

SIMONA PISCIONERI

Greatest Of All Time

Devotions
for kids

EXTRA-ORDINARY STORIES
from the Life of Jesus

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES KENNEDY

"Our generation needs this book and a hundred more like it! Clear, simple and accessible, it equips kids to interact with their God and his word in engaging ways."

ADAM GRIFFIN, Host, Family Discipleship Podcast

"I love it! Fun, faithful and accessible, this is a brilliant guide for kids to begin their solo Bible adventures with Jesus—the G.O.A.T."

AMY SMITH, Resource Writer, Faith in Kids

"Rich theology in a book your kids will want to pick up—*Greatest Of All Time* is a rare find! Written in a style that kids will relate and respond to, this resource reminds them that Jesus is the best there's ever been and that they can make their lives count by chasing hard after him. My boys loved it, and your kids will too."

ERIN DAVIS, Author, Bible teacher and mom

"A wonderfully engaging journey exploring Jesus—his amazing life, words, works and ways. The format is fun, interactive and personal. It includes backstory for each Bible passage, brilliant personal applications and a weekly round-up that draws everything together. I cannot think of a better resource to help kids aged 7-12 (and beyond!) take their next steps of faith."

TIM PIESSE, National Director, Building a Discipling Culture

"*Greatest Of All Time* is brilliant and includes all the things I look for in a great children's resource! Piscioneri has created what many set out to do but few have accomplished: a children's discipleship resource that is biblically grounded and theologically robust, yet easily approachable for kids of all ages. I cannot wait to get this into the hands of my children!"

CHRIS AMMEN, Founder, Kaleidoscope Kids' Bibles;
Author, *Raising Disciples at Home*

"I'm buying this book for my grandsons! Simona Piscioneri has written an interactive book which will capture their imagination and teach them about Jesus. The book is simple, fun and informative. Love it!"

JOHN FINKELDE, Founder, Grow a Healthy Church

"A fantastic devotional that helps kids and families discover the incredible life and love of Jesus. With fun illustrations, real-life connections and powerful truth, it invites readers to grow in faith and friendship with the one who is truly the Greatest Of All Time! Spending time with Jesus like this will shape hearts, strengthen faith and bring joy to the journey."

MR CHAD, Principal, Devonport Christian School, Tasmania

"*Greatest Of All Time* gave me more of a connection to Jesus and showed me how awesome Bible times were. My favourite thing about it was that I got to know Jesus more!"

JETHRO, aged 10

"My favourite thing about *Greatest Of All Time* is how interactive it is. It's easy to follow, has wonderful illustrations and is perfect for learning more about Jesus. I loved that I could read it quickly, yet still learn and absorb the information."

BRONTE, aged 12

"I really enjoyed learning about Jesus and the interactive parts of the book. I just think that people who want to find out and learn about Jesus should read this book!"

ANNABELLA, aged 11

"I enjoyed reading the Bible more and getting to know all of what Jesus did in his life. You should definitely buy this book!"

TAYLAR, aged 10

"This book is incredible! It helps you learn more about what Jesus did in the Bible, with great illustrations and easy ways to respond."

ANNABELLE, aged 11

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**Written by
Simona Piscioneri**

**Illustrated by
James Kennedy**

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Welcome!

In this book you'll get to know the Greatest (Person) Of All Time: God's Son, Jesus.

You probably know already how special Jesus is. There has never been anyone else in history who could do all the things he did! But the more time you spend finding out about the G.O.A.T., the more you'll see that surprisingly, he was also a lot like **YOU!**

Jesus often faced difficult choices and personal challenges, like being misunderstood, snoozing at unfortunate moments, and having friends who let him down. Sound familiar?

The way Jesus responded in those situations, the way he treated people, the unexpected things he sometimes said and did... these can teach us how to be more like him. We can live **OUR** best life—through the awesome moments **AND** the not-so-awesome ones—by following the example of the Greatest Of All Time: Jesus.

Getting The Most Out Of This Book



G.O.A.T. is a devotional book. That means it's a book to help guide your time with God. The best way to use it is to set aside a little time every day to read one short chapter.

There are five regular chapters per week, plus a reflection page for the weekend. (But it's okay if you don't always complete one week's worth of chapters in one actual week.)

Each day has a Bible passage for you to look up, plus thoughts, prayer prompts, and spaces to write or draw.

On the weekend round-up page, you'll find a quiz, plus opportunities to write down what stood out to you during the week. When you look back at these pages later, you might be surprised at how much you've learnt!

ONE MORE THING: You can also get an audio version of *Greatest of All Time!* Just head to thegoodbook.com/alltime-audio.

How To Look Up A Bible Verse



The Bible is the Greatest *Book Of All Time*, but it's also **VERY** large! Just in case you're not used to finding Bible verses yourself, here's a quick guide:

1. FIND THE CONTENTS PAGE (or it might be called Index) near the front of the Bible. The books of the Bible are divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament starts with the life of Jesus, so most of the books you'll be looking for will be in that section.

2. LOOK FOR THE NAME of the book, such as "Mark". If it's a person's name, it's often because that person wrote it. Find the page number that the book starts on and turn to it.

