

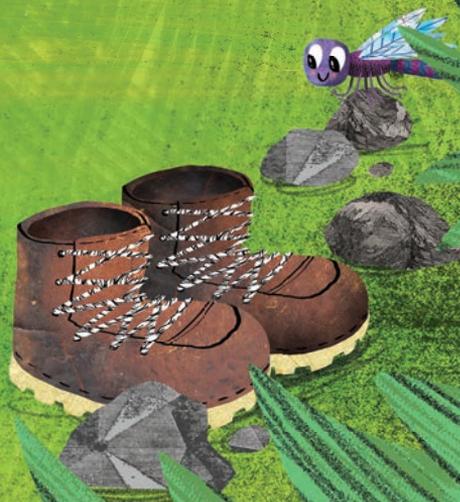




2020 (c) Biblica, Inc.



THE
**Treasure
Hunt**
BIBLE



Holy Bible,
New International Reader's Version®, NIrV® (Anglicised)
Copyright © 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The NIrV® text may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio), up to and inclusive of five hundred (500) verses, without express written permission, providing the verses quoted do not amount to a complete book of the Bible, nor do the verses quoted account for twenty-five (25) percent or more of the total text of the work in which they are quoted. Permission requests that exceed the above guidelines must be directed to, and approved in writing by, Biblica, Inc.®

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version® NIrV® (Anglicised).
Copyright © 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission of Biblica, Inc.®
All rights reserved worldwide.

“NIrV” and “New International Reader's Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Concept:

Ewald van Rensburg, Nico Simpson

Contributors:

*Ewald van Rensburg (team manager),
Chris de Wet, Faani Engelbrecht, Gielie Loubser,
Siegfried Louw, Douglas Stanley, Brenda Visser*

Editorial:

*Noeline N Neumann (managing editor),
Thea Brink (editor),
Anna Herrington (proofing)*

Advisors:

*Prof Yvonne van Ee, Dr Vic Brink,
Prof Stephan Joubert, Janet Hardie*

Design & Set Work:

*Luke Flowers (illustrator),
Trinity Loubser (design),
Pieter Traut (layout)*

ISBN: 978-1-62337-166-1





The traditional approach to learning focuses on mastering content. This book, however, is about engaging the child's whole being – heart, soul and mind (Mark 12:30). It is about discovering the Bible's message by doing and experiencing.

We believe that learning starts with an experience. This leads to reflection, incorporating new ideas, evaluation and/or application. Different people go about this process in different ways.

- Some like to gather information and solve problems through discussions. They like working in groups.
- Others like a logical approach. They like to work with ideas, and demand clear explanations and straight answers. They like to do research and to analyse.
- Some like to solve problems, apply theories, and find and test solutions to practical problems.
- And some rely on intuition rather than logic. They like a practical, hands-on approach as well as new challenges and experiences.

In addition, children have preferred ways of learning. Visual learners prefer learning through concrete shapes, pictures and words on paper. Kinesthetic learners learn best by using movement and working with real objects. Auditory learners rely on their listening and rhythmic skills when they learn. This book gives each child the opportunity to select those hunts that appeal to him/her at this time of their life. Later they may choose others.

In this book we have selected nine common ways that children use to learn. Logical reasoning, visualising, discussing and debating, learning with others and using interpersonal skills, reflection or intrapersonal skills, emotional engagement, experimenting and doing, kinesthetics (using movement), and using nature. Various learning activities called treasure hunts are incorporated in this Bible in the form of short entries, interwoven with the Bible text. The reader is joined by the friendly **Wayees** on their hunts. **Wayees** are nine animal characters, each designed to utilise one of the nine different ways of learning. They help children walk The Way – an early name for Christianity (see Acts 9:2). A description of each **Wayee** and their particular hunt is given on page 15.

We use the NIV [New International Reader's Version], a very accessible Bible.

