

# Jesus.

Who, why... so what?



*Five pictures that sum up the good news of Christianity*

Jesus. Who, why... so what?  
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Christianity is very straightforward.

*It's simply good news about one man—Jesus.*

Good news that can change your life, now and in eternity.

So **Who** is Jesus? **Why** did he come? And **What** does it mean for us?

*Turn the page to find out...*



one

Shortly after Jesus died, a man called Mark wrote a history about him. It starts by telling us **WHO** Jesus is:

*“The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God”.*

“Christ” isn’t a last name. It’s a job description. Christ means **the King** who God had promised to send, who would step into history and put everything right by setting up a kingdom of justice and love.

And Mark also called Jesus the “Son of God”: **God himself** entering his world as a human being.

Those are huge claims to make! But Jesus proved who he was by what he did.

He healed people with a touch. He controlled storms with a word. He brought dead people back to life.

By doing these things, the King was giving a glimpse of what **life in his kingdom** is like. It’s a place with no suffering, fear or death.

It’s the world we all want. A kingdom ruled by a loving king. It’s the life we’d love to have, but can’t seem to find.

*Some people understood who Jesus was. But not everyone welcomed him with open arms...*



Many people hated Jesus. But this didn't surprise him. When Jesus explained **WHY** he'd come, he said he:

*"must suffer many things and be rejected..." (Mark chapter 8 verse 31)*

Jesus knew this would happen because this is how everyone treats God's Son and King. We think we'll be happier if we are in charge. So we say "no" to his rule and his love. **We choose not to live as part of his kingdom.**

That's why life isn't the way it's supposed to be. Often we don't know what's best for us,

*And what Jesus said about sin is proved by what people did to him...*

or the world—so things go wrong.

Jesus called this attitude "sin". And sin is dangerous. God won't let people who have rejected his King, and mistreated his people and his world, live in his kingdom.

Instead, we face what Jesus called hell: a life beyond death where we are shut out of his kingdom for ever. In hell, there will be nothing good—no love, friendship, joy or hope.

So we need to come into the kingdom. **But we can't.** Nothing we do can change the fact that we've sinned.





three

**T**hey killed him. Jesus was stripped, nailed to a wooden cross, and lifted up to die in full view of everyone.

But amazingly, Jesus said his death was **WHY** he had come. Jesus knew that he “must be killed” (Mark 8 v 31).

The King’s death was part of God’s plan to bring sinful people into his kingdom.

How did the death of Jesus achieve this? Jesus explained that his blood would be “poured out for many” (Mark 14 v 24). He would die for many people.

