

Introduction

This guide contains 34 Bible lessons on the life of Jesus, the Messiah. They were developed from the picture story book entitled Jesus the Messiah. This guide can be used to facilitate the study of the life of Jesus, in groups but also for personal study.

Jesus, the Messiah is a unique book:

- The narrative gives a clear presentation of Jesus' life and the importance of his person;
- The text and illustrations combined tell the Gospel story: it emphasizes the important message of the Gospels;
- The content is faithful to the Bible.

Each of these studies is based on one or more pages of comics. These pages are included at the beginning of each study.

Each study addresses a theme, such as

Here comes Jesus!, The invisible battle, "Follow me!", To Believe is to Trust Jesus, etc.

Each study consists of several elements which can be grouped into two categories:

- Pieces of Information on the person of Jesus in the Bible, background information in the Old Testament and the world of the Bible;
- Ways of application that help to put into practice what you learned.

A table of contents provides a summary of all studies, and is at the end of this book.

This guide is a very useful tool for anyone who wants to (better) know Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

How to use this book?

This book is made up of 34 lessons. Each lesson begins with a picture story about a part of Jesus' life, which is followed by explanation and learning activities. Each lesson has the same parts.

THE PICTURE STORY

A part of Jesus' life in word and picture form.

READ FOR YOURSELF

This story about Jesus' life can be found in one of the books of the Bible. This book and verse reference is given above the picture story.

OLD TREASURES

Hundreds of years before Jesus came, the oldest books in the Bible were already writing many things about Him. These lessons are a journey of discovery through the whole Bible!



WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is so important that He was given more than 200 names in the Bible. In each of the lessons of this book you will learn about one of Jesus names.



EXTRA INFORMATION



All kinds of interesting and background information will help you to understand the story even better.

MEMORY VERSE

This is an important Bible verse you should never forget. You can memorize it.

REFLECT

How you can use this Biblical passage in your own daily life. Sometimes an extra tip or quiz is added.

DO YOU KNOW...?

Questions to review what you have discovered in this lesson



ACTION POINT!

Each lesson has an assignment, to put into practice what you have learned.

BIBLE READING

A Bible reading guide gives you a Biblical passage for each day of the week, related to this chapter.

What do these words mean?

Angels

Messengers of God, normally invisible, who God sends from Heaven.

Bible

Bible means 'books'. In the Bible you read who God is, what He thinks about people and how He relates to them.

Blessing

All the goodness that God desires to give to people who trust in Him.

Communion/Eucharist

With bread and wine the followers of Jesus remember that they have died and risen with Him.

Cross

Torture tool for execution, on which Jesus died voluntarily in order to take away our sins. It has become the symbol for all followers of Jesus.

Disciple

Jesus pupils. Jesus Himself choose twelve pupils.

Eternal life

Life with Jesus, the way God meant it to be. This life overcomes death and knows no end.

Faith

You trust that God will do and will give what He has promised.

God's kingdom

Wherever people trust in God, God's Kingdom is present.

Gospel

'Good news'. The Good news about Jesus as it was written down by the authors of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Grace

'Goodness not earned'. All you get from God you get freely. That is because God has forgiven your mistakes when Jesus took your sins upon Himself.

Jesus

The name Jesus, God's Son means 'God saves'.

Messiah

'Anointed King'. Messiah (a Hebrew word) is in Greek 'Christ'. Jesus the Messiah is also called Jesus Christ.

Pray

You talk with God, quietly or out loud, and you listen to Him.

Resurrection

Jesus rose from the dead. One day everyone will rise from the dead. God will then pronounce judgment on those who did not believe. Whoever believes in Jesus will share His live forever.

Return

When Jesus returns to the earth, nothing of the old will remain. Heaven and earth will be renewed by God.

Righteousness

God's righteousness came to the world, when Jesus carried out the punishment for all the sins of the world. Doing so, mankind received the privilege to be God's children and His inheritors.

Satan

The invisible opponent of God and people (also called 'the devil').

Sin

Those things opposing God. Jesus took the sins of the whole world upon Himself. His grace is always greater than sin.

Son of God

Title of Jesus. He was God who came to earth as a human being, as the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God, He lives in people who believe in Jesus.

Introduction

Jesus lived more than 2,000 years ago in Israel. We call Him 'Jesus Messiah' or 'Jesus Christ'. It means that He is the King. Yet, He is not just a King. Jesus is called 'the Son of God' and also 'the Son of man'. This means that He belongs to God and to man. The history of Jesus' life is described in the Bible. It is the greatest story of all time!

Jesus' Birth

Jesus' mother, Mary, was not yet married when Jesus was born. She was still a virgin. Yet God arranged that Jesus could be born. Long before Jesus' time this miracle had been written and announced in the Bible books. Jesus was not born as a hero or as a special one. He was born in a stable for there was no other room available.

Jesus' Time

Our era starts with the birth of Jesus. That is more than 2000 years ago. People travelled then by foot or by donkey, camel, or on a horseback. Major parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa were part of the Roman Empire. Most people could not read or write, yet the Jews in Israel could. They were called 'the people of the Book'. God speaks in their Book, the Bible. He is the Creator of all existing things and He wants to be friends with all people: Jesus shows that very clearly!

