

**WHEN JESUS WAS
A BOY UNTIL HE
LEFT HOME
QUESTIONS 1-7**



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.

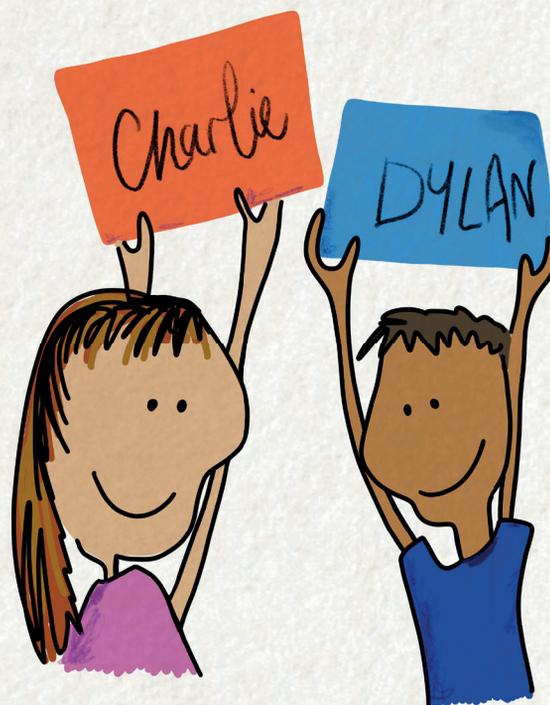
God chose Jesus' name for him.

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 in a dream to let him know about Jesus. The angel told Joseph what was going to happen. He explained why this name was so important.

The angel 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.

WHEN JESUS WAS A BOY UNTIL HE LEFT HOME:1-7



**What does the name
Jesus mean?**



**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?' 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 1:21).

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.

Reading Time

Read Matthew 1:18-25 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.

2. Where and when did Jesus live?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the land of Judea. The Romans ruled the world then. They had a kind of king, who was called Caesar. He allowed other countries to have their own kings—so long as they did what he wanted them to do. So they weren't real kings at all. In Judea the name of the king was Herod. He was not a good man.

One of these Roman kings, called Caesar Augustus, had decided to have what is called a census. In a census all kinds of information about people is written down. It helps the government to decide what to do. Some countries today have a census every ten years.

Caesar Augustus wanted to raise taxes. He wanted money to help him rule the Roman Empire. He needed to build roads; he needed to pay his soldiers. Lots of money was needed.

Nowadays in a census, every family just gets a form to fill in. In those days, everyone had to go to the original home town of their family. Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. They had to go to Bethlehem. That was a journey of about 90 miles. Jesus was just about to be born. The journey must have been a very hard one for Mary.

When they got to Bethlehem, it was full of people. There was no room for them anywhere. But an innkeeper allowed them to use his stable. Isn't that amazing? Jesus was born in a stable for animals.

People came to visit the baby Jesus. Shepherds and strange wise men from the



East came to see him. Someone else wanted to come to see Jesus. That someone else was King Herod. When King Herod heard about the birth of a new king, he wanted to get rid of him. To make sure, he planned to kill all the baby boys born in Bethlehem under two years old.

Joseph took Mary and Jesus as far away as possible – they ended up in Egypt. Then, when Herod died, they all moved back home to Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Later on, he seems to have moved to Capernaum which is near the Sea of Galilee.

All this happened two thousand years ago.



WHEN JESUS WAS A BOY UNTIL HE LEFT HOME:1-7



Where and when did Jesus live?



Jesus was born about two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, and then went to live in Nazareth, where he grew up.

Jesus is a real person. He had experiences like ours. Some of them must have been very difficult. He was not born in a nice hospital, but probably in a cave.

When he was a little boy he had to be taken to another country because the king was trying to kill him.

He lived in this world in the little town of Nazareth. He watched Joseph making things out of wood; he went to school; he had to do his homework.

Jesus began life as a very small baby; he grew up to be a boy. Then he became a teenager. Finally he became a full grown man.

For a long time Jesus just lived quietly, loving his Heavenly Father. He experienced the same kinds of things you do.

That is how we know he understands what it is like for us.



Memory Verse

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).

Prayer Time

Father God, I thank you for sending your Son, the Lord Jesus, to the world to live and die for sinners like me. Help me to be more like your Son. Make me someone who loves and trusts you. Amen.

Reading Time

Read Matthew 2:1-23 to find out what adventures Jesus had when he was still a little boy.

Talking Time

Ask your mum what it was like to look after you in the first few years of your life. Ask your dad what he thinks it must have been like for Joseph to look after Mary and Jesus when they were in Egypt.

Action Time

Look up a map of Palestine at the back of a Bible. Draw an outline of it and then fill in the places where Jesus lived at different times.

3. What was special about Jesus?

Jesus had some unusual things happen to him even when he was a baby.

Remember how he had to be taken away into Egypt because King Herod was trying to kill him?

Eventually, when Joseph and Mary arrived back in Nazareth they lived in an ordinary home. Jesus was brought up the same way other little boys were. But there were some things about him that made him different and very special.

We know what one of them was: his name described what he was to do. He was to be our Saviour. But there was something else.

In the Old Testament, God had given promises about the person he would send to be the Saviour. The men who told the people about these promises were called prophets.

