

Welcome to Issue One

The Book of Beginnings



XTB stands for **eXplore The Bible**.

Read a bit of the Bible each day. Investigate the beginning of everything in the book of **Genesis**. Zoom in on **Matthew** and **Acts** to find out who Jesus is and why He came.

Are you ready to explore the Bible? Fill in the bookmark...
...then turn over the page to start exploring with XTB!



This book belongs to

.....

Sometimes I'm called

..... (nickname)

My birthday is

.....

My age is

.....

My favourite dinosaur is

.....

Table Talk FOR FAMILIES

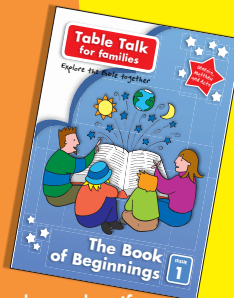
Look out for **Table Talk** — a book to help children and adults explore the Bible together. It can be used by:

- Families
- One adult with one child
- Children's leaders with their groups
- Any other way you want to try

Table Talk uses the same Bible passages as XTB so that they can be used together if wanted. You can buy Table Talk from your local Good Book Company website:

UK: www.thegoodbook.co.uk • North America: www.thegoodbook.com

Australia: www.thegoodbook.com.au • New Zealand: www.thegoodbook.co.nz



OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis

Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew

Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation



How to find your way around the Bible...

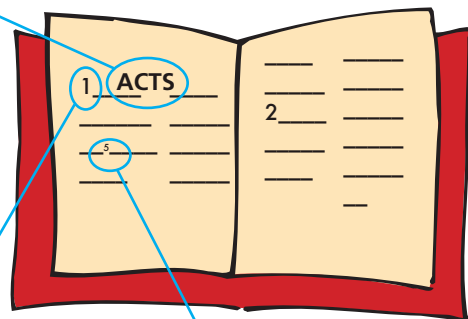
Look out for the **READ** sign.
It tells you what Bible bit to read.



READ
Acts 1v1-5

So, if the notes say... **READ Acts 1v1-5**
...this means chapter 1 and verses 1 to 5
...and this is how you find it.

Use the Contents
page in your Bible to
find where Acts begins



The chapter numbers
are the **GREAT BIG**
ones

The verse numbers are the
tiny ones!



Oops! Keep getting lost?

Cut out this bookmark and use it to keep your place.

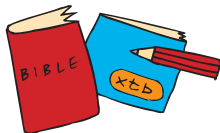
How to use

1



Find a time and place when you can read the Bible each day.

2



Get your Bible, a pencil and your XTB notes.

3



Ask God to help you to understand what you read.

4



Read today's XTB page and Bible bit.

5



Pray about what you have read and learned.

6



If you can, talk to an adult or a friend about what you've learned.



Promise stickers



This copy of XTB comes with free **Promise** stickers.

We're going to explore three Bible books—Genesis, Matthew and Acts. We'll discover the same thing in all three of them—that God **always** keeps His promises.

Be ready to stick in a Promise sticker every time you read about one of God's Promises.

Are you ready to spot your first Promise? Then hurry on to Day 1.



DAY 1 ACTION MEN

xtb

The Book
of Acts

DR. LUKE

ACTS is the second book written by a doctor called Luke. His first book (Luke's Gospel) tells the life of Jesus.



Have you read any
of Luke's Gospel?



Maybe you used **Christmas Unpacked**
or **Easter Unscrambled** to help you.

ACTION!

ACTS is short for "Acts of the Apostles".

It's all about how the disciples (now called apostles) began to spread the good news about Jesus.



Their main **ACT** was to tell people all
about Jesus. They were real

ACTION men!

ACTS

NICKNAMES

Do you have a nickname?

What is it? _____



ACTS tells us about the first followers of Jesus. They believed that Jesus was the **Christ** (God's chosen King), so they were given a nickname—**Christians**.

People who follow Jesus are still called Christians today.

CHATTERBOXES



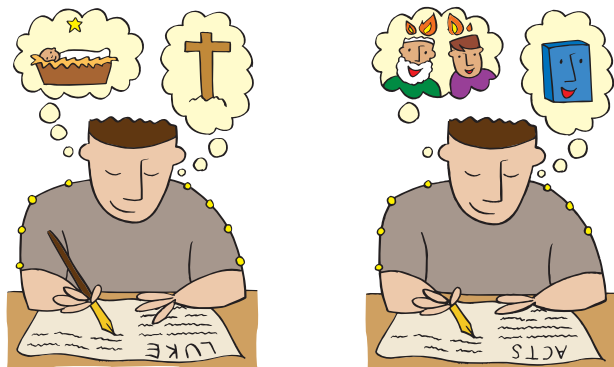
Are you a chatterbox?