Contents

Starting your treasure hunt ...	8
Base Camp	10
Living the Script	12
Say Hello to the Wayees	14
THE NEW TESTAMENT	
Stories about Jesus	
Gospel of Matthew	22
Gospel of Mark	68
Gospel of Luke	98
Gospel of John	146
The acts of the apostles	184
Letters from Paul	
Paul's letter to the Romans	228
Paul's first letter to the Corinthians	252
Paul's second letter to the Corinthians	274
Paul's letter to the Galatians	290
Paul's letter to the Ephesians	300
Paul's letter to the Philippians	312
Paul's letter to the Colossians	322
Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians	330
Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians	338
Paul's first letter to Timothy	344
Paul's second letter to Timothy	354
Paul's letter to Titus	362
Paul's letter to Philemon	368
Messages on staying faithful	
The letter to the Hebrews	372
Wisdom teachings	
James' letter	390
Letters from other leaders	
Peter's first letter	400
Peter's second letter	410
John's first letter	418
John's second letter	426
John's third letter	430
Jude's letter	434
An apocalypse	
The book of Revelation	440
Maps	
Paul	466
Jesus	468
Some of the important Bible stories	469

The books of the New Testament

STORIES ABOUT JESUS

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE

JOHN
ACTS



LETTERS FROM PAUL

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS

1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

MESSAGES ON STAYING FAITHFUL

HEBREWS

WISDOM TEACHINGS

JAMES

LETTERS FROM OTHER LEADERS

1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN

2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE

AN APOCALYPSE

REVELATION

Starting your treasure hunt ...

Reading the Bible is a great adventure.
It is filled with treasure just waiting for you to discover!



Usually there is only one chest of treasure on a treasure hunt.
Whoever gets to the treasure first takes it all.
The Bible is not like that.
It contains enough treasure for everyone.

You will find new treasures on every page waiting to be discovered.
You will never be bored on your treasure hunt.
Everyday you will find new ways to enjoy the things
that God wants to teach you.

In preparation for your journey you need to spend some time in the **treasure hunt training camp**.

There you will meet **the Wayees**. Their names are **Talky, Thinky, Arty, Crafty, Hummy, Inny, Joinme, Greeny** and **Hearty**. They will be your companions on your adventure. **The Wayees** are going to help in your search. They will help you to find and then use the many treasures that you will discover.

But before you meet **the Wayees**, you need to take part in some training camp exercises. The first exercise is a quick tour of the terrain that you will be exploring. On this tour you will see how all the different parts of the Bible fit together. As you read the Bible, you will understand what has gone before. You will learn about what is happening now and what lies ahead. With a map in your head, you will find all the treasures waiting for you.

I am sure you already know that the Bible is divided into two sections. The Old and the New Testament. You have the New Testament in this book that you are holding. The treasures in the Bible are found in many different formats. Letters, poems, stories, prophetic speech, wisdom writings and many other kinds of writings. These are not random or unrelated. They all fit together to form part of the treasure map for us to follow.

What you probably don't know is that the Bible can be divided into a further six parts. These six parts show us God's plan for us. His map leads us, his children, to the treasure he has for us.

Your treasure hunt training camp begins ...

As you set out from **base camp**,
a short walk will bring you into
a clearing where you will find **site 1**.

Base Camp

site 1

THE GOOD WORLD GOD MADE

When God created the world he made everything perfectly. God made the earth as our beautiful home. Then he made people in his own likeness. God put the first man, Adam, and his wife, Eve, in a giant and fruitful garden. We see how much God loves us and his world. God made us so that we can take care of what he created.

God saw everything he had made. And he said it was very good.

site 2

SIN ENTERS GOD'S GOOD WORLD

But things went wrong very quickly. People decided to go their own way. They did not trust God completely and they disobeyed him. They listened to the lying voice of God's enemy, Satan.

