               | 1507 |                 |      |
| HURTING YOURSELF           | 1504 | SCHOOL & EXAMS        | 1508 | VIDEO INDEX     | 1512 |
| IDENTITY                   | 1505 | SEX & RELATIONSHIPS   | 1509 |                 |      |

NAME:

SCRIBBLE DOWN THE NAMES OF SOME

IF YOU'VE GOT A FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE, WRITE IT HERE.



A large empty rectangular box with a teal border, intended for writing a favourite Bible verse.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE IMPACTED YOUR LIFE.



**THIS IS A LIST...**

Fill the lines with things that really matter to you.

A series of ten horizontal teal lines within a dashed teal border, intended for listing things that matter to the user.

**GRAB A FRIEND (OR TWO...)**

AND ASK THEM TO WRITE POSITIVE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU HERE.



A large empty rectangular area with a teal border, intended for drawing a life journey and marking important moments.

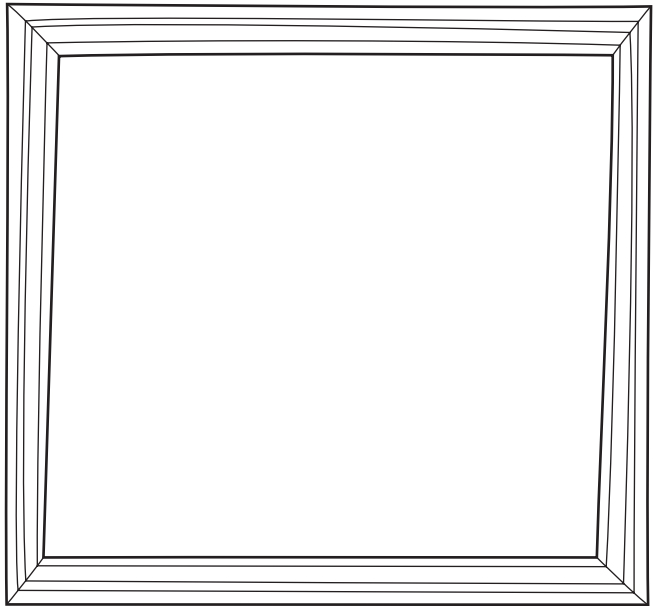
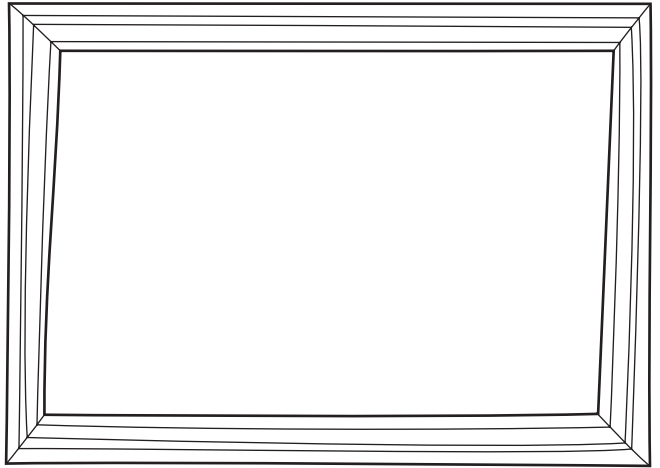
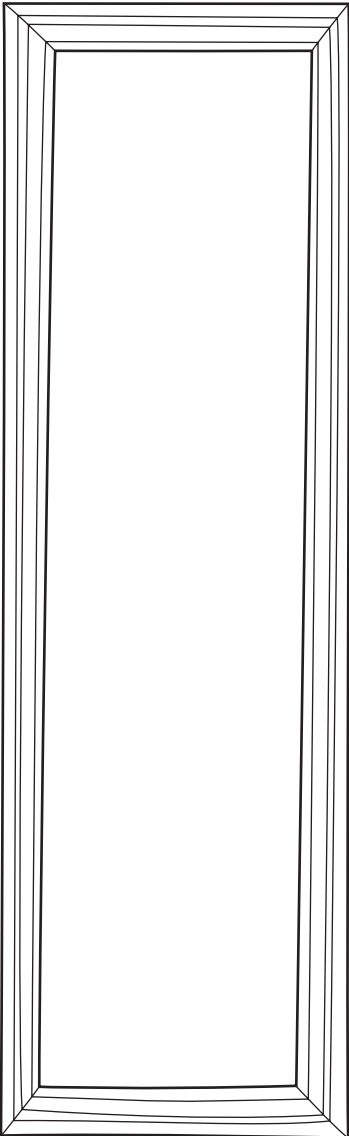
ON THIS LINE, DRAW YOUR LIFE JOURNEY UP UNTIL THIS POINT, AND MARK IT WITH IMPORTANT MOMENTS.

A horizontal teal line with several vertical tick marks along its length, intended for drawing a life journey.

## THE GALLERY OF

# MEANINGFUL MOMENTS

Cover this space by sticking in things that remind you of times when you encountered God or had a significant moment with him. It could be leaves from walks, letters from friends, wristbands from events... anything!



GOD



**X MARKS THE SPOT...**

So go ahead and draw an X somewhere on this page that represents your relationship with God. How close to him, or far away, do you feel? Mark it with today's date. Whenever you come back to this page, see if you feel any different and draw another X.