A chatterbox **can't** stop talking. The first Christians couldn't stop talking about **Jesus**.

Look out for the **chatterboxes** as you read ACTS. *Start now on the next page.*



Spot the difference. There are eight to find.



Luke's first book is the life of Jesus.

His second book tells us what happened after Jesus died and came back to life...

READ

Acts 1v1-5

What did Jesus tell His followers to wait for?

Wait for the g_____ my F_____
p_____ (v4)

The apostles are going to be telling people about Jesus. They're to be **chatterboxes**! And they'll get into BIG trouble as a result!



Jesus knew they needed help. God the Father promised to send them a gift—a **Helper**. Who was the Helper? (v5)

The H _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _

Stick a Promise sticker here



**THINK
+
PRAY**

The Holy Spirit isn't a force (like electricity). He's a **person**. He's **God**!

He helped the apostles to keep following Jesus—and to tell others about Him.

Following Jesus can be difficult sometimes. We need help too. Ask God to help you—even when it's hard.

DAY 2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

Jesus has spent 40 days with His followers. But now He's going to leave them...



READ

Acts 1v9-11

What did the two angels say?

Jesus has been taken into heaven. But He will

c_____ b_____ (v11)

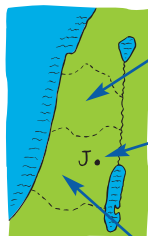
The disciples seem to be on their own—but they're not! God is going to send them the Holy Spirit. Read what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would help them to do.

READ

Acts 1v8

Can you read backwards?

The places on the map are written in **mirror writing**. Can you read them? (If you're stuck, a mirror will help.)



Jerusalem

S _____

Jerusalem

J _____

Judaea

J _____

The ends of the earth

The e_____ of the e_____

Check your answers in v8.

The disciples were to talk about Jesus in all these places!

xtb

Acts
1v6-11



It seemed an **impossible mission**. A bunch of ordinary men telling the whole world about Jesus. But the Holy Spirit helped them to do it!

Where do **YOU** live?

Try writing it in mirror writing!

The news about Jesus has spread far beyond Jerusalem and Israel. It has reached **you** and **me** as well.

Who tells **you** about Jesus? _____ Ask God to help them.

THINK
+
PRAY

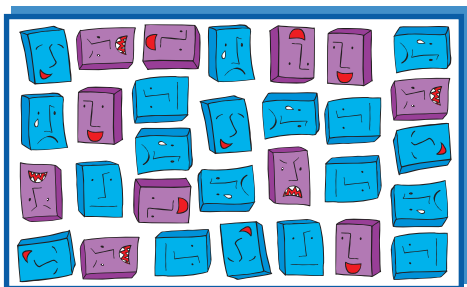
DAY 3 THE CHATTERBOX TEAM

xtb

Acts
1v21-26

How many correct chatterboxes (like this  and like this ) are hidden in the box? _____

Check your answer at the bottom of the page.



The disciples (now called apostles) are leaders of the ACTION team who would take the great news about Jesus to the whole world. A kind of **Chatterbox Team!** But there's a problem...



...One of them is missing!

There used to be **12** disciples—but one of them turned his back on Jesus—and helped Jesus' enemies instead.

Do you know his name?

J _____

Check Luke 22v48 if you're not sure.

Now it's time for the other apostles to fill the gap. What kind of person do they need? (Choose from the list)

Knew Jesus

Clever
Strong and brave

Good at making speeches

Good at football

Liked cream cakes
Follower of Jesus

Check what Peter said...

READ

Acts 1v21-26

Who was chosen?

M _____ (v26)

Matthias didn't have to be clever, or good at speeches. He had been **with Jesus** from the beginning. Now the **Holy Spirit** would help him to be an apostle, an **ACTION man**—helping others to follow Jesus and tell the world about Jesus.

Jesus wants the whole world to know about Him.

Who do you know who tells other people about Jesus?

THINK + PRAY

(In your church, or school? In another country?) Ask God to help them.