Because of this, some terrible things happened. The way people lived together in the world changed. They started hurting each other. Our friendship with God was broken. He had to do something!

site 3

GOD CALLS ISRAEL TO A MISSION

Abraham and his family became the nation of Israel. God used Israel to bless the world. God wanted to forgive, heal and bring people life. God rescued the Israelites from slavery. He gave them his law showing them how to live. God led them to the Promised Land. If they stayed faithful, he had bless them. But they broke the covenant. Then God chose a man named David to be king. God promised that another king would come from David's line of descendants. And he would be called the Messiah.

site 6

GOD COMES HOME

Ever since sin and death came into God's world, he has been working to defeat these evil powers. Then Jesus won the great battle with evil. Now the good news about Jesus is going all over the world. But there is still a lot that is wrong with the world. This is why there is more to come in the story of the Bible.

The story will end when Jesus returns to us. God himself will come and live with us in his new creation.

site 5

THE NEW PEOPLE OF GOD

God wants Jesus' victory to spread throughout the world. Everyone who follows Jesus is Abraham's child. This new family is the church. Their mission is to share the good news about Jesus with the world. The adventure that began in Genesis continues. Each of us must answer these questions. Will I accept God's invitation to follow Jesus? Will I help bring the good news about him to others? Will I live in God's kingdom?

site 4

THE SURPRISING VICTORY OF JESUS

God sent his Son, Jesus, at a time when Israel was suffering under the Roman Empire. They longed for the Messiah to come and make everything new.

Jesus told the people that God's kingdom was coming into the world. The religious leaders and the Romans did not like Jesus telling them they were wrong. The leaders arrested Jesus and asked the Romans to nail him to a cross. When Jesus died, his followers thought everything was over. But on the third day, God raised Jesus back to life. Jesus is the king who now rules the whole world.



Living the Script

From the beginning God made it clear that he wants us to find the treasure in his Word. The Bible is God's great treasure chest. He invites us to actively search for and find his treasure. Here are three key steps to finding how you can be a part of God's treasure hunt.

1. Go deep in the Bible

We need to read deeply and widely in the Bible. Then we will we find the treasure that God has in store for us. The more we read the Bible, the better we will understand it.

2. Become a follower of Jesus

At site 2, you heard about the Bible's description of how death and doing wrong came into the world. We all share in this.

We learned about the victory of Jesus at site 4.

It gives us the chance to have our lives turned around.

Our sins can be forgiven. We can become part of God's new creation.

Turn away from doing wrong and follow the way of life that God wants.

Jesus has fought against evil. He won the battle when he died on the cross and rose again to new life. His death was a sacrifice for your sins.

The power of a new life has come into our world.

3. Living this new way of life

Reading the Bible is important. It helps us understand what

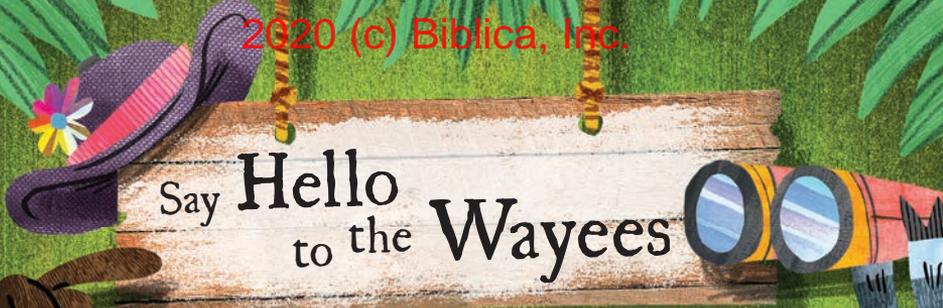
God has already done, especially through Jesus, the Messiah.

Reading the Bible teaches us how to live this new life that God has given us. It is not always easy to live for Jesus, but the Bible is our guide.

God also promises to send his Holy Spirit to help us understand and obey the Bible.

Now you are ready
to meet the Wayees.
They are waiting for you ...





Say Hello to the Wayees



Deep, deep in the jungle
there is a tribe of cuddly creatures
called the Wayees.



They are on a journey called **The Way**.
Along the way, they go on treasure hunts,
using a map called **The Book**.