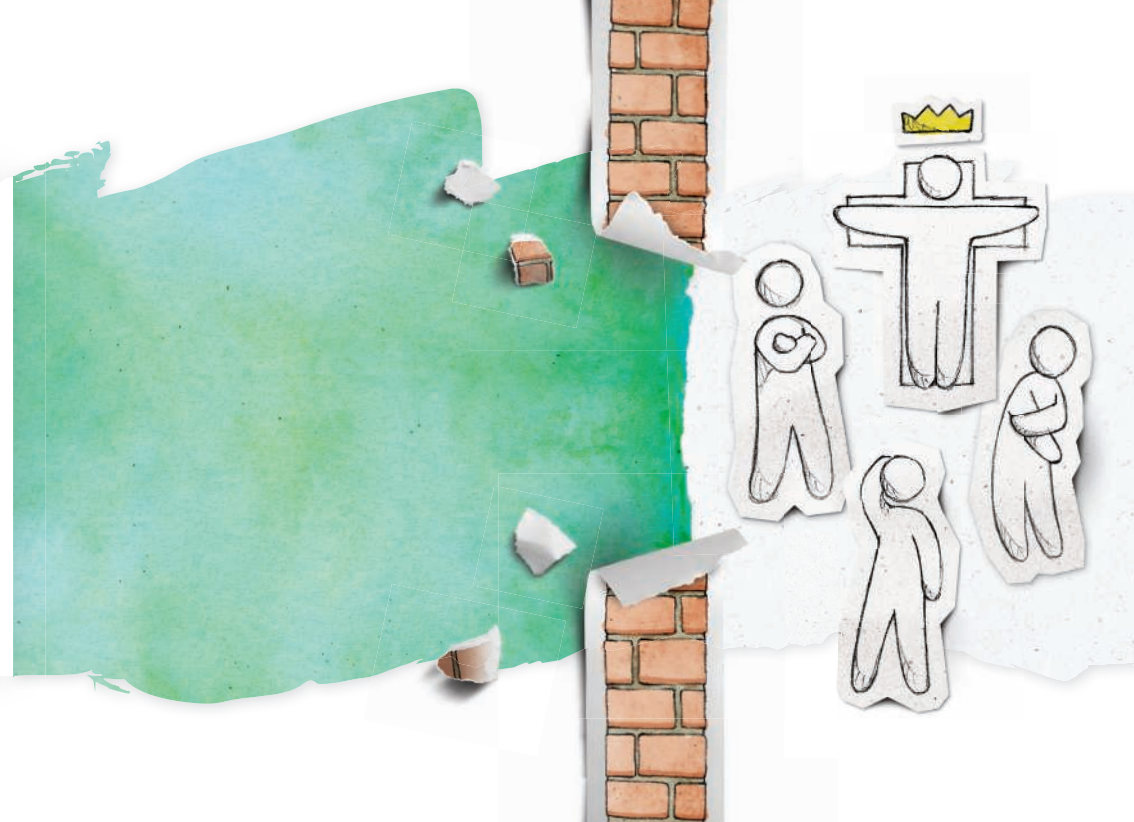
On the cross, Jesus was cut off from God’s friendship and goodness. **He chose to experience hell** so we don’t have to.

He was dying—pouring out his blood—for many. The sinless King was swapping places with sinful humans.

Jesus died to take the punishment sin deserves, so that he could offer his perfection to people like us.

On the cross, **the King opened the way into his kingdom**. Anyone can come in, and begin to enjoy the life we are all looking for.

*But how can we know all this is for real?*



**B**ecause his death was not the end of the story.

After Jesus was killed, his body was put in a tomb, and a huge stone was rolled across the entrance.

But three days later, when some grieving friends went to see his burial-place, the stone had been rolled away... and there was no body.

Then over the following days, remarkable things started happening. Dozens ate with Jesus. Many spoke to him. Hundreds saw him. Later, lots of them were

tortured and even killed for insisting they had seen the risen King.

Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he had predicted when he said he:

***"must be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8 v 31).***

The resurrection of Jesus is proof of **WHO** he is. Jesus really is "the Christ, the Son of God".

And it's proof of **WHY** he came. It proves that his death really has opened the way into his kingdom. It proves that there is a perfect place beyond death, where we can live for ever with the King.

*So what does this mean now, for you and me?*



**T**he risen King went back to heaven. One day he will return, and the whole world will be under his loving rule.

So today, Jesus is inviting people to be part of his kingdom, now and for ever:

***"The kingdom of God is near.  
Repent and believe the good news!"  
(Mark 1 v 15).***

Repent means to **turn around**. It means a complete change. We stop living with ourselves in charge, and enjoy having Jesus as our loving King.

