

Over 2,000 years ago the Romans ruled Israel and so the Jewish people were really not free in their own land.



1a

At the beginning of the book of **Matthew** we read the ancestry of **JOSEPH**, Jesus' earthly father, who was a descendant of godly men and women written about in the Old Testament.

In **Luke 1,2** we read part of the story of Jesus' birth – how the **ANGEL GABRIEL** appeared to a young girl **MARY** because she was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus.

2a

We read that God sent angels into the sky above the area to announce the birth of His Son, Jesus, and shepherds who heard the news went to worship the baby Jesus.

The story continues in **Matthew 1,2** where we read of some wise men who had traveled far from the East in order to find and worship the new king they believed was to be born in Jerusalem.

3a

The king, **HEROD**, learned of it and sent soldiers to kill all the baby boys, so Joseph and Mary took Jesus and fled to Egypt where they stayed until it was safe to return to their home in Nazareth, where Joseph was a carpenter.



4a

One year, when Jesus was 12 years old, they went to visit the temple in Jerusalem with a crowd of family and friends. They all left to return home together, but after journeying for a day his parents realized Jesus was missing!



5a

But then Jesus appeared to them and showed he is alive! God had resurrected him from the dead! He met and spoke with his disciples for 40 days before he ascended into Heaven to be with God. Jesus told his followers to go all over the world and tell people about Him, and how to follow Him. He told them to be ready because one day He is coming back to take all His followers to live forever in heaven with Him!

19b

Finally the sun became dark over the land, and Jesus cried out: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" and he died.



There was an earthquake and many cried out, realizing that Jesus truly is the Son of God. Then Jesus' friends took him and buried him in a tomb.

18b

No-one could prove Jesus had broken any laws or done anything wrong, but he was taken and whipped, and even mocked by the soldiers.



17b



He shared bread and wine with them and prayed for them. He explained that the bread represented his body and the wine his blood. He told them to remember him in this way when they met together. This is called **HOLY COMMUNION**.

16b

Jesus knew that his time on earth was short and so he warned his disciples. In **John chapters 14-17** you can read how he also taught them about the Holy Spirit that God was going to send, to give them power and be with them after Jesus had left. The disciples did not understand – but only much later, after many things had happened, it became clear

15b

Jesus continued to live and work at home until he was about 30 years old. His cousin, **JOHN**, was known as the prophet, John the Baptist, because he preached that people should repent of their sins and turn to God. He invited people to come to be baptized in the River Jordan as a sign they had been cleansed from their sins. One day Jesus went there also to be baptized, even though he never sinned.

6a

We can read many stories about Jesus' life and ministry in the Gospels – **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. Jesus began to go around preaching and teaching about God and the scriptures.



7a

One of Jesus' most famous teachings is called the Sermon on the Mount, and it is found in **Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7**. There he explained very clearly how to obey God's laws in everyday life and even gave an example of how to pray – his prayer is known as the Lord's Prayer. It begins:

"Our Father, who is in heaven...."

8a



Even people who had incurable diseases like leprosy, or were blind, were healed by Jesus. Some, who were possessed by demons and were mad, were helped and delivered by Jesus from the evil spirits that had lived inside them for years. In the Gospels you can read many exciting stories about how Jesus helped them all be set free and healed.

9a

You can also read of other miracles that Jesus did – such as his first miracle at a wedding when he turned water into wine. In **Matthew 14** you can read how he took just 5 loaves and 2 fishes, and fed a crowd of over 5,000 people!



10a

In **John 11** you can read how Jesus went to the tomb and prayed. Then he asked for the stone to be rolled away from the front of the tomb, shouted out "Lazarus, come out!" and God brought Lazarus back to life and healed him completely!



14b

Jesus even went into the temple where people were making money instead of going just to worship God, and he overturned their tables and rebuked them.



13b

Everyone in the whole land heard about Jesus and huge crowds followed him everywhere. Some of the Jewish leaders and priests became jealous and felt threatened, because they thought more of their own power than they respected God. Many had become hypocrites and Jesus spoke clearly and sternly to them to warn them to repent and turn back to God, but few did.

12b



Jesus sometimes taught in the synagogues where the people went to worship God; he also taught as he walked along. He ministered to crowds, and also ministered to individuals, like **ZACCHEUS** who climbed a tree to be able to see Jesus better!

11b

In **Luke 8** we read how he and the disciples were in a sinking boat but then he calmed the fierce storm and they were saved. In **Mark 6** there is the story of how Jesus walked on water! Jesus did many miracles but some of the Jewish leaders did not like it and planned to try to stop him!



10b



Many people saw this great miracle and so a few days later, when Jesus went on into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, thousands of people greeted him, shouting praise to God for all the miracles he had done.

15a

He knew the Jewish leaders were plotting to kill him, but he also understood that God had a special plan. Just outside Jerusalem lived some of Jesus' friends, and one of them named, LAZARUS, got very sick. His sisters, MARTHA and MARY, asked Jesus to come and heal him, but Jesus stayed where he was a few more days. When he did get there, Lazarus had already been dead and buried for 4 days.