These treasure hunts lead the Wayees
along sacred pathways.

On these pathways great adventures await them!
Everyone who joins them can go on
these wonderful adventures too!



The Wayees are inquisitive, peace-loving, joyful
and caring creatures. They don't look or think alike.
But **the Wayees** live peacefully with one another,
with themselves and with the world.



The Wayees inspire one another and
others with these words.

**Don't try to fit in –
you were born to stand out!**



If you look carefully, you will see them everywhere.
Yes, they are different and they do stand out!



The Wayees



Greeny

Greeny is an antelope who has relatives in many parts of the world. **Greeny** likes to go on wilderness journeys with her binoculars and her magnifying glass. She loves God's beautiful creation! On her nature walks she collects rocks, identifies plants, looks at insects and watches birds. At night she studies the stars.

Greeny knows that her **nature hunts** help her to worship God, who made everything she sees.



Talky

Talky is a monkey who has relatives all over the world. Talking, talking, talking. That is how you will recognise **Talky**. You usually hear him long before you see him. If he is not discussing something, he is reading aloud to the other **Wayees**. You may also find him telling them a story. All he wants is for **the Wayees** to read the Bible. He wants them to remember and talk about the stories found in the Bible.

Talking hunts help **Talky** to learn by talking things over with his friends.



Thinky

Thinky is an African elephant who also has relatives in Asia. She is always thinking and solving problems. **Thinky** is a famous problem-solver. Everyone asks her to help them think through a problem. When collecting information or finding answers to difficult questions, the other **Wayees** come to **Thinky**. To relax, **Thinky** plays logical games and solves puzzles.

Thinking hunts challenge **Thinky's** ability to reason and solve difficult problems.



Arty

Arty is a meerkat from Southern Africa. She skips through the countryside. **Arty** has a paintbrush in one hand and paper in the other. She is always looking for inspiration. **Arty** is always seeing pictures and projects in her head. From time to time these ideas become bright, beautiful paintings, drawings and charts.

Looking hunts give **Arty** the opportunity to learn by looking and showing what she sees.





Joinme

Joinme is a hippopotamus from Africa. **Joinme** is the one who always says, Let's get together. This **Wayee** loves parties. She is always forming clubs or teams. **Joinme** brings the **Wayees** together to learn, play and share. She is good at making friends and helping groups work together. She likes to learn by doing things with other people.

Joinme calls all these activities **friendship hunts**.

Inny

Inny is a tiger from Asia. He is the one who is always reading and writing in his journal. Most of the time **Inny** is busy studying or doing projects. A lot of the time he is on his own. **Inny** believes in setting goals for himself. Reading helps him to understand what is going on in his head. **Inny** likes to be on his own. But he is very friendly and he likes to share the things he has learnt with a friend.

You will really miss out if you don't join **Inny** on his **personal hunts**.



Crafty

Crafty is a jaguar from South America. This **Wayee** is almost always on the go! Any place is the right place to do something, make something or change something.

Crafty can do anything in the jungle. He loves hands-on experiences and is always playing with something or someone. When **Crafty** can't fix something, he will invent something new to solve the problem. It is easy to spot him. He is the one with the toolbox.

Crafty's very good at getting groups to work together by inviting them on his **doing hunts**.



Hearty

Hearty is a bear from the northern hemisphere. You can't miss him. He is not scared to show his feelings. He is always asking, How do you feel? or How does this make you feel?

Hearty loves to give his friends his special bear hug. **Hearty** understands his feelings. He can deal with joy and happiness, but also with sadness, hurts and anger. He often goes on emotional journeys, reliving the beautiful stories in the Bible.

Hearty learns through his **feeling hunts**. He does this by thinking and talking about how he feels about things and events.



Hearty's colour chart

Look at the different colours that **Hearty** loves to use to show his emotions.