# WHY

• READ THE •

# BIBLE?

The Bible has something to say about almost all the questions we might be asking - whether about our relationships, our purpose here on earth or how to live a good life. People in really tough situations have read the Bible and found themselves changed. God speaks to us through the Bible, bringing a message of hope, love, forgiveness, freedom and purpose. We learn that nothing can ever separate us from God's love, and we find out more about this God who loves us unconditionally and can make a difference to us today.

The Bible is one of the most influential historical documents of all time and has been transforming people's lives for thousands of years. To hear some stories of how it's still changing people's lives today, go to [gnbyouthedition.co.uk/stories](http://gnbyouthedition.co.uk/stories)

# WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

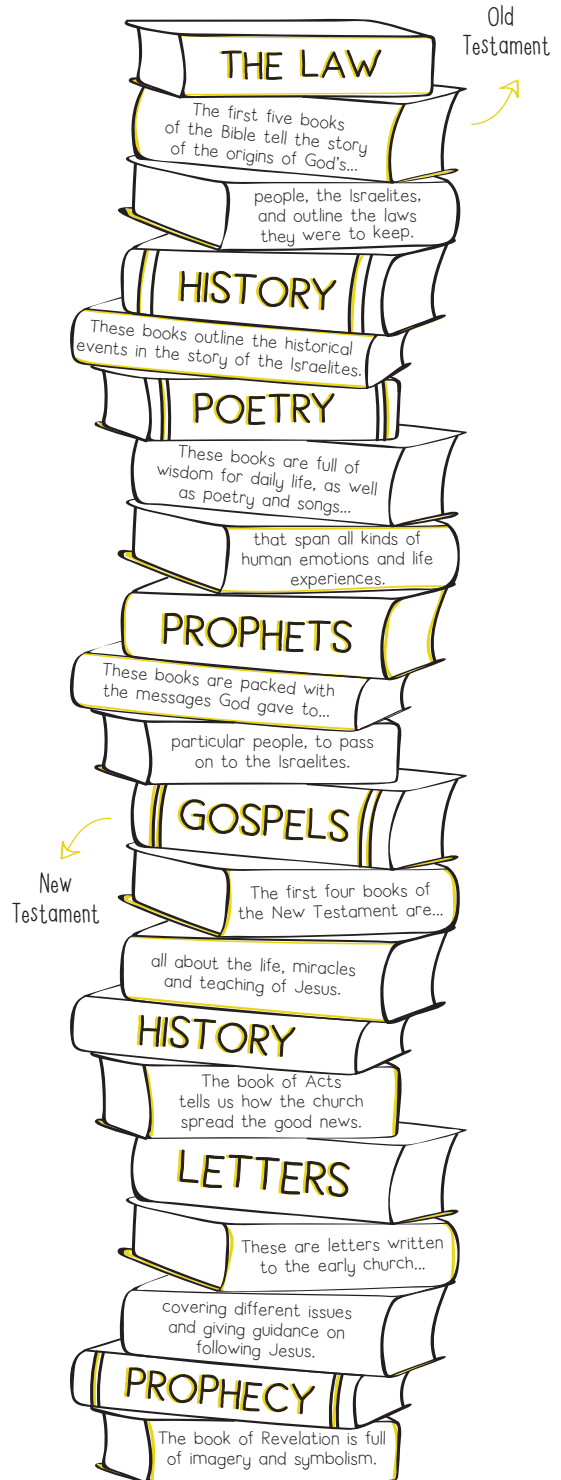
The Bible is more like a library than one book. It's a whole collection of books that tell us who God is and how we fit into the big story of life. It can help to shape our lives today and make a difference to the way we view our identity. We find out that God loves and cares about us and has a plan for our lives.

Take a quick look at the 'What's inside' page (p. 2). You'll see that the Bible is split into two parts called the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells us about the Jewish people's history and the way they understood God. The New Testament is the story of Jesus and the difference he makes to our understanding of the same God.

There are loads of different types of books in the Bible. Just as you might have a favourite film genre - such as action, sci-fi or comedy - there might be some biblical genres that interest you more than others. There are songs, poems, stories, letters and much more to unpack.

## CHECK THEM OUT!

However, the whole Bible is one big story with a common theme that runs throughout all the little stories. (A fancy word for this kind of big story is 'metanarrative'.)



# HOW TO USE THIS BIBLE

Sometimes, getting the most out of the Bible depends on the type of person God created you to be.

ARE YOU A

## CREATIVE PERSON?

MAKE USE OF THE SPACE!

**COLOUR, DRAW AND IMAGINE.**

HIGHLIGHT GREAT VERSES AND MAKE  
THE MOST OF THE INTERACTIONS.

ARE YOU A REFLECTIVE PERSON?

Always allow yourself time to

## STOP AND THINK.

Use the space to write out your thoughts, and  
ask loads of questions about what you read.

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO FIND OUT.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE PERSON?

Feel free to take this Bible around with you!

## IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE READ IN YOUR ROOM.

Carry it with you when you're exploring  
new places, and read it there.

Are you a

## TALKER?

This book has loads in it to chat about.

**GET TOGETHER WITH MATES**  
and talk through what you read.

Write down questions as you read,  
and try to answer them.

**ARE YOU A BIT OF EVERYTHING?**

Use the Bible differently depending on how you feel at the time.

THERE'S NO RIGHT WAY TO DO IT!



# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

WRITTEN: AROUND AD85

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Luke, a doctor and friend of Paul, wrote this book about the life of Jesus. Luke set out to make a properly researched case for the claims of Jesus. He was writing specifically for Greek Gentiles (non-Jews), so he focuses on non-Jews in the stories he includes. He fills his pages with accounts of Jesus' interactions with other people, particularly those who weren't very well thought of at the time, including women, lepers and thieves. Luke's account shows that Jesus was on the side of the outcasts, the oppressed, the broken and the poor. The good news that Jesus came to bring is for every single person.

## WHY READ IT?

From famous stories like the good Samaritan and the lost son to intriguing accounts of miracles and healings, Luke is full of really great stuff. This Gospel also shows that the hope and freedom that Jesus brings isn't just for a select few, or for those who've got it sorted, but for everyone.

## GRAB A COLOURED PEN

or pencil and go through Luke, highlighting all the different people who Jesus interacts with.

Either

# LIST OR DOODLE

below all the different kinds of people you can think of.

Then, as you look through what you've done, reflect on the fact that Jesus died so that each one of those people could have a chance to know him.

(6BC)  
JESUS' BIRTH

HEALING AND TEACHING

DEATH

RESURRECTION

(AD27)



**1** Dear Theophilus:  
Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. <sup>2</sup>They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message. <sup>3</sup>And so, your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an orderly account for you. <sup>4</sup>I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.

### The Birth of John the Baptist is Announced

<sup>5</sup>During the time when Herod was king of Judea,\* there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife's name was Elizabeth; she also belonged to a priestly family. <sup>6</sup>They both lived good lives in God's sight and obeyed fully all the Lord's laws and commands. <sup>7</sup>They had no children because Elizabeth could not have any, and she and Zechariah were both very old.

<sup>8</sup>One day Zechariah was doing his work as a priest in the Temple, taking his turn in the daily service. <sup>9</sup>According to the custom followed by the priests, he was chosen by lot to burn incense on the altar. So he went into the Temple of the Lord, <sup>10</sup>while the crowd of people outside prayed during the hour when the incense was burnt.

<sup>11</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right of the altar where the incense was burnt. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was alarmed and felt afraid. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. <sup>14</sup>How glad and happy you will be, and how happy many others will be when he is born! <sup>15</sup>He will be a great man in the Lord's sight. He must not drink any wine or strong drink. From his very birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup>and he will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>He will go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; he will turn disobedient people back to the way of thinking of the righteous; he will get the Lord's people ready for him."

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also."

<sup>19</sup>"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But you have not believed my message, which will come true at the right time. Because you have not believed, you will be unable to speak; you will remain silent until the day my promise to you comes true."

<sup>21</sup>In the meantime the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he was spending such a long time in the Temple. <sup>22</sup>When he came out, he could not speak to them, and so they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Unable to say a word, he made signs to them with his hands.

<sup>23</sup>When his period of service in the Temple was over, Zechariah went back home. <sup>24</sup>Some time later his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and did not leave the house for five months. <sup>25</sup>"Now at last the Lord has helped me," she said. "He has taken away my public disgrace!"

**1.5** *Judea*: The term here refers to the whole land of Palestine.

# STOP RIGHT NOW.

Think of something  
you're thankful for.

## The Birth of Jesus is Announced

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. <sup>27</sup>He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

<sup>29</sup>Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. <sup>31</sup>You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, <sup>33</sup>and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end!"

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. <sup>37</sup>For there is nothing that God cannot do."

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

## Mary Visits Elizabeth

<sup>39</sup>Soon afterwards Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. <sup>40</sup>She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. <sup>45</sup>How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"

## Mary's Song of Praise

<sup>46</sup>Mary said,

"My heart praises the Lord;

<sup>47</sup> my soul is glad because of God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!

From now on all people will call me happy,

<sup>49</sup> because of the great things the Mighty God has done  
for me.

His name is holy;

<sup>50</sup> from one generation to another

he shows mercy to those who honour him.

<sup>51</sup> He has stretched out his mighty arm

and scattered the proud with all their plans.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

<sup>54</sup> He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors,  
and has come to the help of his servant Israel.

<sup>55</sup> He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham  
and to all his descendants for ever!"

<sup>56</sup>Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home.



### The Birth of John the Baptist

<sup>57</sup>The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbours and relatives heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>When the baby was a week old, they came to circumcise him, and they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father.

<sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No! His name is to be John."

<sup>61</sup>They said to her, "But you have no relatives with that name!"

<sup>62</sup>Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have.

<sup>63</sup>Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." How surprised they all were! <sup>64</sup>At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. <sup>65</sup>The neighbours were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, "What is this child going to be?" For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him.

### Zechariah's Prophecy

<sup>67</sup>John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he spoke God's message:

<sup>68</sup> "Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.

<sup>69</sup> He has provided for us a mighty Saviour,  
a descendant of his servant David.

<sup>70</sup> He promised through his holy prophets long ago

<sup>71</sup> that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the power of all those who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> He said he would show mercy to our ancestors  
and remember his sacred covenant.

<sup>73-74</sup> With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham  
he promised to rescue us from our enemies  
and allow us to serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup> so that we might be holy and righteous before him  
all the days of our life.

<sup>76</sup> "You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High  
God.

You will go ahead of the Lord  
to prepare his road for him,

<sup>77</sup> to tell his people that they will be saved  
by having their sins forgiven.

<sup>78</sup> Our God is merciful and tender.

He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us

<sup>79</sup> and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the  
dark shadow of death,

to guide our steps into the path of peace."

<sup>80</sup>The child grew and developed in body and spirit. He lived in the desert until the day when he appeared publicly to the people of Israel.

### The Birth of Jesus

(Mt 1.18–25)

**2** At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup>When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town.