One of these prophets, whose name was Isaiah, told the people that God would send

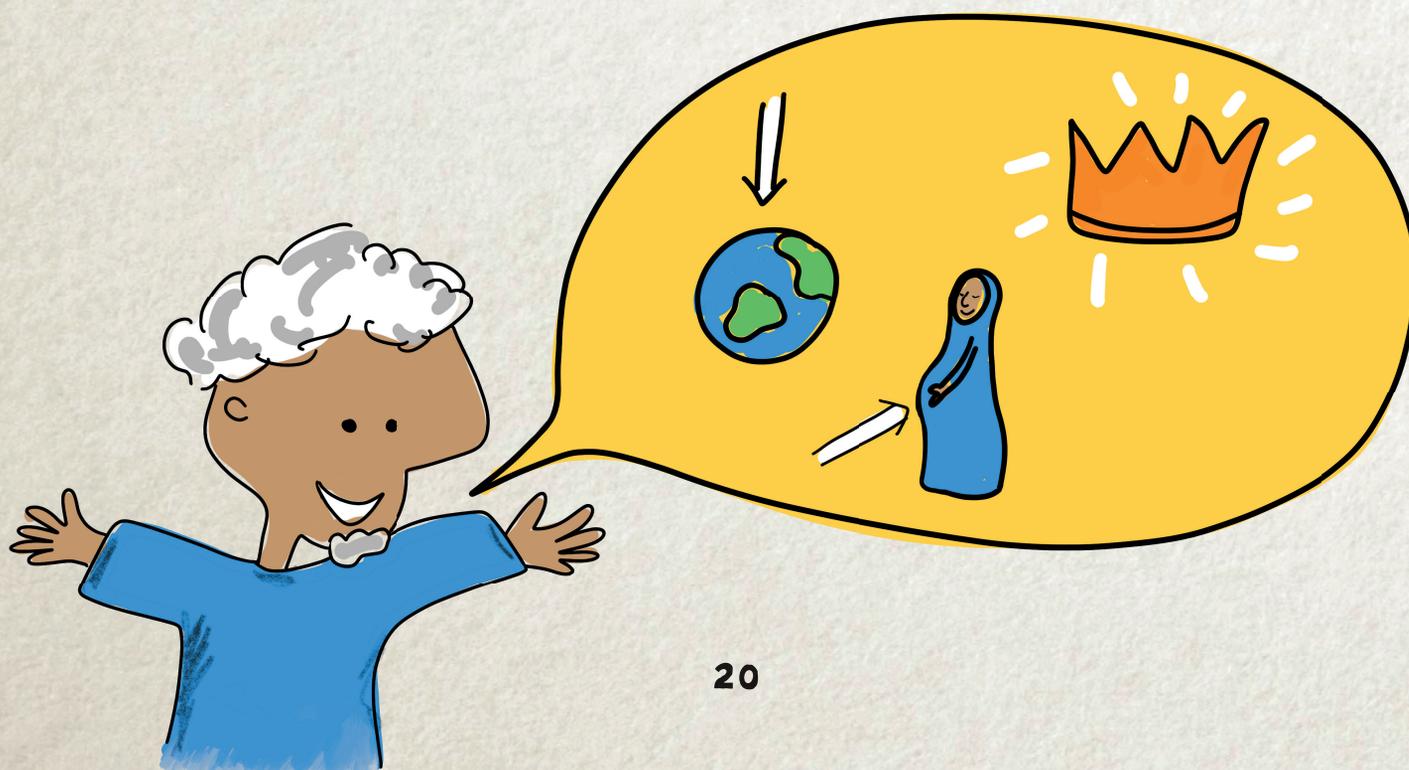
a special baby. This baby would come into the world in a special way.

We all come into the world through a father and a mother. But this baby would not come that way. God would show that he was special and different. He would bring him into the world through a mother alone.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus began his life inside his mum, she and Joseph were not yet living together. But when Jesus was born, Joseph was Mary's husband and took really good care of him!

Isaiah says that Jesus would be called Immanuel. That means 'God with us'. Jesus was a real human, like us. But he was also different; he was God. That was why he had to come into the world in a new way.

He was God and man! He was special in one other way. Jesus never sinned.



WHEN JESUS WAS A BOY UNTIL HE LEFT HOME:1-7



What was special about Jesus?



Jesus was God as well as man.

Usually people teach us about things we don't understand by saying, 'It is like this.'

Since Jesus alone is God and man, we can't really say, 'It's easy to understand; it's like this.' We can't really understand how Jesus can be both God and man. But the Gospels show us that he was.

He did the kinds of things God does.

Jesus rules over nature – he stilled a storm.

Jesus can make people better – he healed the sick.

Jesus could even bring dead people back to life.

Jesus could do what only God can do: he could forgive sins. Yet Jesus was a real man. Jesus felt pain. Jesus got tired. He cried. And Jesus died.

Because he is a real man, he understands us. Because he is God, he has power to help us.



Memory Verse

The virgin shall be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, 'God with us' (Matthew 1:23).

Prayer Time

Lord Jesus, I can't really understand how you can be God as well as man. But I want to thank you that, because you became a baby and then a boy and then a man, you can understand me. And I am so glad that you are God. You have the power and strength to help me. I love you very much. Please help me to know you and to love you even more. Amen.

Reading Time

Read Luke 1:29-38 to discover how Jesus was Mary's son, and yet God's Son.

Talking Time

Can you imagine some of the things that Jesus experienced when he was growing up that would show he was really human?

Action Time

Draw five faces: A happy face, a puzzled face, a serious face, an angry face, a sad face with tears. Would Jesus have had all of these faces, or just some of them?