Believe means to **trust Jesus**, knowing he

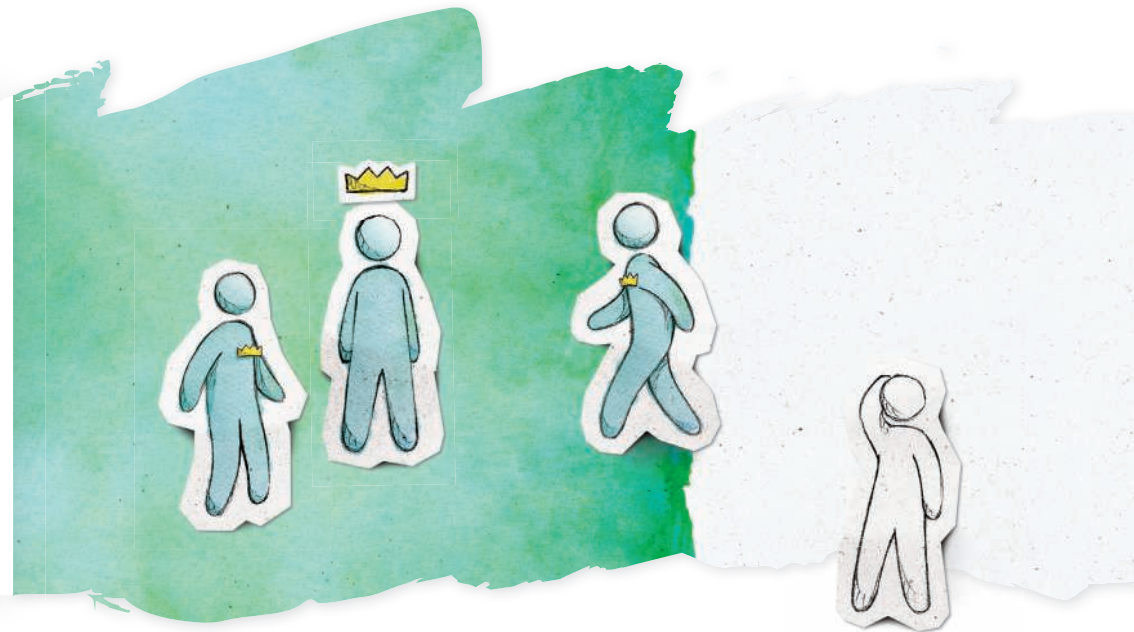
has done everything we need to give us a place in his kingdom for ever.

Living now with Jesus as King isn't easy. His followers will be rejected, like he was.

But they also live a life of real security and contentment. They know God. They are helped by his Spirit. They are part of his family. They know their King loves them, and has forgiven all their sin.

And all this is just a taste of what's to come. People who follow Jesus look forward to **enjoying life with him in his kingdom** for ever, instead of being shut out of it in hell.

**Jesus offers this life to *anyone* who repents and believes.  
Will you?**



## What next?

### *Perhaps you're not sure what you think about all this.*

*To keep finding out more about Jesus, you could...*

**Ask God to help.** Tell God you're not sure what you believe about him, and ask him to show you what the truth is.

**Read a Gospel.** This booklet is based on Mark's Gospel, which is part of the Bible. It takes about two hours to read. If you don't have one, you can read one online at [www.christianityexplored.org/read-mark](http://www.christianityexplored.org/read-mark)

**Go to a website.** [www.christianityexplored.org](http://www.christianityexplored.org) allows you to explore Christianity in your own way, at your own pace. It also tells you about the Christianity Explored course—a relaxed seven-week walk through Mark.

**Find a good church.** You'll meet others who are looking for answers, and hear the Bible taught. One place you could look to find a good church near you is [www.christianityexplored.org/course/find](http://www.christianityexplored.org/course/find)

### *Perhaps you've realised it's true.*

You have repented and believed, and come into God's kingdom. *Which is fantastic!*

As well as starting to read the Bible and finding a good church, it would be great to **speak to Jesus, your King**. You could talk to him about:

**Your life:** tell him about ways you've been living without him as King, and that you're sorry.

**His life:** talk to him about who you know he is, and what you know he did for you by dying and rising.

**Your life from now on:** share with him how you feel about having a place in his kingdom for ever; and tell him about the ways you'll find living with him as King hard. Ask him for his Spirit's help.





**T**he Christian message is straightforward. It's simply *good news* about one person—**Jesus**. So...

 **Who is he?**

 **Why did he come?**

 **What does it mean for us?**

In five simple pictures, this little booklet explains what Christianity is all about—and shows you why Jesus is such good news.

*Christianity*  
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