WHAT DOES 'SALVATION' MEAN?

Finish the mindmap below.

Deliverance  
from sin and  
its consequences,  
believed by  
Christians to be  
brought about  
by faith in Christ.  
(oxforddictionaries.com)



**SALVATION**

PSALM 70.4; LUKE 1.78

Luke



Haggai  
Zechar.  
Malachi  
Matt.  
Mark

## LUKE 2

The chances are that you've heard about the nativity plenty of times before, but there is so much more to this part of the story about the shepherds.

WATCH A SHORT

ABOUT THIS AT  
[gnbyouthedition.co.uk/nativity](http://gnbyouthedition.co.uk/nativity)

<sup>4</sup>Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, <sup>6</sup>and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. <sup>7</sup>She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger — there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

**The Shepherds and the Angels**

<sup>8</sup>There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, <sup>10</sup>but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. <sup>11</sup>This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born — Christ the Lord! <sup>12</sup>And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. <sup>18</sup>All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. <sup>19</sup>Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

**Jesus is Named**

<sup>21</sup>A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

**Jesus is Presented in the Temple**

<sup>22</sup>The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, <sup>23</sup>as it is written in the law of the Lord: “Every firstborn male is to be dedicated to the Lord.” <sup>24</sup>They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

<sup>25</sup>At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him <sup>26</sup>and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s promised Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

<sup>29</sup>“Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,

and you may let your servant go in peace.

<sup>30</sup>With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:



<sup>32</sup> A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles  
and bring glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>The child’s father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. <sup>34</sup>Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, “This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against <sup>35</sup>and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart.”

<sup>36-37</sup>There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now 84 years old.\* She never left the Temple; day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

### The Return to Nazareth

<sup>39</sup>When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God’s blessings were upon him.

### The Boy Jesus in the Temple

<sup>41</sup>Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup>When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; <sup>44</sup>they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. <sup>46</sup>On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. <sup>47</sup>All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. <sup>48</sup>His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, “My son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you.”

<sup>49</sup>He answered them, “Why did you have to look for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand his answer.

<sup>51</sup>So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and people.

### The Preaching of John the Baptist

(Mt 3.1–12; Mk 1.1–8; Jn 1.19–28)

**3** It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>and Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. <sup>3</sup>So John went throughout the whole territory of the River Jordan, preaching, “Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins.”

<sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:  
“Someone is shouting in the desert:

2.36–37 was now 84 years old; or had been a widow 84 years.

Luke



Haggai  
Zechar.  
Malachi  
Matt.  
Mark

## LUKE 3.11

John the Baptist isn't  
being mysterious here.  
What do you have that

**YOU COULD GIVE**

**AWAY**

or share with others?  
Find something you have  
lots of, and see if you  
can share it.

'Get the road ready for the Lord;  
make a straight path for him to travel!

<sup>5</sup> Every valley must be filled up,  
every hill and mountain levelled off.  
The winding roads must be made straight,  
and the rough paths made smooth.

<sup>6</sup> The whole human race will see God's salvation!"

<sup>7</sup> Crowds of people came out to John to be baptized by him. "You snakes!" he said to them. "Who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? <sup>8</sup> Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't start saying among yourselves that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these stones and make descendants for Abraham! <sup>9</sup> The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire."

<sup>10</sup> The people asked him, "What are we to do, then?"

<sup>11</sup> He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

<sup>12</sup> Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?"

<sup>13</sup> "Don't collect more than is legal," he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What are we to do?"

He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup> People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

<sup>18</sup> In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways. <sup>19</sup> But John reprimanded Herod, the governor, because he had married Herodias, his brother's wife, and had done many other evil things. <sup>20</sup> Then Herod did an even worse thing by putting John in prison.

### The Baptism of Jesus

(Mt 3.13–17; Mk 1.9–11)

<sup>21</sup> After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

### The Ancestors of Jesus

(Mt 1.1–17)

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus began his work, he was about thirty years old. He was the son, so people thought, of Joseph, who was the son of Heli, <sup>24</sup> the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, <sup>25</sup> the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, <sup>26</sup> the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, <sup>27</sup> the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, <sup>28</sup> the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of



Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,<sup>29</sup> the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,<sup>30</sup> the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,<sup>31</sup> the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,<sup>32</sup> the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,<sup>33</sup> the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,<sup>34</sup> the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,<sup>35</sup> the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,<sup>36</sup> the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,<sup>37</sup> the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Kenan,<sup>38</sup> the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

### The Temptation of Jesus

(Mt 4.1–11; Mk 1.12–13)

**4** Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert,<sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

<sup>3</sup>The Devil said to him, “If you are God’s Son, order this stone to turn into bread.”

<sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Human beings cannot live on bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world.<sup>6</sup> “I will give you all this power and all this wealth,” the Devil told him. “It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone I choose.<sup>7</sup> All this will be yours, then, if you worship me.”

<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!’”

<sup>9</sup>Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, “If you are God’s Son, throw yourself down from here.<sup>10</sup> For the scripture says, ‘God will order his angels to take good care of you.’<sup>11</sup> It also says, ‘They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.’”

<sup>12</sup>But Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>13</sup>When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.

### Jesus Begins his Work in Galilee

(Mt 4.12–17; Mk 1.14–15)

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory.<sup>15</sup> He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone.

### Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth

(Mt 13.53–58; Mk 6.1–6)

<sup>16</sup>Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures<sup>17</sup> and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:



Luke



Haggai  
Zechar.  
Malachi  
Matt.  
Mark

LUKE 4:18

HE HAS

CHOSEN

me to bring

• GOOD •

NEWS

TO THE POOR.