Answer: Well done if you spotted all eleven!

DAY 4 GREAT TONGUES OF FIRE!

Match each flag to its country and language. One is done for you.

UNITED KINGDOM

SPAIN

FRANCE

GERMANY



Le Seigneur soit loué!

Praise the Lord!

Lob den Herrn!

El Señor sea glorificado!

The puzzle says "Praise the Lord!" in four languages. In today's story, people praised God in **loads** of languages that they had **never learned**!

READ

Acts 2v1-4

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. What **three strange things** happened? Draw (or write) your answers in the boxes.

Verse 2

Verse 3

Verse 4

xtb

Acts
2v1-4



How will these new languages help Jesus' followers to be chatterboxes about Him?



God kept His promise to send the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

Stick a promise sticker here.

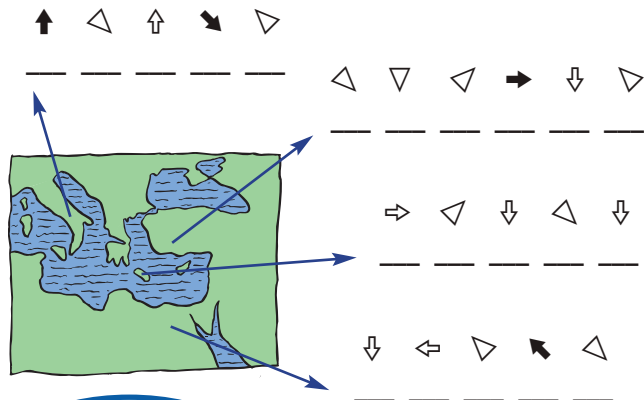


Thank God for always keeping His promises.

DAY 5

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

It was the day of **Pentecost**—a Jewish harvest festival—so there were loads of people in Jerusalem for the celebrations. Use the arrow code to find some of the places they came from.



READ

Acts 2v5-8

Some of these people had come a **H-U-G-E** distance. Travelling from Rome to Jerusalem is like walking from Land's End to John O'Groats or Sydney to Adelaide or New York to Chicago — **TWICE!**

Arrow Code

- A = ↑
- C = ⇒
- D = ↘
- E = ↓
- G = ⇐
- I = ↑
- K = ⇒
- L = ↘
- N = ↙
- O = ⇐
- P = ↙
- R = ∇
- T = ∇
- U = ∇
- Y = ∇

xtb

Acts
2v5-13

Who made sure these people were there at the right time?

⇐ ← ↘
_ _ _

God wants the whole world to hear about Jesus—so He brought people from **huge** distances, and gave the apostles all the **right languages** to speak in! **Brilliant!**

But not everyone listened. Some people laughed and said they were _ _ _ _ _ (v13)
More about that tomorrow.

THINK + PRAY

Have you been to any of the countries on the map? _____
The message about Jesus has spread **much further** than that. It's reached the whole world—including **you and me!** Thank God for the people who tell you about Jesus. Pray for anyone you know who teaches about Jesus in another country.

DAY 6 PETER PIPES UP

The apostles have been accused of being drunk—but Peter says **not!** Take the first letter of each picture to work out these key words from his speech.









Now use those words to find out the main things Peter said in his speech. Fill in the gaps.



God P_____ long ago that amazing things would happen when He poured out His S_____. It was always God's plan that J_____ would be killed—but God brought Him back to life again! J_____ is the promised C_____, and is ruling as King in heaven. Now He has poured out His S_____ on His followers.

Now read how Peter ended his speech...

READ

Acts 2v36

xtb

Acts
2v14-36

Use v36 to fill in the gaps.

God has made this J_____,
whom you crucified, both L_____
and C_____



Peter told them that Jesus was the **promised King**—who came to **save** them—but they **killed Him!**

Stick a Promise sticker here



We'll find out tomorrow how the people reacted to Peter's news about Jesus. Are **you** thankful that God kept His promise to send Jesus? **Why?** Talk to God about your answer.

**THINK
+
PRAY**

DAY 7 WHAT SHALL WE DO?

xtb

Acts
2v37-40

What would you say to Joe?



Joe can pretend the broken window is nothing to do with him—or he can own up and **do something about it.**



Like Joe, the people who heard Peter's speech can pretend it's nothing to do with them—or own up and **do something about it.** What will they do...?