3. WITHIN EACH BOOK there are chapters and verses. Each chapter has a different number of verses. The chapters are shown first in the Bible passage you are looking up. For instance, Mark 1:2 means you are looking for the book of Mark, the first chapter and the second verse. The verse numbers are often printed in a really small size, so don't miss them!

Now you're set!



**The beginning of the good news
about Jesus the Messiah, the
Son of God.**

Mark 1:1



Week 1

Jesus Did Surprising Things When He Was Young

Have you ever thought that Jesus was once **EXACTLY** the same age you are now? It might seem strange to think that Jesus was like you in some ways, but it's true.

It's also true that Jesus is very **DIFFERENT** to you. When Jesus was born as a baby, that was the start of his earthly life, but he actually existed with God before that... forever! And the differences don't stop there.

Jesus' birth fulfilled prophecies and promises from God. You see, for many years, God had promised to send someone amazing—someone who would bring peace and rescue his people. The name for the promised person was "the Messiah", and we'll see that right from the beginning, Jesus was this promise fulfilled.

1. Jesus Changed Places

Have you ever dreamt of going somewhere completely different for a holiday? Perhaps if you live in a cold climate you'd like to go to a tropical island? Or you might like to leave the city to go exploring in the countryside?

When you imagine visiting another place, it probably seems much, **MUCH** better than where you actually live. Who would want to visit somewhere that was worse? Well, that's what Jesus did!



Bible time: Read Luke 2:4-14

This is the story of when Jesus was born, and you might think you know it. Don't miss the details.

Which two places were impacted when Jesus was born (v 14)?

The backstory: The backstory of Jesus coming to earth is him living in heaven. That's right: the jewel-encrusted buildings, the streets of gold, angels worshipping God non-stop... That perfect place where nothing bad happens, **THAT** was Jesus' home.

But Jesus swapped living in heaven with living on earth. He left heavenly perfection for a stinky, hay-filled manger where animals feed. And that's not all!

Dig deeper: Jesus didn't only downgrade his address. He became human. Even though he was still fully God, Jesus now had real, human limitations that he didn't have before. He was born as a tiny baby, and one day he would die.

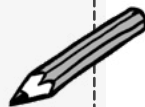


Why the excitement? There was a lot of excitement in heaven when Jesus was born. A massive angel choir sang with joy to let the shepherds know this was a big deal. But why were they so excited that Jesus had left **THE** perfect home in heaven to be born as a helpless baby on earth?

The angels give it away when they call Jesus “the Messiah”. You might know that title as one of the names of Jesus. But to anyone from God’s family, the Jews, this was **AMAZING** news! The Messiah had been promised from God for generations—a chosen one who would save God’s people. And **FINALLY** he’s here! **RIGHT NOW!!!!**

Good news! Jesus being born is great news for us, but it’s great news in heaven too. That’s because it was always part of God’s plan that Jesus—the Messiah—would come to earth. The angels celebrated, not because changing places was easy or fun for Jesus, but because he did it to complete God’s plan to save us. This was God’s promise being fulfilled. Angels couldn’t help but celebrate!

- **Imagine that:** Sketch a picture of something you might see in heaven.
- That’s what Jesus left behind to fulfil God’s plan to save us.



- **Prayer prompt:** Say thank you to Jesus for being willing to change places so that he could be our Saviour.

2. Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy



Did you know that there are over 300 prophecies about Jesus as the Messiah in the Bible, and many of them were written down hundreds of years before he was even born? **WOAH!**

Prophecy? A prophecy in the Bible is a message from God, usually about something that would happen in the future. God used people called prophets to deliver these messages.

Of course, the prophecies about “The Messiah”, God’s promised rescuer, didn’t have Jesus’ name on them. They were more like clues to recognise him by. Only a few people at the time were given a clear message from God that **JESUS** was the Messiah whom God had promised. Let’s meet one of those people.



Bible time: Read Luke 2:25-33

What two things does Simeon do in verse 28?

The backstory: God had told Simeon through his Holy Spirit that the Messiah would come in his lifetime. What a special promise! We don’t know how old Simeon was when he met Jesus, but we do know that he recognised the Messiah immediately.

What happened? When Simeon was holding baby Jesus, he said some interesting things about him—in fact, this was a prophecy as well! Simeon didn’t admire how cute the baby was or try to decide which parent he looked like. Instead, he thanked God for a little baby he had never seen before and called him a **LIGHT** and our **SALVATION**.

If Jesus was an ordinary baby, that would be very unusual! But Simeon is telling us that Jesus isn't ordinary.

What does it mean? Salvation and Saviour both come from the word "save". Even as a baby, the most important thing that Jesus would do—dying on the cross to save us from our sin—was part of his identity.

Simeon also prophesied that Jesus would be a light. Light is very useful because it helps us see. Jesus would grow up to help us see what God is like.



Why does it matter? What's the importance of Jesus fulfilling these prophecies in the Bible? It reminds us that when God makes a promise, he keeps it. He promised to send the Messiah, a Saviour, a rescuer, a light to point us to God, and he did!

- **Prayer prompt:** God's Holy Spirit revealed who Jesus was to Simeon.
- Ask God for his Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you through this book!
- **Reflect:** Draw a picture of a light shining and add the words "The Lord is **MY** light", or something else you want to say about Jesus.