He has sent me to

PROCLAIM

LIBERTY

- to the captives -

AND RECOVERY OF

SIGHT

TO THE BLIND;

to set free the

OPPRESSED

- 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind;  
to set free the oppressed  
19 and announce that the time has come  
when the Lord will save his people.”

20 Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, 21 as he said to them, “This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read.”

22 They were all well impressed with him and marvelled at the eloquent words that he spoke. They said, “Isn’t he the son of Joseph?”

23 He said to them, “I am sure that you will quote this proverb to me, ‘Doctor, heal yourself.’ You will also tell me to do here in my home town the same things you heard were done in Capernaum. 24 I tell you this,” Jesus added, “prophets are never welcomed in their home town.

25 “Listen to me: it is true that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah, when there was no rain for 3.5 years and a severe famine spread throughout the whole land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to anyone in Israel, but only to a widow living in Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. 27 And there were many people suffering from a dreaded skin disease who lived in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha; yet not one of them was healed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

28 When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were filled with anger. 29 They rose up, dragged Jesus out of the town, and took him to the top of the hill on which their town was built. They meant to throw him over the cliff, 30 but he walked through the middle of the crowd and went his way.

### A Man with an Evil Spirit

(Mk 1.21–28)

31 Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, where he taught the people on the Sabbath. 32 They were all amazed at the way he taught, because he spoke with authority. 33 In the synagogue was a man who had the spirit of an evil demon in him; he screamed out in a loud voice, 34 “Ah! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you here to destroy us? I know who you are: you are God’s holy messenger!”

35 Jesus ordered the spirit, “Be quiet and come out of the man!” The demon threw the man down in front of them and went out of him without doing him any harm.

36 The people were all amazed and said to one another, “What kind of words are these? With authority and power this man gives orders to the evil spirits, and they come out!” 37 And the report about Jesus spread everywhere in that region.

### Jesus Heals Many People

(Mt 8.14–17; Mk 1.29–34)

38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, and they spoke to Jesus about her. 39 He went and stood at her bedside and ordered the fever to leave her. The fever left her, and she got up at once and began to wait on them.

40 After sunset all who had friends who were sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus; he placed his hands on every



one of them and healed them all. <sup>41</sup>Demons also went out from many people, screaming, “You are the Son of God!”

Jesus gave the demons an order and would not let them speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

### Jesus Preaches in the Synagogues

(Mk 1.35–39)

<sup>42</sup>At daybreak Jesus left the town and went off to a lonely place. The people started looking for him, and when they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving. <sup>43</sup>But he said to them, “I must preach the Good News about the Kingdom of God in other towns also, because that is what God sent me to do.”

<sup>44</sup>So he preached in the synagogues throughout the country.

### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

(Mt 4.18–22; Mk 1.16–20)

**5** One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret while the people pushed their way up to him to listen to the word of God. <sup>2</sup>He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. <sup>3</sup>Jesus got into one of the boats — it belonged to Simon — and asked him to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd.

<sup>4</sup>When he finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch.”

<sup>5</sup>“Master,” Simon answered, “we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup>They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break. <sup>7</sup>So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, “Go away from me, Lord! I am a sinful man!”

<sup>9</sup>He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught. <sup>10</sup>The same was true of Simon’s partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”

<sup>11</sup>They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

### Jesus Heals a Man

(Mt 8.1–4; Mk 1.40–45)

<sup>12</sup>Once Jesus was in a town where there was a man who was suffering from a dreaded skin disease. When he saw Jesus, he threw himself down and begged him, “Sir, if you want to, you can make me clean!”\*

<sup>13</sup>Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. “I do want to,” he answered. “Be clean!” At once the disease left the man.

<sup>14</sup>Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go straight to the priest and let him examine you; then to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice as Moses ordered.”

<sup>15</sup>But the news about Jesus spread all the more widely, and crowds of people came to hear him and be healed from their diseases. <sup>16</sup>But he would go away to lonely places, where he prayed.

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**5.12** *make me clean*: This disease was considered to make a person ritually unclean.

## Luke



Haggai  
Zechar.  
Malachi  
Matt.  
Mark

### Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

(Mt 9.1–8; Mk 2.1–12)

<sup>17</sup>One day when Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of the Law were sitting there who had come from every town in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was present for Jesus to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup>Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a bed, and they tried to take him into the house and put him in front of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>Because of the crowd, however, they could find no way to take him in. So they carried him up on the roof, made an opening in the tiles, and let him down on his bed into the middle of the group in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, “Your sins are forgiven, my friend.”

<sup>21</sup>The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who speaks such blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Why do you think such things? <sup>23</sup>Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? <sup>24</sup>I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home!”

<sup>25</sup>At once the man got up in front of them all, took the bed he had been lying on, and went home, praising God. <sup>26</sup>They were all completely amazed! Full of fear, they praised God, saying, “What marvellous things we have seen today!”

### Jesus Calls Levi

(Mt 9.9–13; Mk 2.13–17)

<sup>27</sup>After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting in his office. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>28</sup>Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

<sup>29</sup>Then Levi had a big feast in his house for Jesus, and among the guests was a large number of tax collectors and other people. <sup>30</sup>Some Pharisees and some teachers of the Law who belonged to their group complained to Jesus’ disciples. “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and other outcasts?” they asked.

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, “People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick. <sup>32</sup>I have not come to call respectable people to repent, but outcasts.”