14a

Soon the Jewish leaders, known as the SANHEDRIN, started trying to trap Jesus. They asked him religious questions about the scriptures, but Jesus always gave them God's perfect answers. They accused him of breaking God's laws, but Jesus showed them that obeying the Spirit of God's laws is more important – we must understand ALL the scriptures and not just take one verse by itself alone.

13a

As the disciples learned more about God, Jesus sent them out in pairs, to preach in the towns and villages, and to do as he had shown them – heal the sick and cast out demons in His name.

They found that God used them also to perform miracles just as He used Jesus!



12a

As Jesus traveled around the land with his disciples, he taught many things to them and to the people he met. He often spoke in parables – simple stories that were easy to remember yet taught an important lesson. In **Matthew 13** you can read the Parable of the Sower, and in **Luke 16** you can read the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and there are many more that also teach us about God.

11a

Joseph and Mary searched all the way back to Jerusalem and finally found the boy, Jesus, after three days, sitting in the temple among the teachers. He was listening and asking questions about God and the scriptures, and they were all amazed at his understanding. When Mary asked Jesus why he had made them worry, he replied that he had to be in his Father's house. But he went home again and obeyed them.

5b

As Jesus rose from the water, the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove and God spoke from heaven: "This is my Son, whom I love and who pleases me." Immediately after, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert praying to God. He was also visited by Satan who tempted him to disobey God, but Jesus refused.



6b

Soon a crowd began to follow him everywhere, especially when he began to heal people and do miracles. Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples and travel with him. Some were fishermen - SIMON PETER, ANDREW, JAMES and his brother, JOHN; the others were called MATTHEW, PHILIP, BARTHOLOMEW, THOMAS, JAMES (son of Alphaeus), THADDEUS, SIMON (the Zealot) and JUDAS (Ischriot).

7b

People were amazed at Jesus' teaching and how he explained everything so simply. In **Matthew 7:12** he explained all the scriptures in the **Golden Rule** – "Do to others as you would have them do to you" Many who were sick or who had had terrible illnesses for years came and Jesus prayed for them and they were healed! Word spread about Jesus across the land and people came from far away to see him.

8b

Jesus even raised some from the dead – such as in **Mark 5** where we read about the young daughter of JAIRUS, a ruler of the synagogue. All were amazed at Jesus' miraculous power!



9b

Top
P.2



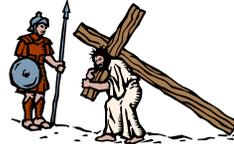
Read how YOU can know how to follow Jesus in the booklet "**God loves YOU!**"

Learn how the Early Church began to grow, in the booklet "**God's church grows**"

On the 3rd day, after the Sabbath, some of Jesus' friends went to the tomb and found that the huge stone in front of it had been rolled away - Jesus body was gone!



19a



Then in the morning Jesus was made to carry a cross to a hill outside the city, where he was nailed to it, between two thieves. **John 19** tells what happened. Jesus suffered for several hours, although he could have prayed for angels to help him. 18a

18a

After the meal, they all went out to a garden for Jesus to pray – except for Judas. He had already decided to help the Jewish leaders capture and punish Jesus. In the middle of the night, they came with soldiers led by Judas, and took hold of Jesus. They put him on trial before the Roman governor, PONTIUS PILATE and also before KING HEROD.

17a

The feast of Passover was coming, so Jesus made plans for a special meal to celebrate it with his disciples. You can read about the Last Supper in **Luke 22**. He told them many things and said that one of the disciples would betray him – but they could not believe it. He taught them they should serve others and even washed their feet with water as an example.

16a

Introduction

In the Old Testament of the Bible we read how God sent prophets to tell mankind about the coming Messiah, which means "God with us" – or Emmanuel. The first four books of the New Testament are called **The Gospels** and tell us how the Messiah, JESUS CHRIST, was born and lived on earth. Because he is God's Son, mankind was at last able to really KNOW God.

They were still waiting for God to send them the promised Messiah. Naturally they thought that he would come as a great leader and king, to fight against the Romans and set them all free to be a great nation again. But God does not do things the way we expect – and when Jesus came to the earth, he came as a baby born to a poor man and his wife.

1b

When she was about to give birth, she and her husband, Joseph, were in Bethlehem, far from home. They were very poor and the only place they could find to spend the night was in a shelter where cows and sheep went.



2b

Finally the star they were following led them to Bethlehem where they found Jesus with his parents, and brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – which had special meaning for his life ahead.



3b

Joseph and Mary had more children and so Jesus grew up with his family in Nazareth, and learned to be a carpenter like Joseph. But every year the family would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the special Jewish feasts like Passover. They would go to the temple to offer sacrifices and hear the priests teach about the Scriptures.

4b

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Instructions for assembly of Mini Books

1. Print Page 1 and then Page 2 on the back of it
2. Trim top and bottom borders
3. Cut vertically in half
4. Cut horizontally along lines
5. Lay out page 1a/19b on table, then place on top in order 2a/18b, then 3a/17b and so on
6. Fold in half*
7. Add colored cover and staple. Trim edges even.

*(It is best to fold each little double page in half separately before you staple it as sometimes the printing is not quite even and part of the words could be lost. At the end after you've put on the cover and stapled it all together you can just trim off the extra on the outside edge of the pages to make them even.)

Here are some of the other mini-books planned:

