

NOW I KNOW JESUS

USING THESE NOTES

Dear Parents,

I remember the days when my children decided to give their lives to Jesus. This was just the start of their own personal journey with Him. As parents, we were keen to support our children as they got to know Jesus for themselves. You may be wondering what to do next, now that your own child is following Jesus for themselves. We hope that this series 'Now I know Jesus' will be something you and your child will enjoy doing together. Remember, one of the most powerful ways to train a child is to model the behaviour you want to see. This is a chance for you to demonstrate how to be a good follower of Jesus to your child. We would also strongly suggest that you ensure your child has a Bible that is suitable for them.

We hope you both enjoy spending time together getting to know Jesus. Our prayer is that your relationship with your child will be strengthened as you encounter Jesus together. In the next section, which is for your child to read, you will see there is a prayer of commitment that is designed for you to pray together. In the prayer, you make the promise to Jesus, and also to each other, to set the time aside to talk and pray. Watch out for busy schedules that might distract you. Hold one other accountable – that might mean your child reminding you! Decide now that you will welcome their reminder, as though it were from the Lord. Likewise, be kind towards them; you want them to see this time as something to look forward to, not a schedule to complete. There are 30 devotionals for you to have a go at. You may want to take more time and do two or three devotionals each week – the pace is up to you.

My Dear Child,

Getting to know Jesus is such an amazing thing to do. This series is designed to help you get to know Jesus better and for you to tell Him all about YOU! He wants to hang out with you; He wants you to share stories with Him, things that make you laugh, things that make you cry. In return, He wants to tell you all about Himself, sharing stories from His life and what makes Him smile or upset.

The main way we talk with Jesus is to pray. He is not bothered about the words that you use; they don't have to be clever or long. Just talk to Him from your heart.

When we get to know friends, we have to spend time with them. Each day is designed to take 10-15 minutes to do. You don't HAVE to do this every day, but find a grownup to work with you. Decide how much you can do and when. Then, tell Jesus what you have decided. Pray together, making a commitment, not just to Jesus, but to each other.

Dear Jesus.



Thank You that You are part of my life. I want to get to know You more, I want to understand what You think, and I want to share things in my life with You. I want to make a commitment to You, Jesus, to spend at least ? minutes with You, ? times a week. I want to share things about my life with You, and hear about how You lived Your life. Please help me to not be too busy to do this.

Amen.

NOW I KNOW JESUS

DAY 1: BIRTH

Jesus wants to hear your life story. When friends get to know each other, they often start by telling each other the basics about their lives. Today, we are going to think about birth. Jesus wants you to know about how and when He was born and He wants to hear all about you too. Draw out the grid below on a piece of paper. Write your name in column two and your grownup's name in column 3. Then, use the Bible story references to find out about Jesus and write the answers for yourself and your grownup in the spaces provided.

Let's read the story:

	Bible Verse	Jesus	Me	My Grownup
When?	Luke 2:1			
Where?	Luke 2:2-7			
Who were the parents?	Luke 2:4-5			
Who else was there?	Luke 2:8-20			
Special Gifts?	Matthew 2:9-11			

Questions to talk about:

1. How is your birth story different to the Jesus'?
2. How do you think your parents felt when you were born? Is this different to how Mary and Joseph felt?
3. Did you receive any special gifts when you were born?

Tell Jesus: You can tell Jesus about when you were born. You can use the prayer below to help you.

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for the stories in the Bible that tell me about when You were born. Thank You that You know all about me, when and where I was born.

Thank You that I have grownups to look after me, just like You did. I can see now that, just like me, You were born as a tiny baby. Our stories might be different, but we both know what it's like to be born. Thank You, Jesus, for my parents and the family You have given me, to look after me.

Amen

NOW I KNOW JESUS

DAY 2: DEDICATED

After Jesus was born, his parents, Mary and Joseph, took Him to the Temple to give thanks to God for Him. Today, Jesus wants to share His story with you and He wants to hear all about what happened to you – perhaps you were dedicated or christened. For some children, there is a naming ceremony and for others, families gather together to celebrate a baby being born. Work with your grownup to find out about Jesus and use the table below to gather the information and share the story.