♥ Red = Angry

Purple = Rage ♥

♥ Blue = Sadness

Green = Jealousy ♥

♥ Brown = Boredom

Gray = Loneliness ♥

Yellow = Happiness ♥

Orange = Excitement ♥

Hearty will often invite you to choose a colour that shows how you are feeling.

Hummy

Hummy is a zebra from Africa. Music, music, music. That is what she lives for. It is never quiet when **Hummy's** around! She is a true musician. She can play any musical instrument you can think of and she sings like an angel.

There is a lot of movement, singing and rapping on **Hummy's singing and dancing hunts**. That is how she learns best.



Hummy's orchestra

Hummy shows you how to build your own musical instruments. She uses materials you can find easily. Gradually build up your collection of instruments until you have enough for everyone in your group. Make sure that you include musical instruments from your culture! Store all your instruments safely in a big music treasure chest.



Percussion sticks

Hit two sticks or pieces of wood against each other. Experiment with different thicknesses. Try using pencils, small planks, wooden blocks or round lathes. You can also use metal nails, forks or spoons.



Cymbals

Hit two pot lids against each other. Try to find lids from empty cans. Ask an adult to help you to make holes in the lids. Thread a sturdy piece of string through the hole and tie a secure knot. Then place your hand flat next to the hole. Allow a small space on either side of your hand. Mark the place, make another hole and thread the string through. Make sure that your piece of string is long enough to tie another knot. Do the same with the other lid.

You can also use two pieces of wood as cymbals.

Shakers

The possibilities are endless. Make a shaker by putting small objects in a container. Close the container and shake it. Use different sizes and kinds of containers. You can use cans, bottles, plastic containers, pill boxes or cardboard rolls. Put seeds, beans, lentils, rice, maize pips or small pebbles in your containers.

Ankle and wrist shakers

Use small hard objects that will make a noise when shaken. Metal bottle tops work well. Also try using bells, big seeds, large wooden or glass beads, and shells. Ask an adult to help you make holes in these objects.

Tie a piece of string to each object. Individually tie the strings to a piece of elastic or rope so that they move freely. Then tie the rope/elastic around your ankles and wrists. Shake your hands and stamp your feet!

Sticks or even dry, noisy grasses can be used. Instead of rope or elastic you can string your objects onto a piece of wire. Close the wire and hold your shaker in your hand.

Drums

You can use containers from the kitchen such as pots, pans, plastic containers and empty cans. Turn the containers upside down. Experiment with different thicknesses to get different sounds.

Here is how to make a different type of drumhead. Secure strong adhesive tape in a criss-cross pattern over the opening of the container. A rubbish bin turned upside down makes a lovely big drum. You can beat a rhythm on the base and against the sides.

Drum sticks

Pierce a cork or small rubber ball with a kebab stick. Use any other wooden sticks with sharpened ends. You can also use your hands to beat out a rhythm on the drums.





Tambourine

Make holes in the side of a tinfoil pie dish. Thread pieces of string through the holes. Then tie bells, metal bottle tops or hard seeds onto the string. If you use bottle tops ask an adult to help you make holes in them. Use two bottle tops or seeds for each piece of string.

You can also staple two paper plates together. Then tie the bells, bottle tops or seeds to the paper plates.

Thumb guitar

Ask an adult to help you make this instrument.

You will need the following.

- a piece of wood roughly 30 centimetres long by 20 centimetres wide
- 10 x 2 centimetre long nails
- a hammer

Hammer five nails, 3 centimetres apart, across the width at the bottom end of the wood. Leave 1 centimetre of nail sticking out above the wood. At the opposite end, near the top, hammer in one nail. This nail must be in line with the first nail in the bottom row. The distance between the two nails should be approximately 30 centimetres. Hammer the next nail in line with the second nail at the bottom. It must be 5 centimetres lower than the first nail at the top. The distance between these two nails should be approximately 25 centimetres. Continue like this, lowering each nail by 5 centimetres.

Tie fishing line between the top and bottom nails as tightly as possible!

Pick or swipe the strings using your fingers or a pick.