READ

Acts 2v37-40

Peter says they must **turn away** from their sins (repent) and **turn towards** Jesus. If they do:

1. Their sins will be **forgiven**
2. They'll get the gift of the **Holy Spirit**

Verse 39 means that this promise is for **us** too—even though we live 2000 years after Peter!

Peter says our sins can be forgiven because of **Jesus**. Turn to **God's Rescue Plan** on the next page to find out more.



- Have you been forgiven by Jesus?
- Do you want to be?

(Read **God's Rescue Plan** again if you're not sure.)



PRAY

To repent doesn't just mean saying sorry. It means asking God to help you to **change**, and to do what He says. Do you want God to help you to change? If so, pray now.

GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

Why did God rescue us—and **who** is the Rescuer? John 3v16 explains it.

God loved the world so much...

This is the reason for the Rescue Plan. God's **everlasting love** for you and me. He wants us to know Him and to be His friends. But there's a problem. **SIN** gets in the way.

What is Sin?

We all like to be in charge of our own lives. We do what **we** want instead of what **God** wants. This is called Sin.

Sin gets in the way between us and God. It stops us from knowing Him and stops us from being His friends. The final result of sin is death. You can see why we need to be rescued!

GOD

SIN



...that He gave His only Son...

God sent Jesus to be our Rescuer—to save us from the problem of sin.

How did Jesus rescue us?

At the first Easter, when Jesus was about 33 years old, He was crucified. He was nailed to a cross and left to die.



As He died, all the sins of the world (all the wrongs people do) were put onto Jesus. He took all of our sin onto Himself, taking the punishment we deserve. He died in our place, as our Rescuer, so that we can be forgiven.

...so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life. (John 3v16)

When Jesus died He dealt with the problem of sin. That means that there is nothing to separate us from God any more. That's great news for you and me!

GOD



We can know God today as our Friend and King—and one day live in heaven with Him for ever.



Have **YOU** been rescued by Jesus? Turn to the next page to find out more...

Did you know?

Jesus died on the cross as our Rescuer—but He didn't stay dead! After three days God brought Him back to life! Jesus is still alive today, ruling as our King.

AM I A CHRISTIAN?

**Not sure if you're a Christian?
Then check it out below...**

Christians are people who have been rescued by Jesus and follow Him as their King.



You can't become a Christian by trying to be good.

That's great news, since you can't be totally good all the time!

It's about accepting what Jesus did on the cross to rescue you. To do that, you will need to **ABCD**.

A **Admit** your sin—that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask Him to forgive you, and to help you to change. There will be some wrong things you have to stop doing.

B **Believe** that Jesus died for you, to take the punishment for your sin; that He came back to life, and that He is still alive today.

C **Consider** the cost of living like God's friend from now on, with Him in charge. It won't be easy. Ask God to help you do this.

D **Do** something about it! In the past you've gone your own way rather than God's way. Will you hand control of your life over to Him from now on? If you're ready to ABCD, then talk to God now. The prayer will help you.

A prayer

*Dear God,
I have done and said and thought things that are wrong. I am really sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. From now on, please help me to live as one of Your friends, with You in charge. Amen*



Do you remember Jesus' promise?—"everyone who believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life."
John 3v16

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to Him. If you have put your trust in Him, He has rescued you from your sins and will help you to live for Him.
That's great news!

DAY 8 GROWING ALL THE TIME

xtb

Acts
2v41-47

READ

Acts 2v41-47

How many people believed Peter's message? (v41)

3? 30? 300? 3000?

The new believers were all baptised. It must have taken **ages**!



Did you know?

Getting baptised means being washed in water to show that you follow Jesus.

Being **baptised** is like being washed on the **outside**.

Being **forgiven** is like being washed on the **inside**.

Baptism is an **outside** sign of an **inside** change.

Cross out every **X** & **Z** to find out what the new believers were like.

SXHXAZRXIZNZG with each other

XGZIXVXIZNZG to those in need

MZEEXTZIXNXG together **DZAXIZLXY**

PZRZAXIZSZIXNZG God together

The believers were like this because the Holy Spirit was changing them on the inside.

Now fit the five words into the puzzle below.



What word do the shaded boxes spell?

S

Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being **S** (v47)

This means more and more people with the nickname **Christians** – because they had become followers of **Jesus Christ**.

PRAY

Look again at the list of words in the puzzle.

Do you want to live like this?

Talk to God about your answer.