### The Question about Fasting

(Mt 9.14–17; Mk 2.18–22)

<sup>33</sup>Some people said to Jesus, “The disciples of John fast frequently and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but your disciples eat and drink.”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you think you can make the guests at a wedding party go without food as long as the bridegroom is with them? Of course not! <sup>35</sup>But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.”

<sup>36</sup>Jesus also told them this parable: “No one tears a piece off a new coat to patch up an old coat. If he does, he will have torn the new coat, and the piece of new cloth will not match the old. <sup>37</sup>Nor does anyone pour new wine into used wineskins, because the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will pour out, and the skins will be ruined. <sup>38</sup>Instead, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins! <sup>39</sup>And no one wants new wine after drinking old wine. ‘The old is better,’ he says.”

**The Question about the Sabbath***(Mt 12.1–8; Mk 2.23–28)*

**6** Jesus was walking through some cornfields on the Sabbath. His disciples began to pick the ears of corn, rub them in their hands, and eat the grain. <sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what our Law says you cannot do on the Sabbath?”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered them, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his men were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He went into the house of God, took the bread offered to God, ate it, and gave it also to his men. Yet it is against our Law for anyone except the priests to eat that bread.”

<sup>5</sup>And Jesus concluded, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

**The Man with a Paralysed Hand***(Mt 12.9–14; Mk 3.1–6)*

<sup>6</sup>On another Sabbath Jesus went into a synagogue and taught. A man was there whose right hand was paralysed. <sup>7</sup>Some teachers of the Law and some Pharisees wanted a reason to accuse Jesus of doing wrong, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>8</sup>But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, “Stand up and come here to the front.” The man got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you: what does our Law allow us to do on the Sabbath? To help or to harm? To save someone’s life or destroy it?” <sup>10</sup>He looked around at them all; then he said” to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand became well again.

<sup>11</sup>They were filled with rage and began to discuss among themselves what they could do to Jesus.

**Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles***(Mt 10.1–4; Mk 3.13–19)*

<sup>12</sup>At that time Jesus went up a hill to pray and spent the whole night there praying to God. <sup>13</sup>When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he named apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon (whom he named Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup>Matthew and Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon (who was called the Patriot), <sup>16</sup>Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became the traitor.

**Jesus Teaches and Heals***(Mt 4.23–25)*

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus had come down from the hill with the apostles, he stood on a level place with a large number of his disciples. A large crowd of people was there from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon; <sup>18</sup>they had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by evil spirits also came and were healed. <sup>19</sup>All the people tried to touch him, for power was going out from him and healing them all.

**Happiness and Sorrow***(Mt 5.1–12)*

<sup>20</sup>Jesus looked at his disciples and said,

“Happy are you poor;  
the Kingdom of God is yours!

<sup>21</sup>Happy are you who are hungry now;  
you will be filled!

**APOSTLE**

LUKE 6.13;

ACTS 15.6

DEFINITION: An important early Christian teacher or pioneering missionary (oxforddictionaries.com)

The group of early Christians who travelled to different places telling people about Jesus Christ. (dictionary.cambridge.org)

Luke



John

Acts

Romans

1 Corin.

2 Corin.





not pick figs from thorn bushes or gather grapes from bramble bushes.<sup>45</sup> A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

### The Two House Builders

(Mt 7.24–27)

<sup>46</sup>“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and yet don’t do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup>Anyone who comes to me and listens to my words and obeys them — I will show you what he is like. <sup>48</sup>He is like a man who, in building his house, dug deep and laid the foundation on rock. The river overflowed and hit that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. <sup>49</sup>But anyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a man who built his house without laying a foundation; when the flood hit that house it fell at once — and what a terrible crash that was!”

### Jesus Heals a Roman Officer’s Servant

(Mt 8.5–13)

**7** When Jesus had finished saying all these things to the people, he went to Capernaum.<sup>2</sup> A Roman officer there had a servant who was very dear to him; the man was sick and about to die.<sup>3</sup> When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup>They came to Jesus and begged him earnestly, “This man really deserves your help. <sup>5</sup>He loves our people and he himself built a synagogue for us.”

<sup>6</sup>So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the officer sent friends to tell him, “Sir, don’t trouble yourself. I do not deserve to have you come into my house, <sup>7</sup>neither do I consider myself worthy to come to you in person. Just give the order, and my servant will get well. <sup>8</sup>I, too, am a man placed under the authority of superior officers, and I have soldiers under me. I order this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; I order that one, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and I order my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.”

<sup>9</sup>Jesus was surprised when he heard this; he turned round and said to the crowd following him, “I tell you, I have never found faith like this, not even in Israel!”

<sup>10</sup>The messengers went back to the officer’s house and found his servant well.

### Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son

<sup>11</sup>Soon afterwards\* Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a large crowd. <sup>12</sup>Just as he arrived at the gate of the town, a funeral procession was coming out. The dead man was the only son of a woman who was a widow, and a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her, his heart was filled with pity for her, and he said to her, “Don’t cry.” <sup>14</sup>Then he walked over and touched the coffin, and the men carrying it stopped. Jesus said, “Young man! Get up, I tell you!” <sup>15</sup>The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

<sup>16</sup>They all were filled with fear and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us!” they said; “God has come to save his people!”

<sup>17</sup>This news about Jesus went out through all the country and the surrounding territory.

