

Psalm 1

1. You'll be very happy if you don't follow the advice of bad people! You'll be very happy if you only feel at home with people who respect God and try to do what God wants.
2. A good person is excited by what God teaches. He thinks about what God says all the time.
3. A good person will become strong. He'll be rather like a tree, planted by a river. He'll have blossom and fruit all the year round. None of his leaves will drop off either! Everything that he does will be successful.
4. Bad people are not like that! They are like dust that is simply blown away by the wind. They are not strong or successful.
5. Bad people will be found guilty. Bad people will not feel comfortable with those who love God.
6. Why? Because God shows good people how to live, and God looks after good people. But in the end, bad people will come to a sticky end!

Psalm 3

1. Lord, I have lots of people who do not like me. There are lots of people who have turned against me and are my enemies.
2. Lord, lots of people are talking about me. My enemies say that God will not help me!
3. But Lord, I know that you protect me all around, like a big shield. You are great! You make me feel very important!
4. I pray to God. And God always answers me from His mountain.
5. I lie down and go to sleep peacefully, because I know I will wake up again. I know that I will wake up again, because I know that God will protect me and look after me.
6. Even if I am surrounded by thousands of soldiers, I will not be afraid. Why? I won't be afraid because I know that God is looking after me!
7. O Lord - please help me, please come and rescue me! Hit my enemies hard!
8. Real help and victory comes from God. You bless all of us who love You.

Psalm 4

1. Oh God, when I pray to you, please answer me. Oh God, when I pray to You, please hear what I say, and be kind to me. I'm in trouble again God. Please help me.
2. The people around me keep saying bad things about me. These people seem to enjoy telling lies about me.
3. I know that God listens to His people. This means that God hears me everytime I pray to Him.

4. If you must complain, then complain, but don't lash out and lose your temper. Think calmly about things.
5. Give your life to God. Trust God completely - He will never let you down.
6. Why does everyone want MORE of everything? They seem to want more and more and more!
7. God has made me very happy. I have more joy in an ordinary day than other people have when they have a party!
8. In the evening I sleep peacefully. Why? Because God gives me His peace!

Psalm 12

W's Help us Lord!

W1 The good people are all gone
There are no true believers left.

W2 People lie to each other
They say things that are not true

W1 Make them be quiet Lord. Please stop people who lie.

W2 Shut the mouths of those who say:

P1 We will tell lies and become very important.

P2 We know what to say so we will be the boss.

W1 God the Lord says:-

L Bad people stole from poor people. They took things from helpless people. Now I will stand and defend those tired and weary people.

W1 We can trust the Lord's words; they are pure like silver that is melted and made pure seven times.

W2 Those bad people act as if they are important, but really they are like costume jewellery. It looks expensive but it is really very cheap.

W1 Keep us safe Lord and protect us from such people.

Psalm 15

Who may worship the Lord. Who may stay in God's temple?

Who can live on the holy mountain of the Lord?

Only the people who obey God and behave correctly can do that.

These people speak the truth.

These people do not say bad things about other others.

These people do good things to their neighbours and treat others fairly.

These people show respect for all who serve God.
These people keep their promises, no matter what the cost.
These people do not charge interest when they lend money to someone.
These people do not take money to hurt others.
People like this will always stand firm. People like this will always be near God.

Psalm 16

1. O God please keep me safe! I trust you.
2. I say to God, "Please be my Lord - be in charge of my life! You have given me all the good things I have"
3. The people who love God are wonderful people! God is very pleased with them.
4. But people who worship other gods will have lots of hassle. I don't want that! I won't get involved in that at all. I want to stick with God.
5. I will choose God. I will put **Him** first in my life. And then I discover that God has chosen ME!
6. God has set me up with all sorts of good and amazing things. He has given me so much to enjoy.
7. God has taught me well. Even at night He goes on teaching me.
8. I'm going to stick with God, and I am not going to let go!
9. I'm going to stick with God, and then I will be happy inside and outside, REALLY happy!
10. Because I love God and He loves me I am not going to Hell.
11. God is going to show me the right way to live. Just being with God will make me really happy, and I will be happy forever!

Psalm 19

1. Space sort of "talks" about God's glory - it shows us how great He is! The skies seem to tell us about all the good things that God has made.
2. Every day we learn more about what God has done. Every night shows us more and more of God's power.
3. We cannot "hear" the day and the night talking to us. The day and the night don't talk to us using words. They do not make sounds we can hear!
4. But the day and the night, space, skies and the earth are there for everyone to see how great God is! The sky is like a home for the sun.
5. In the morning the sun comes out. The sun is happy - like someone who has just been married. The sun begins to move across the sky. The sun is like an athlete who is really wanting to start the race!
6. The sun starts at one end of the sky, and goes all the way across to the other end! Nothing can hide from its heat.

Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd - someone who will guide me and look after me. Because the Lord is my shepherd, I will always have everything I need.
2. He gives me rest in fresh green fields. He leads me to streams of peaceful water where I can drink.
3. He refreshes me, and gives me new strength to carry on with life. To show how good He really is, He leads me along good paths; paths where there is goodness, and paths that go in the right direction for me.
4. Even if things look like they are going horribly wrong; even if everything looks black around me, I will not be afraid, and I will not worry. Why? Because God is walking with me. He is by my side all the time. He makes me feel safe and secure, and I know He will guide me.
5. God treats me to a massive 6 course feast! He sets the table for me right in front of my enemies. He treats me as a special guest. He blesses me over and over again, until I feel like bursting!
6. God's kindness and goodness and love will be with me for the rest of my life. I will live with God, in His house, for ever.