You have completed
the treasure hunt
training camp.



You are now ready
to begin your
treasure hunt
with the Wayees!



Stories about Jesus



gospel of Matthew

Who was Matthew?

- Matthew was one of Jesus' disciples. Read Matthew 9:9.
- Matthew was his Greek name. Levi was his Jewish name. Read Mark 2:14 and Luke 5:27.
- He was a tax collector. He had to collect taxes for the Roman government.
- Matthew wrote his gospel around 50 AD.

Why did Matthew write his gospel?

- It was 50 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. There were many Jewish believers in Antioch, a big city in Syria.
- Their life was difficult. So Matthew wrote his gospel to remind them that God is with us, now and forever. Read Matthew 1:23 and 28:20.
- Matthew also tells us that Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour. He is the king that God had promised to send. Jesus came to earth to save them and all people from their sins. Read Matthew 1:21.
- Matthew told them that God has power over illness, death and Satan.

Important teachings

- Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 5 - 7.
- Jesus sends out his disciples. Read Matthew 10.
- Seven important parables are taught. Read Matthew 13.
- What it means to be part of God's Kingdom. Read Matthew 18.
- Jesus is going to come back. Read Matthew 24 - 25.

Important verses

- Jesus is tempted. Read Matthew 4:1-11.
- Jesus' miracles. Read Matthew 8 - 9.
- Jesus feeds five thousand people. Read Matthew 14:13-21.
- Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Read Matthew 26 - 28.

2020 (c) Biblica, Inc.

Matthew



The Family Line of Jesus the Messiah

- 1 This is the written story of the family line of Jesus the Messiah. He is the son of David. He is also the son of Abraham.
- 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac.
Isaac was the father of Jacob.
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- 3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. Tamar was their mother.
Perez was the father of Hezron.
Hezron was the father of Ram.
- 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab.
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz. Rahab was Boaz's mother.
Boaz was the father of Obed. Ruth was Obed's mother.
Obed was the father of Jesse.
- 6 And Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon. Solomon's mother had been Uriah's wife.
- 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.
Abijah was the father of Asa.
- 8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.
Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.
- 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham.
Jotham was the father of Ahaz.
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
- 10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.
Manasseh was the father of Amon.
Amon was the father of Josiah.
- 11 And Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers. At that time, the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon.
- 12 After this, the family line continued.
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel.
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
- 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud.
Abihud was the father of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the father of Azor.
- 14 Azor was the father of Zadok.



Matthew 1:1–17



Write down the names of all the people you know that are in your family line. Go back as far as you can. Ask your parents to help you.

Thinky decided to count all the names in Jesus' family line. See how many names you can find? Now count all the generations. Remember that there could have been two different Jeconiahs listed in verse 11 and 12. But count him only once.

Also name all the women in Jesus' family line that are mentioned here.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Elihud.

¹⁵ Elihud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. And Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were 14 from David until the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon. And there were 14 from that time to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, ²³ “The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” The name Immanuel means “God with us.”

²⁴ Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus’ birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. ² They asked, “Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. ⁴ So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied. “This is what the prophet has written. He said,

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah.



Matthew 1 – 2



Thinky found out that an angel visited Joseph more than once. These verses tell how many times. Read Matthew 1:20, 2:13 and 2:19–20. Then write down what was happening each time the angel spoke to Joseph. And write down what the angel told him to do.



Matthew 2:1–12



Greeny discovered that the wise men were educated men who lived in Persia. Today it's called Iran. They followed the star to find Jesus.

The Milky Way contains billions of stars. In the countryside, you can see a few thousand stars in the night sky. But in a big city, you will only see a few stars.

See if you can find the Milky Way tonight! It looks like a bright band of stars across the sky.

A ruler will come out of you.

He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd! ”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too.”

⁹After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

¹³When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him.”

¹⁴So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. ¹⁵They stayed there until King Herod died. So the words the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, “I brought my son out of Egypt.”