**7.11** *Soon afterwards*; some manuscripts have *The next day*.

THE  
BIG  
ISSUES

AND WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THEM

# BULLYING

Have you ever been told that you're not good enough, or that you don't look right or you're not clever enough? Maybe you have been physically pushed around. It hurts us and can really affect our confidence when we get treated this way. It makes us dread going to places where we know we will experience it. Sometimes the words people speak to us can be even more damaging and last with us longer than any physical abuse.

## NOBODY DESERVES - TO BE BULLIED -

If you have ever experienced bullying or are currently experiencing it, we suggest that you speak to somebody you trust, like a parent, teacher or youth worker who can help you. The Psalms in the Bible describe the feeling of despair that comes from constant attack by enemies and might be helpful to read, particularly Psalm 13.

Maybe you are the one who has treated another person unkindly. The way we treat people is so important. The Bible has very practical tips on how we can encourage and build each other up, so that nobody has to feel bullied or belittled. It also has prayers and advice for those who are facing difficulties.

KEY BIBLE VERSES: PROVERBS 18:21;  
EPHESIANS 4:29-32; 1 PETER 3:9; PSALM 13

# COMPARISON

KEY BIBLE VERSES: GALATIANS 6:4-5; 1 CORINTHIANS 12;  
PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14; 1 SAMUEL 18:6-9

Comparing ourselves to other people can be something that pushes us forward and helps us to be better. However, unless we're really secure in who we are, it can be something that piles pressure on to us. When we look at others and only see the ways in which we're not as good as them, it can affect the way we think of our own value. Comparing our looks, exam results, families or social media following to other people's can just increase our feeling of not being good enough. We see this in the story of King Saul and David, when comparison led to jealousy that ruled Saul's life (1 Samuel 18:6-9).

God created us all unique, with different gifts, skills, appearance and, most importantly, purpose. You were created for a purpose that is different from your friends', and the more time you spend trying to be like others, the less time you have to fulfil the purpose you were made for. Don't get so distracted by someone else's race that you forget to run your own! It's about beating your 'personal best', not competing with others.

write some  
thoughts here

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# CREATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

KEY BIBLE VERSES: GENESIS 1; LEVITICUS 25.2-7;  
PSALM 104; MATTHEW 22.39

The Bible tells us that God created the world and everything in it. The earth belongs to him and he gave humankind the responsibility of looking after it. However, it seems like we are messing it up instead. From filling the oceans with plastic that harms sea life to using up fossil fuels just so that we can live comfier lives, it's all got very out of hand.

Think of your most prized possession. Imagine that you give it to a friend to look after, but when you get it back, it's completely trashed.

That's a bit what it's like with people and God's earth.

The Bible also tells us to love our neighbours, and a lot of the things we do in our everyday lives have an impact on the places where people live, across the world as well as in our local areas. Loving our neighbours means being careful that the way we live doesn't have a negative impact on them and the places they inhabit.

Research humankind's

## IMPACT

• ON THE ENVIRONMENT •

and then write down one thing you will do to make a difference (for example, recycle more).

# EVANGELISM

The word 'evangelism' comes from a Greek word that means 'good news' - and it doesn't have to be something big and scary! Very simply, evangelism means sharing with others the good news that Jesus loves us and has plans for our lives, here and eternally.

The Bible says that some people are especially gifted to be evangelists and equip the church to share the gospel. But even if we don't have that particular gift, we can still give it a go. Imagine if there was a really good film at the cinema but you missed out on it because nobody told you about it. Our friends and family won't come to know about the life Jesus gives us if nobody tells them about him.

There are lots of different ways to share our faith. It can be through sharing our own story of what God has done in our lives, or telling people that they are loved by God, or showing them a video about the Christian message. Evangelism can also be done through the way we live our lives - for example, not stealing, not swearing and being different from the world around us.

Evangelism is about being yourself and communicating just a small bit of the amazing news that we are all deeply loved and cared for by Jesus.

KEY BIBLE VERSES: EPHESIANS 4.11; ROMANS 10.14-15; MATTHEW 28.18-19; REVELATION 12.11

WE'VE MADE A FILM ON THIS TOPIC:  
GO TO [GNBYOUTHEDITION.CO.UK/EVANGELISM](http://GNBYOUTHEDITION.CO.UK/EVANGELISM)

# FAMILY

God designed the family as a unit for love, acceptance and growing faith, and that's the way many of us experience it.

Everyone's experience of family is different, though. Every family works in a different way, and most families have their own challenges. We are imperfect people, and often our families can bear the brunt of our mistakes and imperfections.

Divorce is becoming more and more common in our society, and it can be hard to handle when stuff like that affects us.

Perhaps it affects you.

Whatever our families are like,  
the Bible talks loads about

## – GOD'S FAMILY –

in which he is the father and we are all invited to be his children. It can be a challenge to acknowledge God as a heavenly parent, especially if we don't have a human parent around all the time. But God promises throughout the Bible that he is a good father who will never let us down. Today we are invited to be part of a family of millions round the world, who share one faith and one father.

KEY BIBLE VERSES: EXODUS 20.12;  
PROVERBS 6.20-21; ISAIAH 63.16;  
MATTHEW 12.48-50; ROMANS 8.14-17;  
1 CORINTHIANS 8.6; EPHESIANS 6.1-4

WE'VE MADE A FILM ON THIS TOPIC:  
GO TO [GNBYOUTHEDITION.CO.UK/FAMILY](http://GNBYOUTHEDITION.CO.UK/FAMILY)

# HURTING YOURSELF

Some people intentionally hurt themselves in a number of different ways and for a variety of reasons. Often people choose to self-harm as a way of expressing some very difficult feelings that they are struggling to put into words; it can act as an outward expression of inward pain. If you or someone you know is struggling in this way, it is really important that you speak to an adult who you trust.