Psalm 29

1. People of God - praise the Lord! Praise His glory and power!
2. Praise the Lord, and respect His name. Worship the Lord by being Holy.
3. The Lord's voice is like glorious thunder echoing across the water.
4. The Lord's voice is powerful. His voice shows how brilliant He is!
5. The Lord's thunderous voice smashes the cedar trees in Lebanon into small pieces.
6. The Lord's thunderous voice shakes up Lebanon, so that the mountains their look like dancing calves, and Mount Hermon looks like a dancing wild ox!
7. The Lord's thunderous voice spits fire like flashes of lightening.
8. The Lord's thunderous voice shakes the desert in Kadesh so it looks like it is trembling.
9. The Lord's thunderous voice makes the deer afraid, His voice strips the forests bear. Meanwhile in the temple we all cry out, "Glory!"
10. The Lord was king during the big flood vwhen Noah was alive. The Lord will go on being King for ever and ever.
11. The Lord makes His people strong. The Lord will give His people peace.

Isaiah 53

1. Who has really believed the things we have talked about? Who has really seen God's amazing power in action?
2. He grew up like a small plant, in dry ground, watched by God. He did not look particularly special. He wasn't a handsome king. In fact if you looked at Him, you wouldn't think there was anything special about him at all.
3. He was hated and rejected. His friends made fun of him. He was a man who suffered a lot of pain., and he suffered a great deal. No one even wanted to look at him.. They didn't even notice Him! He was totally rejected.
4. But he suffered all this pain for us. He took all our troubles and all our pain, and carried them away for us. He made them his, as it were. We still thought his suffering was punishment from God for something He had done - but of course it wasn't!
5. He suffered all that pain because of the wrong things WE had done. Our guilt, meant He was punished. We should have been punished for we had done wrong. But he was punished instead. He suffered all that instead of us. By suffering like this, we are healed!
6. But even after He had done all this for us, after he had suffered like this for us on our behalf, we still wandered away like lost sheep. We still went off and did our own thing. But God has freed us from guilt, and has given Him the punishment we deserved. All our guilt was laid on him.

Matthew 3

13. A man called John the Baptist was baptising lots of people. John was baptising them in the River Jordan. Jesus came to John and wanted John to baptise Him as well.
14. John said to Jesus, "I am not good enough to baptise you. You are so good. You should baptise me!"
15. But Jesus said, "I want you to baptise me. I want to do everything right."
16. So John went down into the river with Jesus, and John baptised Jesus in the river.
17. When John had finished baptising Jesus, the sky opened up, and everyone saw the Holy Spirit of God coming down and resting on Jesus. It looked like a dove.

Then a voice spoke from heaven, "This man Jesus is my son. I love Him very much. I am very pleased with Him!"

Matthew 14

On the word Stomach every one rubs their stomachs; for food they say "Mmmmmmm!"; for loaves and fishes use Makaton sign for bread and fish.

- 13 - 21 One day, 5000 people were sitting on a hillside listening to Jesus talking about God. They were all a long way from home, and it was nearly lunch time.

Suddenly they heard a sort of rumbling noise. This noise was not very loud, but it got louder, and seemed to coming from all over the hill! What was it? Was it the wind? Was it a tornado? Was it an earthquake perhaps?

One of Jesus' friends was called Andrew. He said, "What's that rumbling noise?" "It's my **stomach**," someone said. No, it's not, it **MY stomach**," said someone else. "It isn't your stomach," said someone else. "It's my stomach rumbling - I'm hungry!"

All over the hillside people's stomachs were rumbling because they were very hungry!

"Has anyone got any **food**?" asked Andrew. No one had. And even if they had, they would need to have loads of food. Feeding 5000 people would be very hard indeed, and there were no shops for miles!

Andrew spoke to Jesus. "Jesus, why don't we tell them all that it is time to go home. That way they can go and get **food** for themselves". Jesus said. "They don't need to go away. You feed them!"

Then a little boy put up his hand. "Please sir. I have got some **food**! My Mum gave me extra, and it much too much for me to eat. You can have it all!"

"Thank you very much." said Andrew. "Please bring it over here" "Here it is," said the little boy. "I have got five fishes and three small loaves of bread."

"You what!!" said Andrew. "That's not enough to feed a fly!" But Jesus said, "Please bring the **food** over here. We can eat that"

Jesus took the **food** and thanked God for the **food**. He got the people to sit down in small groups on the grass. Then Jesus broke up the bread and the fish, and gave it to his friends. The friends handed it out to the people. Everyone had enough to eat. The food never ran out. There was enough for all 5000 people!

When everyone had eaten enough, Jesus' friends went round picking up the scraps, and they filled 12 huge baskets with the bits left over!

Jesus had done another miracle - he had used three loaves of bread and five fish and had fed 5000 people!

Matthew 18

21. One day, one of Jesus' special friends called Peter came to talk to Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Jesus, if someone goes on doing something wrong to me, how many times must I forgive him? Perhaps I must forgive that person as many as seven times!?"

22. Jesus said to Peter, "No Peter! You must forgive him far more than seven times! You must go on forgiving him, even if he does wrong to you seventy times seven. You must go on forgiving him until you cannot count how many times you have forgiven him!"

Peter looked a bit surprised, so Jesus said,

23. "Let me try to explain this a bit more for you. Let me tell you a story. Imagine this: A king has decided to check how much money his servants owed him. The king wanted his servants to pay him back. The king wanted his money!