Matthew 2:1–12



The wise men brought gifts for Jesus.

Crafty read all about gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were some of the most valuable gifts at the time when Jesus was born. Frankincense and myrrh are the resin or gum obtained from rare trees. They were used in making perfume, medicine and the oil. The oil was used to anoint people.

Draw what you think the gifts that the wise men brought looked like. Then think about if Jesus were born today. What valuable gifts might people give him? Draw what you think these gifts might look like.



Matthew 2:13–15

Greeny learned this. When Joseph fled with his family from Bethlehem to Egypt, it was part of God's plan. They may have lived among the Jewish people who still lived there. Later they would return to Nazareth. In doing that, the words of Hosea, the Old Testament prophet, were fulfilled. Hosea had said the Lord would call his son, Jesus, out of Egypt.

Look at a map that shows Canaan or Judah, and Egypt. Find Bethlehem, which is in Judah, and Goshen, which is in Egypt. It's a long distance between Bethlehem and Goshen! Imagine walking or riding on a donkey all that way!

¹⁶ Herod realised that the Wise Men had tricked him. So he became very angry. He gave orders about Bethlehem and the area around it. He ordered all the boys two years old and under to be killed. This agreed with the time when the Wise Men had seen the star. ¹⁷ In this way, the words Jeremiah the prophet spoke came true. He had said,

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah.

It's the sound of crying and deep sadness.

Rachel is crying over her children.

She refuses to be comforted,
because they are gone."

Jesus' Family Returns to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, Joseph had a dream while he was still in Egypt. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. ²⁰ The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother. Go to the land of Israel. The people who were trying to kill the child are dead."

²¹ So Joseph got up. He took the child and his mother Mary back to the land of Israel. ²² But then he heard that Archelaus was king of Judea. Archelaus was ruling in place of his father Herod. This made Joseph afraid to go there. Joseph had been warned in a dream. So he went back to the land of Galilee instead. ²³ There he lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said about Jesus came true. They had said that he would be called a Nazarene.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came and preached in the Desert of Judea. ² He said, "Turn away from your sins! The kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ John is the one Isaiah the prophet had spoken about. He had said,

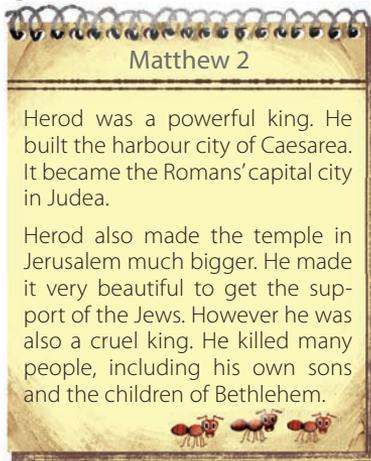
"A messenger is calling out in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ John's clothes were made out of camel's hair. He had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea. They also came from the whole area around the River Jordan. ⁶ When they confessed their sins, John baptised them in the Jordan.

⁷ John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising. He said to them, "You are like a nest of poisonous snakes! Who warned you to escape the coming



Matthew 2

Herod was a powerful king. He built the harbour city of Caesarea. It became the Romans' capital city in Judea.

Herod also made the temple in Jerusalem much bigger. He made it very beautiful to get the support of the Jews. However he was also a cruel king. He killed many people, including his own sons and the children of Bethlehem.





Matthew 3:13–17



Heartly read about how John the Baptist baptised people who wanted to live for the Lord. One day, Jesus asked John to baptise him. How did John feel about this? Why didn't he want to baptise Jesus?

But when Jesus insisted, John baptised him. Afterwards God's Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and God said,

“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.”

Share how you think you would have felt if you had been there?

of God's anger? ⁸ Live in a way that shows you have turned away from your sins. ⁹ Don't think you can say to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you, God can raise up children for Abraham even from these stones. ¹⁰ The axe is ready to cut the roots of the trees. All the trees that don't produce good fruit will be cut down. They will be thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptise you with water, calling you to turn away from your sins. But after me, someone is coming who is more powerful than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His pitchfork is in his hand to clear the straw from his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the storeroom. But he will burn the husks with fire that can't be put out.”