God loves you deeply and wants to stand with you in your pain. In the Bible we see again and again that people turn to God in their darkest moments.

You can do that at any time.

KEY BIBLE VERSES: PSALM 147.2-3;  
REVELATION 21.3-4; PSALM 23

Go to [gnbyouthedition.co.uk/hurting](http://gnbyouthedition.co.uk/hurting)

to watch a

## SHORT FILM

we've made on this topic.

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING WITH THIS TOPIC  
OR WANT TO KNOW MORE, PLEASE VISIT:

[selfharm.co.uk](http://selfharm.co.uk)

[mind.org.uk](http://mind.org.uk) (search self harm)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/self-harm](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/self-harm)

# IDENTITY

KEY BIBLE VERSES: PSALM 139.15-16; ISAIAH 43.1-5;  
JOHN 15.15; EPHESIANS 1.4-7; EPHESIANS 2.10;  
JOHN 15.9; PHILIPPIANS 3.20; GALATIANS 3.26

Part of growing up is about figuring out who we are and the kind of people we hope to become. Loads of things have an influence on our identity, such as where we live, our family and friends, and our interests, but our identity is also tied in with our self-esteem and how we feel about ourselves. Our feelings can be positive ('I am a good friend') or negative ('I'm not good enough').

Our identity can be very 'me' focused, so our feelings about ourselves shift around as we look to ourselves or other people to figure out who we are. But God wants us to focus on him, and to know that we have a secure identity in his love for us. The Bible has loads of verses about how we are loved, accepted and forgiven, and about God's plan for our lives.

READ THE VERSES ABOVE ABOUT IDENTITY.

## LET IT SINK IN

that these words are part of

• WHO YOU ARE. •

WRITE OUT THE VERSES THAT

## JUMP OUT

to you the most, and stick them  
somewhere you can see them.

# LIVING DIFFERENTLY

Fitting in and being 'normal' can be important, especially when you're growing up. We don't like to be different in case we

– STAND OUT –

in the crowd and others tease us for it. But there are ways in which, as Christians, we might want to live differently from the people around us. The differences can range from what we wear and what music we listen to, to what we do with our boyfriend or girlfriend or going to church on a Sunday instead of playing football.

The world can be a dark place, and God has called us to represent him and bring his light into it, doing good things instead of bad. Fullness of life with Jesus is about freedom, light and love. So it is a privilege to be different, not a disadvantage.

Ultimately, our purpose is to know Jesus and make him known, not to fit in and be like everyone else. We don't need to be the most popular or achieve the most, because our approval comes from God and not the world around us - and that is so liberating!

KEY BIBLE VERSES: ROMANS 12.2;  
MATTHEW 5.13-16; JAMES 1.22;  
1 JOHN 2.15-17

# MAKING WISE DECISIONS

It's hard being a young person! There's loads of pressure on you to behave in certain ways and there are loads of environments, such as parties, where you may not be sure about the wisest move to make. As Christians, we need to think about how to make good choices in those situations. Jesus partied but was perfect!

On motorways you'll see crash barriers in the middle of the road. They are there to prevent you from hitting oncoming traffic. If you hit a crash barrier it's not great, but at least it's not the other side of the road. Making wise decisions when you are partying or under peer pressure can be seen in the same way. Putting barriers in place to make sure you don't cross the line is a good idea.

## – BE PROACTIVE! –

Put a limit on how many drinks you'll have before going out; make a choice on what level of banter is inappropriate; decide with your partner how far is too far. Start with what you know: the Bible is clear on some things, like getting smashed, or talking behind people's backs, or sex outside marriage. That's the other side of the motorway, so be wise - put a few barriers in place.

KEY BIBLE VERSES: PROVERBS 3.5-7; PROVERBS 21.5; PROVERBS 23.29-35; JOHN 17.14-16; 1 CORINTHIANS 6.12; 1 CORINTHIANS 15.33; EPHESIANS 5.18; PHILIPPIANS 4.8; 1 PETER 4.1-6

WE'VE MADE A FILM ON THIS TOPIC:  
GO TO [GNBYOUTHEDITION.CO.UK/DECISIONS](http://GNBYOUTHEDITION.CO.UK/DECISIONS)

# MENTAL HEALTH

KEY BIBLE VERSES: PSALM 46.1-3; PSALM 73.26; MATTHEW 11.28-30; PSALM 34.17-20; PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Mental health is something we all have. Positive mental health means being able to cope with day-to-day life, and having a healthy self-esteem and belief in our abilities. Mental ill-health is the opposite - it's when we find everyday demands hard to cope with and lack a positive sense of self. We all have ups and downs, but when our mental health negatively impacts our lives and relationships with others, it can become a problem. This is when someone may have a mental illness.

You've probably heard of some of the more common problems, such as eating disorders, depression and anxiety, but there's a wide range of issues which can look different for each person. Just like someone who's got the flu, people with mental health problems need help and support to get better.

Most importantly, God wants us to know that he's right in the middle of every situation, and it's important for us to talk to God about our issues.

If you, or someone you know, struggles with their mental health, you may want to talk to someone you trust about it. You can also check out some of these websites for guidance:  
[nhs.uk](http://nhs.uk) (search 'youth mental health')  
[youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk)  
[mind.org.uk](http://mind.org.uk)