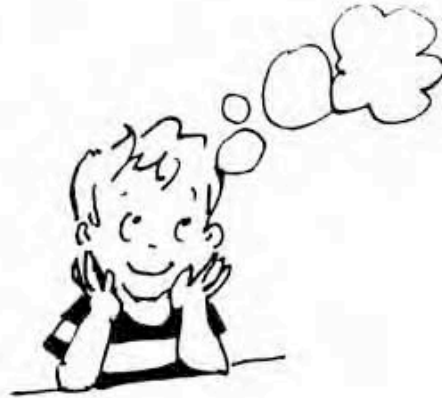


**THE BIG BOOK
OF
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
ABOUT JESUS**



Sinclair B Ferguson

FOR JONATHAN
AND OTHERS LIKE HIM

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PAGES

When Jesus was a boy



When Jesus left home



Jesus the great Teacher



Jesus the great Saviour



Jesus goes to the cross



Jesus calls us to be his disciples

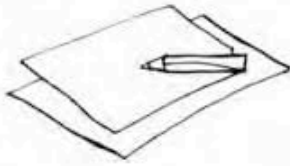


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FOR PARENTS OR LEADERS

In order to help you get the most out of this material we have supplemented the text by giving suggestions for activities. These aim to help the child understand the ideas being presented.



Write down / compile information / keep a diary



Think about the issues being talked about, possibly leading to action being taken.



Draw a poster / make something / be creative. A special notebook and a supply of paper for posters will help here.



Take some action! Possibly providing support through prayer or practical help.



Find out information from the Bible or other relevant reading material.



Short passages from the Bible for further reading are suggested.



A short prayer is given to bring the activities to a close.



Short questions encourage thought and discussion of the questions and answers.



All ages can enjoy learning.



You will be amazed as you go through this book with a child how much you discover yourself. Some congregations and study groups have based their adult teaching programme on the topics and subjects raised in *The Big Book of Questions and Answers*. Learning together like this helps families to continue their learning through prayer and family discussion times during the week. It is an excellent way for children and adults to learn about God together.

Do you have lots of questions about Jesus?

- * Sometimes teachers can tell us the answers
- * Sometimes others can help us
- * Sometimes we find out the answer ourselves by reading a book

But we have many questions about Jesus that only Jesus himself can answer.

Perhaps you never ask these questions out loud. But you ask them inside. You think about them when you are on your own.

Sometimes you lie awake in bed thinking about them.

Where can you find the answers?



Jesus answers our questions about himself in the Bible. Most of them are answered in the four books we call *The Gospels*.

Gospel is a word that means 'good news'.

The Big Book of Questions and Answers about Jesus will help you to find out more about Jesus.

I have written it for you!

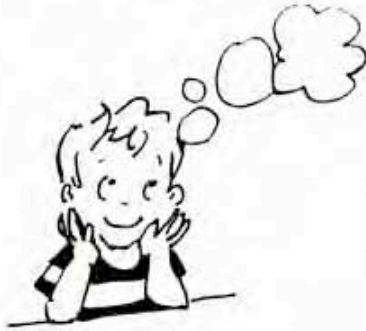
I hope you enjoy using it as much as I have enjoyed writing it!

Sinclair B Ferguson

WHEN JESUS WAS A BOY



1. WHAT DOES THE NAME *JESUS* MEAN?



Dads and mums usually choose a name for their baby *before* the baby is born.

Sometimes they choose two names: one if you turn out to be a boy, and another if you're a girl!

So you probably got your name *before* anybody knew very much about you!

It's good to have a name, isn't it? You wouldn't much like being just a number, would you?

Babies' names are usually chosen for a reason. There are all kinds of reasons. Maybe the parents just liked the name.

Some mums and dads chose their baby's name because someone else in the family had it. Sometimes it's because of somebody well-known they hope their baby will be like.

God chose Jesus' name for him.

He chose it for him *before* anybody else knew exactly when he was coming into the world.

Most names have a meaning. Sometimes names come from other languages. In those languages the word means something special.

Did you know that the name Jesus is really the same as the name Joshua? It comes from two Hebrew words which mean *the Lord saves*.

God sent an angel called Gabriel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby boy. Gabriel means *Man of God*. Mary means *bitter*.

Mary was probably only about sixteen at the time. She loved God very much and wanted to serve him. Gabriel told Mary that when the baby was born she was to call him Jesus.

Mary was going to marry a man called Joseph. He was a very good man. God sent his angel to Joseph as well to let him know about Jesus. The angel told Joseph what was going to happen. He explained why this name was so important.

Gabriel said to Joseph: 'Jesus will save his people from their sins'.

So, right from the start of his life, Mary and Joseph knew what Jesus was going to do.

They must have thought a lot about what the angel said.

They must have wondered: How is Jesus going to do this?

That is one of the things we are going to try to discover in *The Big Book of Questions and Answers about Jesus*.

Each bit of *The Big Book* will tell you something more about Jesus.

Question

What does the name *Jesus* mean?

Answer

The name *Jesus* means: 'The Lord saves'.

One day in Old Testament times, God spoke to Moses from inside a burning bush! Moses asked God: 'Who are you? Do you have a name I can call you?'

God said: 'I am who I am. Call me 'I AM'.'

So from then on God's people called him I AM. In Hebrew his name was Yahweh. Yahweh said to Moses: 'I have come to save the people from their slavery in Egypt and to take them into a new land. I will save them.'

The man who led them into the promised land was called Yahweh Saves. His name was Joshua. But God knew we would need another kind of salvation from another kind of slavery. He promised he would send a Saviour.

For years and years God's plan was hidden from almost everybody. But God told bits of his plan to men called prophets. They learned that a Saviour would come. They wrote down what God told them so that the secret wouldn't be lost. So when Jesus was born, some people were waiting for the Saviour. They weren't sure who the Saviour was. But they knew he would come. Jesus is that Saviour. That is why he was called: The Lord Saves.

Memory Verse

You are to give him the name *Jesus*, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew chapter 1, verse 21.

ACTIVITIES



Read Matthew chapter 1, verses 18-25 to discover how Jesus got his name.

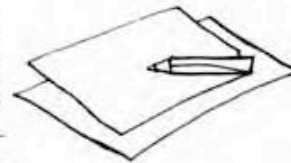
TALKING TIME:

Ask your mum or dad if your name means anything special. Why were you given your name? Do you have brothers and sisters? What do their names mean?



ACTION TIME:

Turn up Exodus chapter 3 in the Bible. Draw a picture of what is described there – with God's words coming out of the bush.



PRAYER TIME:



Lord Jesus, I am so glad that you have a name I can use when I speak to you. Thank you for being so willing to come into this world to be our Saviour. Help me to trust you to be my Saviour. Amen.