24. One servant owed the king several thousand pounds - lots of money.

25. But this servant could not pay the king. He didn't have that much money! The king was angry. The king said that this servant should be sold. And the servant's wife and children and everything he had should be sold. Then this servant could pay the king the money he owed the king.
26. But the servant was frightened. He knelt down in front of the king and said, "Please Sir. Please give me more time to collect the money. Then I WILL pay you back everything I owe you."
27. The king looked at the servant. The king felt sorry for the servant. So the king said to the servant, "OK. You don't have to pay me the money. I'll let you off. You can go free now!"
28. This servant was very happy. But, as he went home he met someone who owed him just a few pennies. He grabbed the man and said to him, "Pay me the pennies you owe me, and pay me now!"
29. But the man knelt down in front of the servant and said to the servant, "I do not have the money yet. Please give me more time to collect the money. Then I WILL pay you back everything I owe you."
30. But the servant was angry with the man, and would not give him any more time to collect the money. The servant put the man in prison. The man had to stay in prison until he could pay the pennies he owed the servant.
31. Now the other servants of the king had seen what had happened, and it made them very sad. They were also angry with the servant who had been let off, because **he** had not let the **other** man off. So these servants went and told the king everything that had happened.
32. When the king heard what had happened he was angry as well. He called the servant to come and see him. The king said to the servant, "What you have done is very bad. You owed me a lot of money. You asked me to let you off having to pay it back. I did let you off, **and** I said that you didn't have to pay anything.
33. "In the same way that I let you off, you should have let this man off as well. You should have been kind to this man in the same way that I was kind to you."
34. The king was very angry with the servant. The king put the servant in prison to be punished. The servant had to stay in prison until he had paid back everything he owed the king."
35. Jesus ended this story by saying, "You must forgive each other completely every time. If you do not forgive each other completely every time, my heavenly Father will not forgive you!"

Matthew 21

1. Jesus arrived at a place called Bethphage near Jerusalem. Bethphage was on a hill called the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of His followers into the village.
2. Jesus said, "Please go into that village. When you get there, you will find a donkey and her foal, tied up. Untie the two donkeys, and bring them to me.
3. If anyone asks you what you are doing, tell them, 'The Master needs them'. They will understand, and let you borrow the donkeys.

4. Many many years before this happened, a prophet called Zechariah had told people that this would happen. What he said, did not make much sense at the time, but now it did. This is what he said,
5. “Tell the people living in Zion - or Jerusalem - that their King is coming to them. He is coming humbly, riding on a young donkey.”
6. So Jesus’ followers did what Jesus had asked them to.
7. They brought the donkey and its colt to Jesus. Some people put their coats on the donkey, and Jesus got up and rode on the donkey into Jerusalem.
8. Lots of people in the crowd threw their coats on to the road. Other people cut branches from the trees, and spread the branches on the road.
9. Some people walked in front of Jesus, and some people walked behind Jesus. They were all calling out,

“Hooray! It’s the Son of David! We welcome you! God bless you. You are coming in the name of the Lord! Praise God in Heaven!”
10. Jesus and the crowd finally arrived in Jerusalem. There was a lot of confusion. Everyone was asking, “Who is this person?”
11. The people who had come with Jesus said, “This is Jesus. He is God’s special person. He has come from Nazareth in Galilee.

Matthew 25

(v14 - 30 A real paraphrase!)

14. Imagine someone going on a long journey. He shares out his money between his servants, and tells them to look after it!

He gives one servant £5000. He gives another servant £2000, and he gives the last servant £1000.

The servant with £5000 invests it, and ends up with £10,000!

The servant with £2000 also invests it and ends up with £4000!

The servant with £1000 was afraid of the master. He dug a hole in his garden, and buried the money!

After a long time the master came home, and asked the servants what they had done with his money.

The first two servants told the man how they had earned more money. The master was very pleased, “Well done! I can trust you, even with small things. Because I can trust you, I will give you more things to look after. I will give you more responsibility.”

The last servant told the master that he had buried the money in his garden! The master was angry. "You are very lazy" the master said. "You should have put my money in the bank" And the master took the £1000 away from him, and gave it to the servant who had £5000.

Matthew 26

6. Jesus was in a town called Bethany. He was having a meal with a man called Simon.
7. During the meal, a woman quietly crept into the house. She sneaked up to where Jesus was sitting. In her hand she had a bottle of perfume. This perfume was very, very expensive. Before anyone could see what she was up to, she broke open the bottle, and poured the perfume onto Jesus' head! The whole house was filled with the lovely smell of the perfume. The woman was also crying, and her tears were falling on Jesus' feet. The woman used her long hair to wipe her tears off Jesus' feet.
- 8 - 9. When Jesus' friends saw what the woman was doing, they were furious with the woman. "What a dreadful waste!" the friends all said. "Jesus! Why did you let her do that? That perfume was worth a absolute fortune! We could have sold the perfume, and given the money to poor people!" In fact, one of Jesus' friends looked after the money, and he was a thief, and he probably wanted to keep some of the money for himself!
10. As usual Jesus knew what was happening! So Jesus said to His friends, "Why are you giving the woman a hard time? She has just done something really great! It was fantastic!"
11. "The truth is," Jesus said, "there will always be poor people living near you. You can help them any time you want. But I am not going to be with you always, as I am going back to be with God soon. When the woman poured the perfume on me, it was as if she was getting me ready for my burial! She loved me that much."
12. Jesus also said, "I'll tell you something else! The Good News about me will be told all over the world. And do you know, everywhere this Good News is talked about, this woman will also be talked about. Everyone will get to hear what she did and she will be remembered for showing how much she loved me."

Matthew 28

18. Jesus said to his followers, "All the power in heaven and earth has been given to me.
19. So go out into the world, and tell everyone about me. Baptise them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
20. Teach these people to obey me, to do what I have told you. You can be absolutely sure that I will always be with you. I will never leave you, even at the end of the world."

Mark 1

4. There was a man called John - a man who baptised people. He was out in the wilderness baptising people. He told people to be baptised to show that they had completely changed their lives for the good. Then the wrong things they had done - their sins, would be forgiven.
5. People came from all over the place. From Jerusalem and Judea. These people confessed the things they had done wrong - their sins. They were then baptised by John in the river Jordan.
6. John wore clothes made from camel's hair. He also wore a leather belt. All he ate was locusts and wild honey!
7. This is what John told the people. "Someone is coming soon who is MUCH greater than I am! I'm not even good enough to kneel down and untie his shoe laces!"
8. I have baptised you in water from the river Jordan. This shows that you have changed your outside life, you behaviour. When this special person comes, He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit, and He will change you from the inside out!"
9. At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to the place where John was baptising. John baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.
10. As Jesus was coming out of the river, the sky opened up. Then God's Holy Spirit came down to Jesus. The Holy Spirit looked like a dove coming down from heaven.
11. At the same time a voice came from heaven. The voice said, "You are my Son. You are special and I love you. I am very very pleased with you. You make me happy."

29. Jesus and His followers left the synagogue. They all went with James and John to where Simon and Andrew lived.
30. Simon's mother-in-law was very ill. She was lying in bed with a hot fever. The people told Jesus that she was ill.
31. Jesus went to see Simon's mother-in-law. He held her hand and helped her to stand up again. The fever went away, and she was completely better! She was so well that she was able to go and get the dinner ready for them all.
32. That evening, when it was getting dark, the neighbours brought lots of ill people to Jesus. They also brought people with demons in them.
33. Everyone in the town gathered at the door of the house where Jesus was!
34. Jesus made the ill people well, and forced the demons out of people. Because the demons knew that Jesus was the Son of God, He would not let them speak.
35. The next morning Jesus woke up very early. He went out while it was still dark. Jesus went to a place to be all by himself. Jesus wanted to be alone so He could be quiet and pray.
36. A bit later on, Simon and his friends went to look for Jesus.
37. At last they found Him. "Everyone's been looking for you." they said.

38. Jesus answered, "I think we should go to the rest of the villages. I want to tell more people about God. After all, that's why I came to this earth."
39. So Jesus travelled all around Galilee. He talked in their synagogues, telling people about God. He also forced demons to leave people.
40. A man had a horrible skin disease called leprosy. In those days if you had leprosy, you were not allowed to live with other people. You had to live away from others on your own. Other people were not allowed to touch you. The man with Leprosy came to Jesus. He knelt down in front of Jesus, and begged Him. "Jesus, I know that if you want to, you can make me better!"
41. Jesus felt really sorry for the man with leprosy. Jesus was so sad that he reached out and actually touched the man with leprosy! Jesus said, "I want to heal you. Be healed!"
42. Immediately the leprosy left the man, and he was better! His skin was smooth and healthy again.
43. Jesus told the man to go. Jesus also warned him sternly. Jesus said,
44. "Don't tell anyone what I have done for you. But instead, go and show the priest what has happened to you. Moses told us to offer a gift to God because you have been healed. Go and offer that gift now. This will show everyone that you really are healed."
45. So the man who had been healed went off. But he did not keep quiet as Jesus had asked! Instead, he told everyone what had happened to him. He told everyone how Jesus had healed him from Leprosy. Because of this, the news about Jesus spread all around the countryside. Jesus was so popular that He could not go into a town or village if people recognised Him! Instead, Jesus stayed out in the places where people did not live. Even there, people came to look for Him.

Mark 8

27. Jesus and His followers set off to go to some villages near a place called Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, Jesus asked His friends a question. "Who do people say I am?"
28. Jesus' friends said, "Some people think you are John the Baptist. Other people think you are an old prophet called Elijah. Other think you are the old Prophet called Jeremiah. Other people think you are one of the prophets from long ago who has come back to life."
29. The Jesus asked His followers, "And what about you? Who do YOU think I am?" One of the followers called Peter, said, "I think you are the Christ - the Messiah - the Son of God."
30. Jesus then said to His friends, "Please do not tell anyone."
34. Then Jesus called everybody so he could talk to them. Jesus' followers were there as well, so they could listen. Jesus said to them all, "If any of you wants to follow me, he must say 'No' to what you want, and say 'yes' to what I want! Don't try to be in charge of your life! Let me be in charge of your life! The funny thing is that if you decide to do what I want you to

do, you will end up suffering! But don't run away from the suffering. Don't be afraid of it. I am asking you to accept it and trust me. The great thing is that I will help you to cope.

35. If you try to sort out your own life, you will end up losing it - messing it up even. However, if you give your life to me, if you let me take charge of your life, and if you live the way I want you to, you really will save your life and get it sorted!
- 36/37 What good would it do you if you owned everything, but your life - the real you was a mess? Could you buy your life back again? Of course not!
38. There are people who live around you who don't love me. They don't even care about me. They live their lives just the way they want to! As you live along with them, don't be embarrassed about me and the way I ask you to live! If you are embarrassed, I will be embarrassed about you as well. I will be embarrassed about you when I come in all the glory of my Father God with the angels!"

Mark 9

33. Jesus and His followers walked to a place called Capernaum. When they finally got there, and were settled in, Jesus asked his followers this, "I heard you lot all talking and arguing about something as we were walking along. What were you arguing about?"
34. There was a long pause! No one said anything. Oops! The truth was that they had been arguing about who was the greatest and the most important! They were embarrassed to tell Jesus, so they kept quiet!
35. Jesus smiled. He knew what they had been talking about! So Jesus sat down, and asked His followers to listen to Him. Jesus said to them, "OK. So you want the first place do you? So you want to be the most important one do you?" Jesus looked around his friends and smiled again. "If you want to be the most important, you've got to go to the bottom of the ladder, and serve everyone else! Yes, you need to be the servant! Don't try to be the 'top dog' but take the last place, and help everyone else."

Mark 11

verses 1- 11

Imagine this: Jesus and his followers have been travelling for a long time and they're tired. So Jesus gets his disciples together and says to them, "Listen friends, I think it's time for a donkey, the one you're going to get from that town over there." Jesus pointed to a small town in the valley.

"Hang on, Jesus," said the disciples. "We can't just walk in and pinch one. We can't do that!"

So Jesus sat then all down and said: "Now listen. I've had this plan worked out for a while. Two of you are going to nip into the town, and when you see the donkey - just bring it to me please."

Now the disciples weren't so sure and they started to grumble.

"Look, it's no use grumbling," said Jesus. "It's all worked out. You two go over there and bring back the first donkey you see. Please don't grumble! If you get any bother just say, 'The master needs it!'"

So they went off into the town. There they saw two donkeys tied up, just as Jesus had said. So one of the disciples kept watch, while the other disciple untied the donkeys. Suddenly two massive men appeared, looking very angry. One of these men shouted: "Hey! You can't do that!"

"No you can't." said the other angry man, "That's our donkey!" The two big men looked as if they were getting ready for a fight, so the disciples quickly said: "The master needs it!" The men calmed down, and off went the disciples with the donkey.

As soon as they got back, Jesus got on the donkey. His friends put their cloaks onto the donkey. Jesus got onto the donkey and rode into Jerusalem in front of huge crowds of people, all shouting and singing and praising God.

The people shouted, "Hooray for Jesus! Jesus is the King! It's Jesus the teacher! It's Jesus the healer! Three cheers for Jesus! Jesus is Great!" Some of the crowd took off their coats, and laid them on the road. Other people cut down branches from trees, and waved them about! It was a real party! Everyone was please to see Jesus.

The donkey kept walking. Jesus kept riding. So Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. His disciples followed Him. The crowds cheered them on, and everyone was having a great time! There were hundreds of people, clapping, dancing and shouting!

Well, most of the people had a great time. A few people - the priests and religious leaders - all they could do was grumble. They were jealous because the people were fond of Jesus, and were not taking much notice of them. But nobody else cared, because all the people wanted to see Jesus, for He was the King. And He still is the King!

These religious leaders shouted to Jesus, "You can't have a parade here. It's not allowed! Tell all the people to be quiet."

Jesus just smiled. "It's impossible to tell them to be quiet. Can't you see? There are lots of happy people here. Even if I DID manage to make them quiet, the stones in the street would jump up and shout for joy instead!"

Mark 14

3 - 9 See Matthew 26:6-12

Luke 2

21. When Jesus was 8 days old, it was time for him to be circumcised. Jesus' parents who were called Mary and Joseph, named their baby Jesus. The angle had told Mary to call their baby Jesus. This had happened even before she had the baby inside her!
22. A long time ago, God gave Moses rules for the people to obey. One of these rules was how to become clean and pure after a baby was born. So Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were going to obey the rule that God had given to Moses.
23. God had told Moses, "The first boy baby who is born belongs to me. It is the same for a person or an animal. You must bring him to me because he is special.

24. “When you do this, you must also bring two pigeons or two doves for the priest to sacrifice.” So Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem to obey this rule.
25. There was a man called Simeon. He was living in Jerusalem. He was a good man who always obeyed and worshipped God. He had been waiting for a long time for God to send the special person that would come to help the Jews. God’s Holy Spirit was in Simeon.
26. God’s Holy Spirit had told Simeon that he would see God’s special person before he died.
27. The day had now come for Simeon to see that special person! God’s Holy Spirit told Simeon to go to the temple. When Simeon got to the temple, Simeon saw Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.
28. Simeon took baby Jesus and held Him in his arms. Simeon said,
29. “Lord God. You have kept Your promise. Now I can die in peace.
30. I have seen the special person who will help the Jews.
31. You have sent Jesus to this earth so everyone can see Him.
32. Jesus will be a light, so that people who are not Jews will be able to see how God wants them to live. Jesus will also show that the Jews are special.”
33. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said about baby Jesus.
34. Then Simeon asked God to bless Mary and Joseph. He wanted God to do some really good things for Mary and Joseph. Simeon said this, “God has chosen this baby. Baby Jesus is special. He will tell people how to live in a way that makes God happy. Some people will obey Jesus. Some people will laugh at Jesus, and be horrible to Him.
35. This will show what they really think about God. Mary and Joseph, you will also be very sad because of all this. You will be so sad that it will feel as if you are being cut with a knife inside.”
- 36 - 37. There was a very old lady living in the temple. Her name was Anna. She was 84 years old. She was the daughter of a man called Phanuel, in the family of Asher. She had been married for 7 years. But then her husband had died.

Anna never left the Temple. She was always worshipping God. She spoke for God, giving messages from God. She prayed day and night and also fasted.
38. Anna came up to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. Anna praised God and thanked God for Jesus. She talked about how special Jesus was. The people who were listening to Anna were those who really wanted God to set the Jews free.
39. Joseph and Mary finished doing all the things that they were supposed to do. Then they went back to Galilee, and to their home town of Nazareth.
40. Baby Jesus grew up. He became stronger and was able to understand lots of things. God blessed him.

Luke 19

1 - 2 Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. To get to Jerusalem, Jesus had to walk through a town called Jericho.

Living in Jericho was a man called Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was very rich. He had got rich by being dishonest with other people's money. he collected taxes, but he collected more than he should and kept the extra for himself. Zacchaeus was not liked by other people.

3 - 4. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but because he was a short man, he could not see over the crowd. So Zacchaeus had an idea! "I know what I will do! I'll climb up that tree so I can see better!" he said to himself. At last he could see Jesus, surrounded by a big crowd of people.

5 - 6. Jesus came and stood under the tree where Zacchaeus was. Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, have you got a good view from up there? Come on down. You have got me and my friends as guests today in your house! How about giving us some tea! I want to get to know you" Zacchaeus was thrilled! "Hurray! Jesus is coming to my house!" he said to himself. So Zacchaeus clammers down from the tree and takes Jesus and His friends to his house. He gives Jesus a really good meal.

7. Some of the crowd saw what was happening and began to grumble. "Zacchaeus is a crook" they said. "Why is Jesus having a meal with him? Doesn't Jesus KNOW that Zacchaeus is a crook?" They were angry with Jesus.

8. But Zacchaeus had met Jesus, and Jesus had made a difference in his life. Zacchaeus was no longer a crook and a thief. Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "Jesus, I want to change. I have been a crook and a thief, and I want to do good instead. I am going to give half of my money to help poor people. (Ohhhhhh!) Also, I have cheated lots of people. I am going to give them back four times over what I have taken from them!"

9. Jesus smiled. "Zacchaeus - today you have been saved. You have met me, and your life is changed. This is exactly why I came to this world - to see people like you changed to be good."

Luke 24

50 - 53 See Acts 1:6-11

John 2

13. It was nearly time for a special feast called "Passover". This was celebrated every spring by the Jews. So Jesus travelled all the way to Jerusalem.

14. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem He went to the Temple. When He got there, He found that the temple was not a quiet place for prayer and worship. Instead it was full of people buying and selling cows, sheep and birds. There were also people changing and lending money!

15. Jesus was sad and angry about this. The temple should not be used like this. The Temple was supposed to be a place of prayer. So Jesus made a whip out of strips of leather. He chased all the shop keepers out of the temple, and shooed the animals away, and let the birds fly free. Jesus overturned the tables, and the money went everywhere all over the floor!

16. Then Jesus said to the shopkeepers, "Get all this stuff out of here. This is my Father's house. You are not to turn it into a supermarket."

John 10

- 11a In the next story, Jesus talked about sheep. He did not really mean sheep. He really meant people who know and love Him. Jesus also talked about being a good shepherd. What He means is that He is someone who really cares for His people. He also talked about a bad shepherd. Let's see what Jesus said about all that! (After I say "sheep" you all say "God's people!")
11. "I am the 'Good Shepherd' ", said Jesus. "The 'Good Shepherd' is the sort of person who will always do the very best for His **sheep**. He will even die for them if it was necessary! The 'Good Shepherd' will not run away when things get hard.
- 12 & 13 There is another sort of shepherd. He is not a loving shepherd. He is only doing a job. He does not really care for the **sheep**. He only wants his money at the end of the week! When there is a problem, like when a wolf comes along, this sort of shepherd will run away. The **sheep** will be left all alone, and the wolf will attack them, and all the **sheep** will run away and get lost. But the 'bad' shepherd doesn't care."
- 14 & 15 Jesus said, "But I am 'The Good Shepherd'. I know and love and care for my **sheep**. My **sheep** also know me - they will recognise my voice, and feel safe with me. This is just the same as the way that my father and I know each other. I know Him very very well. My Father knows me very very well. We love and trust each other, and feel safe with each other. In the same way, my **sheep** know me, and I know them. In fact I care so much for my **sheep** that I am prepared to die for them if I have to."

John 14

15. Jesus said to His disciples, "If you really love me, you will show that you love me by doing what I have asked you to.
16. I will ask my heavenly Father to send you another friend - a helper, someone who will be with you forever. Someone who will comfort you, and speak up for you as well.
17. This person is called the Spirit of Truth, or the Holy Spirit. People who are not yet followers of Jesus, can't really understand or accept Him. Why? Because they don't see him, because they don't know what to look for. But you know the Holy Spirit; you recognise Him. He has been with you, and He will actually live in you!

John 11:1-44

- 1-2 A man called Lazarus had two sisters. One was called Mary, and the other was called Martha. They lived in a place called Bethany. They were all great friends of Jesus. Jesus stayed with them whenever He was near Bethany.
- 3-7 One day Jesus is told that Lazarus is so ill that he is about to die. Instead of rushing off to see Lazarus, Jesus stays where He is for two more days.

Mary and Martha are furious with Jesus. They were convinced that if Jesus had come quicker, Jesus would have healed Lazarus. But now it was too late. Lazarus was dead and that was the end of it.

17. When Jesus finally gets to Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days! There was also a small crowd of people trying to comfort Mary and Martha.
- 21-22 Martha was so cross with Jesus. She said, "If you'd been here, Jesus, Lazarus wouldn't have died! Still, I know that even now God will give you anything you ask."
23. Jesus said to Martha, "Lazarus will live again."
24. "Yea, I know," said Martha. "we'll ALL come back after the great day of resurrection."
- 25-26 Jesus said to Martha, "I AM that resurrection. I'm life with a capital L. If you give me all you've got, you'll live. Not only that, but you'll never die. Or perhaps you think I'm talking a load of rubbish!"
27. "No, you are not talking rubbish," said Martha. "I believe. I believe that you are God's Son."
- 28-35 Soon Mary joined them, and they walked to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. Everyone was crying. They were all very upset. Jesus too, cried.
- 36-38 The crowd had got bigger now. Everyone was watching Jesus to see what He was going to do. Others were angry with Jesus. "It's all very well Him coming now. If He was so fond of Lazarus, why didn't He come earlier and heal him, like He's healed other people?"
39. When they got to the tomb, Jesus said, "Please can someone take away the stone from the entrance?" "You have got to be joking," Martha said. Lazarus has been dead four days. He'll stink!"
40. Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you to trust me, and you would see how incredible God is?"
- 41-42 So a few strong men moved the stone away from the tomb where Lazarus was buried. Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for listening to me. Thank you that you always listen to me. I know that, you know that. Please now prove it to the people watching."
43. Then Jesus calls out in a loud voice, "Lazarus - come out!" Well! What do you know! Lazarus walked out, all wrapped up like an Egyptian mummy! Jesus tells them to unwrap Lazarus so he could breathe properly. Lazarus was not dead any more. Lazarus was alive!

John 16

7. Jesus said to His disciples, "I am telling you the truth. The best thing I can do for you is to leave! Until I have gone, the friend I spoke about earlier, called the "Holy Spirit", cannot come. But when I have gone I will send the Holy Spirit to be with you forever!"

13. When the Spirit of Truth actually comes, (He is also called the Holy Spirit) He will take you by the hand and guide you into everything that is true. He will guide you into Truth. He will not speak His own message, words that He has invented. Instead He will only speak what He hears from the Father. He will talk about things that are going to happen in the future, and make sense of them for you.
14. The Holy Spirit of truth will honour me, and bring glory to me. How will He honour me? He will listen to the things that I have said, and then tell you about them so you can understand.
15. Everything that the Father has is mine. That is why I said, “He will listen to the things that I have said, and then tell you about them so you can understand”.

John 21

1. A bit later, Jesus appeared to His followers. This happened by a Lake called Tiberias, and this is what happened:
2. Some of Jesus’ followers were by the lake. There was Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathanael, the brothers James and John and two others.
3. Simon Peter said to them, “I’m going fishing!” All the others said, “We’ll all go fishing with you!” So they all got into the boats and went out onto the lake to go fishing. They stayed out all night, but caught nothing at all!
4. Early the next morning, as the sun began to rise, and it got light, Jesus was standing on the edge of the lake, on the beach. Looking from their boats on the lake, Jesus’ followers did not know it was Jesus who was standing there on the beach.
5. Jesus called out to them, “Good morning friends. Have you caught anything that we could eat for breakfast?” The followers of Jesus, replied, “No we haven’t caught anything, even though we have been out on the lake all night”
6. Jesus called back to them, “Throw your nets off the right side of the boat into the lake, and see what happens! You will catch some fish there” They did what Jesus had told them. The net became so full of fish that it was too heavy for them to pull up into the boat.
7. Jesus’ favourite follower, called John, said to Peter, “Peter, that man on the shore, is the Lord - it’s Jesus - I know it is!” Simon realised that it really was Jesus. Simon pulled his coat over him (because he had taken it off to work) and jumped into the water and splashed his way to the beach.
8. The boat was not far from the beach, so the other followers came in on the boat. They dragged the heavy net full of fish with them behind the boat.
9. When they got to the beach they got out of the boat. On the beach they saw a nice hot fire. Cooking on the fire was some bread and some fish.
10. Jesus said to them, “Please bring some of the fish you have just caught.”
11. Simon went back to the boat, and dragged the net out back onto the beach. They had caught 153 large fish in the net, but the net wasn’t broken at all!

12. Jesus said to them, "Breakfast is served - come and have something to eat". None of the disciples was brave enough to ask Jesus who He was. They knew He was Jesus - the Lord.
13. Jesus took the bread and the fish and handed it round to His followers for them to eat.
14. This was the third time that Jesus had shown himself to his followers after he had been raised from the dead.

Acts 1

(Hill - pant and puff; Walk/walked - steps on the spot; Gift - 'Its for you!'; Leave - 'Bye' and wave; Answer to any question - 'No!'; Up - look up)

- 6 - 11 About 6 weeks after Jesus had come back to life again, it was time for Him to **leave** them. So Jesus called together all His special friends - his disciples. They set out for a walk together **up a hill**. Jesus explained that He had to **leave**. Jesus' disciples wondered where He was going. **Was He going on holiday? Was He going on a ship? Was he going on a long journey?** No.! Jesus explained that He was going back to Heaven to be with His Father.

As they **walked** together Jesus told them that He wanted to give them a **gift**. But Jesus had to **leave** them and go back to Heaven before he could send them this **gift**.

Jesus' friends wondered what on earth this **gift** could be! **Was it some food? Was it a game? Was it a car? Was it a new wheelchair!** Jesus explained that this **gift** was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help them live their lives the way Jesus wanted them to. Jesus told His friends that He wanted them to go all over the world telling everyone about Him. They were to start in Jerusalem, and then travel out from there. "You will also do miracles." Jesus said

When they got to the top of the **hill** Jesus said, "Don't be afraid or worried. Just talk to me, and I will be with you for ever!"

All of a sudden a cloud wrapped itself round Jesus, and Jesus rose upwards. **Was He flying?** No! He was going back into Heaven to be with His Father.

The disciples stood there with tears in their eyes. They were not sure what on earth they were going to do next. Suddenly two angels stood with them. "Don't be sad." the angels said. "Don't look **up** into the sky! You have seen Jesus go. But Jesus is coming back again one day!"

So the disciples went down the **hill** back to Jerusalem, to wait for the **gift** that Jesus had promised them. The **gift** of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2

1. A month and a half went by. Nothing really happened. The disciples met together in Jerusalem in someone's house. They were still sad that Jesus had gone back to heaven. They were also very afraid of the Jewish leaders, so they tried not to be noticed. None of them really knew what to do next. It all seemed so strange and so sad and very frightening. Jesus had promised them a gift called the Holy Spirit, but nothing had arrived yet.

2. But one day all that changed! As usual they were sitting in someone's room praying, and chatting. Suddenly there was this tremendous sound like a strong wind blowing in the house. Peter rushed to the window. There was no wind outside! It was all inside!
3. Then the disciples looked at each other. There were flames of fire, yes fire, standing on each person's head! But no one got hurt! Jesus had sent the wind and the fire to his disciples. It showed that Jesus was giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit just as he had promised!
4. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit just as Jesus had promised. Before, they felt sad and frightened. Now they felt fantastic! They did not feel sad or frightened any more. The Holy Spirit was in them and he was making a real difference to them.

Not only did they feel great, but they found they were speaking in all sorts of different languages. They couldn't normally do this, but the Holy Spirit had given them the ability to praise God in all sorts of different languages.

5. In Jerusalem at that time, there were lots of Jewish people from many different countries of the world.
6. They heard the noise and wondered what on earth was going on. Peter and the disciples had gone outside now and were telling everyone about Jesus. They were telling them how Jesus had died for them, how he had come back from the dead. They explained that Jesus was now in heaven. They also told them that they too could have the wrong things in their life, forgiven, and how they could become friends of Jesus, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The incredible thing was that all these different people could understand what the disciples said, because the disciples were able to talk in so many different languages.

7. The people listening were amazed. They simply could not understand how some simple folk could speak all these languages, and explain about Jesus! Some of them just thought that the disciples were drunk!
- 8 - 41 But Peter and the others went on talking about Jesus. They were not sad or frightened any more. No! They were brave, because they had been filled with the Holy Spirit. By the time the disciples had finished talking to the people, 3000 had become Christians! Life would never be the same. The church that Jesus wanted to build, had begun!

1 Corinthians 12

12. Look at your body. It's got lots of different parts - arms and legs, and organs. But it is still one body. It is the same with the body of Christ - the church. It has got many different parts, but it is still one body.
13. Some of us are Jews, and some of us are Gentiles. Some of us are slaves, and some of us are free. It does not matter who we are. We were all baptised by God's Spirit into the same body - the church. We gave up our independence, and instead, became part of Jesus' body, the church, where we are refreshed, and fed and looked after from one fountain of life - the Holy Spirit of God.
14. This actually makes you more important, not less! A body, although it is only one thing, has many bits to it, all functioning together to make the body work properly.
15. Supposing your foot said, "I am not like the hand with long fingers. Therefore I do not belong to this body!". Does that stop the foot belonging to your body? Of course not!