The Bible

The story of Jesus is recorded in the Bible. No other book has been read, and is read, more often than the Bible. It is a book full of books. It took 1500 years to write all these books. The Bible was completed about 1900 years ago. It contains all kind of stories about how God is involved in people's lives. The story of Jesus shows most clearly Who God is.

4x the story of Jesus

The Bible contains 4 books that describe the life of Jesus. These books are called "the four Gospels". They are named after the authors. The authors all lived in the time of Jesus.

1) **Matthew** – a disciple of Jesus. He used to work as a tax collector. He describes especially how Jesus dealt with the people of Israel (the Jews).

2) **Mark** – was still a teenager when Jesus did His work He writes quite a bit about the miracles which Jesus performed.

3) **Luke** – was a medical doctor. He did not personally know Jesus, but did many interviews of eye witnesses of Jesus. Luke describes how Jesus dealt with people.

4) **John** – was also a follower of Jesus. He shows who Jesus really is: Jesus is God who became man to free people from their sins. He called Himself 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'

Israel in Jesus time

Capital: Jerusalem.

Provinces: Galilee, Samaria, Judea.

Size: Approximately 28,000 km² (10,810 sq. miles).

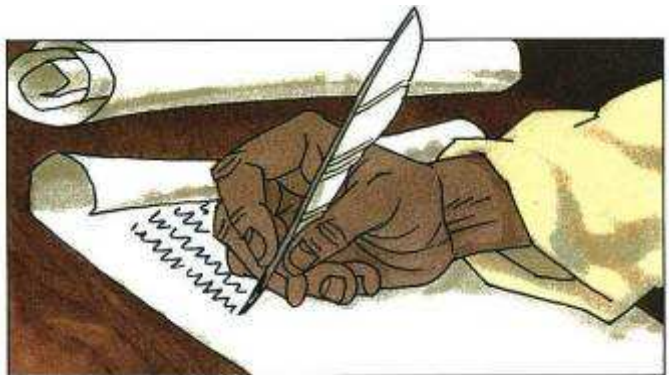
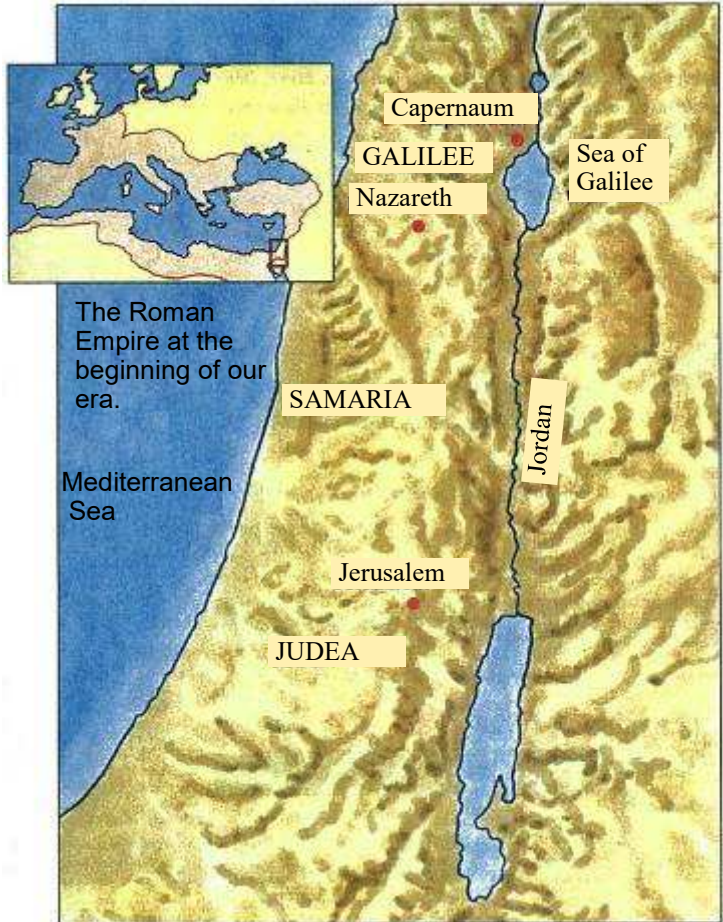
Climate: Subtropical. With warm, dry summers and mild, humid winters.

Politics: Since 63 BC (before Christ) the Romans have been in control in Israel.

Government: Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, rules in Israel. Tiberius, the Roman Emperor, rules over Him. He is emperor of the Roman Empire.

Religion: Judaism. The Jews have a temple in Jerusalem. There are priests doing all kinds of work for the religion and there are teachers (such as the Pharisees) who must instruct the people from the Bible.

Languages: Hebrew (the old language of the Jews), Aramaic (the conversational language), Greek (the internationally spoken language), Latin (the language of the Romans).



Books were written on scrolls of parchment or animal skin.