Jesus Is Baptised

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to the River Jordan. He wanted to be baptised by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him. So he told Jesus, “I need to be baptised by you. So why do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan.” Then John agreed.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. ¹⁷ A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.”

Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert

4 The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. ² After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him. He said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. It is written,

“‘The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you.
They will lift you up in their hands.
Then you won't trip over a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’”

⁸ Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ “If you bow down and worship me,” he said, “I will give you all this.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Get away from me, Satan! It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Jesus Begins to Preach

¹² John had been put in prison. When Jesus heard about this, he returned to Galilee. ¹³ Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in the city of Capernaum. It was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ In that way, what the prophet Isaiah had said came true. He had said,

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Galilee, where Gentiles live!

Land along the Mediterranean Sea! Territory east of the River Jordan!

¹⁶ The people who are now living in darkness
have seen a great light.

They are now living in a very dark land.

But a light has shined on them.”

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach. “Turn away from your sins!” he said. “The kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Chooses His First Disciples

¹⁸ One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw two brothers, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake, because they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come and follow me,” Jesus said. “I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers. They were James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. As they were preparing their nets, Jesus called out to them. ²² Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Jesus Heals Ill People

²³ Jesus went all over Galilee. There he taught in the synagogues. He preached the good news of God’s kingdom. He healed every illness and disease the people had. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria. People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of diseases. Some were suffering great pain. Others were controlled by demons. Some were shaking wildly. Others couldn’t move at all. And Jesus healed all of them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him. People came from Galilee, from the area known as the Ten Cities, and from Jerusalem and Judea. Others came from the area across the River Jordan.

Jesus Teaches the Disciples and Crowds

5 Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them.

Jesus Gives Blessings

He said,

³ “Blessed are those who are spiritually needy.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

⁴ Blessed are those who are sad.

They will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are those who are humble.

They will be given the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty

for what is right.

They will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are those who show mercy.

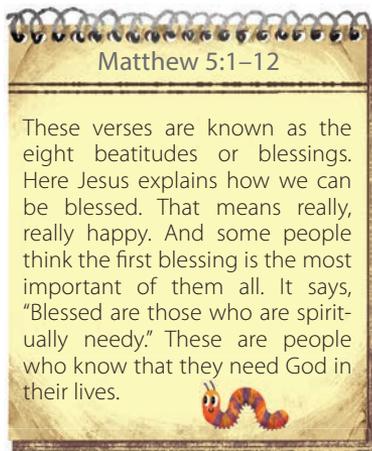
They will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are those whose hearts are pure.

They will see God.

⁹ Blessed are those who make peace.

They will be called children of God.





Matthew 5:1–12



Crafty feels blessed when he experiences God's goodness. His goodness makes **Crafty** really, really happy.

Who does God bless? Which blessing in Matthew 5:1–12 is your favourite?

Ask someone to help you find out what the blessing means.

Then you can draw a picture of the blessing.

Put it on the wall so that you remember to live like that.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right.
The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people make fun of you and hurt you because of me. You are also blessed when they tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. ¹² Be joyful and glad. Your reward in heaven is great. In the same way, people hurt the prophets who lived long ago.

Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But suppose the salt loses its saltiness. How can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything. It will be thrown out. People will walk all over it.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can't be hidden. ¹⁵ Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus Fulfils the Law

¹⁷ "Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do this. Instead, I have come to fulfil what is written. ¹⁸ What I'm about to tell you is true. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest mark of a pen will disappear from the Law until



Matthew 5:16



Hummy read something that a famous musician once said.

A painter paints a picture on an empty canvas.
When you make music, you paint a picture on silence.

Paint a picture on silence by praising God and singing a song you know well.

Remember that the most important way to praise God is with your life. Your whole life should be a picture that shows you serve God by doing good things.