16. Or suppose your ear said, "I'm not beautiful like the eye, and I cannot see, so I do not belong to this body!". Does that stop the ear being belonging to your body? Of course not!
17. If your body was just one big eye, then how could you hear? In the same way, if your body was just a huge ear, you wouldn't be able to smell anything!
18. But God has made your body with lots of different parts - all different, but all working together in the way He planned.
19. In fact, a body is not really a body at all, unless it is made up of the different bits!
20. So, even though there are many bits, there is still only one body. It takes many parts to make a body. Each part is the proper size, and in its proper place.
21. Being part of a body is what's important. No part of the body is important on its own. That's why it would be stupid for the eye to say to the hand, "Hand, I don't need you anymore!" It would be just as stupid for the head to say to the feet, "Feet, I don't need you any more!".
22. No - that would be stupid. In fact, we cannot get along with some parts of our body that seem to us to be weak or are hidden away. (For example we can do without an eye, or even both eyes, but we cannot do without a stomach!
23. We take special care to look after, care for and cover some parts of our bodies.
24. The more beautiful parts of our bodies we don't need to do this with! Which ever bit it is, because it is OUR body we look after it, care for it, and treat it well. God put our body together in such a way that all its parts are equally important and valuable.
25. The way God did this, helps us understand how we should live our lives together as the church - the body of Christ:- We all need each other to work properly, we all need to care for each other, we are all dependant on each other. We should not be fighting each other, or divided.
26. If one part of the body - the church is hurting, we all are hurt. If one part of the body - the church does really well, and is honoured, we all do well and are honoured! Just like our real bodies. If we hurt our toe, our whole body suffers! If we are thanked for doing something well, it makes us feel good!

1 Corinthians 13

- 4 - 8 Love is patient, and kind. It is not jealous, Love doesn't boast, Love isn't proud. Love isn't rude, Love isn't always 'me first!' – love doesn't always insist on its own way. Love doesn't get angry easily. Love doesn't remember the bad things that people have done against it. Love isn't happy with bad things, but is pleased with good things. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and looks for the best in others. Love always keeps going and never gives up. Love never lets people down.

Philippians 2

1. Have you have got anything at all out of being a follower of Jesus? Has His love for you made any difference at all in your life? Has the friendship and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, helping us live together, made any difference in your life? Has God's amazing love to us made any difference to you?

2. If any of this has made a difference to you, then please do something for me, something that will make me extremely happy. I really want you to agree with one another and not to argue. I want you to believe the same things. I want you to be really good friends. I want you to have the same goals. I want you to live in such a way, that it looks as though you even had the same mind, and the same soul!
3. When you do something, don't try to push your way to the top, or try to be better than everyone else. Don't be selfish or proud either. Instead be humble. Allow yourself to be sidelined! Think more of other people, than you think of yourself.
4. Don't just think of yourself! Think of others. Be interested in their lives too. But don't be a busybody! Help them to do well. Help them to get to the top and be noticed by others.
5. I want the way you live your life to be the same as the way Jesus lived His life.
6. Jesus was God. He was the same as God. But He did not selfishly hang on to all the glory of God, nor did He claim all the benefits of being God!
7. No! In fact, Jesus gave it all up. He gave up all the glory, all the majesty, all the wonder of heaven, and all the benefits of being God's son. Instead, He became a human being. Jesus lived on earth, as an ordinary human being, and did what His Father told Him to do. Jesus obeyed God.
8. Jesus wasn't proud. In fact He became a servant. Jesus was willing to obey His Father. Jesus was even willing to obey God, when God asked Him to die on a cross - a horrible painful death.
9. Jesus obeyed God. Because of this, God honoured Jesus. God made Jesus very important, in fact the most important person there is. God gave Jesus a name that is more important than any other in the world, under the world, or in the whole universe.!
10. At Jesus' name everyone in heaven, and everyone on earth, and everyone under the earth, will bow down and worship Jesus.
11. Everyone will say, "Jesus is Lord!". When they do this, God the Father will be glorified.

Ephesians 4

11. Jesus gave many gifts to people - to the church. Jesus gave the gift of the Apostle. These are people who would be special messengers for Jesus, people who would represent Him. Jesus also gave prophets. These are people who would speak what God wanted them to speak. Jesus also gave Evangelists. These are people who would be very good at telling others about Jesus, and who would see people healed and set free. Jesus would also give Pastors. These are people who would care for others, people who would lead, and want the best for others. Lastly Jesus gave Teachers. These are people who would help us understand the Bible, so we can live more like Jesus.
12. He gave us all these gifts to prepare God's people - the saints - to be able to serve. Jesus wants us to be trained, equipped, and made stronger. The church would therefore be built up, and would be stronger.
13. This work must continue, until the church is working and flowing together as one person - one body. It will continue until we are like a mature person, until we are like Jesus, until we are as perfect as He is!

Philippians 4

4. Always be full of joy in the Lord! Celebrate Him! I will say it again, be full of joy!
5. Whoever you meet, make it as clear as you possibly can that you are gentle and kind and that you are working for them, not against them. Help them to see that Jesus is coming again soon!
6. Don't get wound up about anything or worry about anything. Instead, whatever is happening to you, tell God about it. Ask God for everything you need. Also thank Him!
7. As you do this, God's peace and calm will come and settle you down. This peace will help you to stop worrying. God's peace really is amazing.
8. So listen friends. Don't worry! Instead think about good things - things that are worth thanking God for. Think about things that are truthful, things that are right, things that are pure, things that are beautiful and lovely. Think of the best, not the worst. Think of beautiful things not ugly things. Think of things that make you thankful not things that make you miserable.