Let's read the story:

	Bible Verse	Jesus	Me	My Grownup
When?	Leviticus 12:3-4			
Where?	Luke 2:22			
Who else was there?	Luke 2:25, 36			
What happened?	Luke 2:25-38			



Questions to talk about:

1. Now that you have all the facts about Jesus, yourself and your grownup, are there anything parts of your stories that are the same?
2. Was there anything that surprised you?
3. What do you think about the way your family celebrated your birth?

Tell Jesus: You can use your own words but there are some below to help you.



Dear Jesus,

Thank You for sharing Your story with me. I can see that Your family believed in God and so gave You back to God. When I was born... (tell Jesus your story and what happened to you.

You may be happy about the way your family celebrated your birth, you may be surprised by what your grownup told you. Tell Jesus what you feel about how your family celebrated your birth.

Remember to thank Jesus for the grownups in your life. Say 'Goodbye' to Him and tell Him you will talk with Him some more tomorrow.)

Amen

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DAY 3: CHURCH

If you were asked what faith you were, you would probably tell that person you were a Christian. If Jesus had been asked the same question, He would have said that He was a Jew. Jews are people who believe in the same God that Christians believe in, but, of course, when Jesus was here on earth Christians did not exist; to be a Christian is to be a follower of Christ - that is, to be a follower of Jesus.

Because Jesus was a Jew, His parents took Him each week to the Synagogue to worship God. Do you know what a Synagogue is? Perhaps you could find out about it? There is a web link here to help you <https://kids.kiddle.co/Synagogue>

Jesus regularly went to the Synagogue with His parents. Just like we celebrate special times, such as Christmas, Jesus and His family celebrated special times. Today, Jesus wants to tell you about a time when He and His family were celebrating Passover. This was a special festival for Jesus, but something extraordinary happened when Jesus went to Jerusalem. Let's find out what happened.

Let's read the story:

The story of when Jesus visited Jerusalem as a boy. Read Luke 2:41-51



Remember the story:

- Which special place did Jesus go to?
- How old was He?
- How long was Jesus lost for?
- Jesus said 'Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's House?' What do you think Jesus meant?



Questions to talk about:

1. Do you go to Church with your grownup?
2. What do you like about Church? What don't you like?
3. Have you ever been lost?
4. How did you feel when you realised you were lost?
5. What was it like when you were found?

Tell Jesus: Jesus went to pray in a special place of worship and He is interested to hear what you have to say to Him about your experiences at church.



Dear Jesus,

Thank You for sharing the story about when You went to the Temple. I can see that You really liked being in Your Temple and learning about Your Father. (Now tell Jesus what you think about going to church). Thank You Jesus for giving us Church to help us learn about You and about Your Father, Father God. Help me when I am at Church to make the most of the time to learn about You.

Amen



If you have experienced a time when you got lost, you may want to pray about this. Being lost can be frightening and you can feel very alone. We can see from the story of Jesus at the Temple that, although He appeared to be lost, He wasn't really; He was with His Father. Like Jesus, you are never alone because you have Father God with you.

NOW I KNOW JESUS

DAY 4: BAPTISM

Today, Jesus wants to tell you the story about when He chose to show His faith in God and who He was to everyone in public by being baptised. Let's find out about what happened.

Let's read the story:

The story of when Jesus was baptised can be found in the Bible. Find Matthew 3:13-16. If you are a good reader, why not read the story to your grownup.



Remember the story:

- Where was Jesus baptised?
- Who baptised Jesus?
- Who else was there when Jesus was baptised? (find the answer in your Bible - try verse 5?)
- Which bird is mentioned in the story?



Questions to talk about:

1. Have you been baptised? If you have, tell each other your stories.
2. Jesus was baptised in the Jordan River. Can you find that on a map? Can you find where you were baptised on a map?
3. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be baptised?
4. How do you think Jesus felt being baptised in front of all those people?
5. When Jesus came up out of the water, He heard His Father God say, "This is My Son, Whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." Father God called Jesus His Son. Now that you believe in Jesus, you too are a child of God. What do you think He wants to say to you as His child?

Tell Jesus: Jesus would love to hear about when you decided to follow Him. You can use the prayer below to help you to do this, and fill in the gaps with your own story. Remember, Jesus is interested in your words, so this prayer is just to help you.



Dear Jesus,

I decided to follow You when I was (xx) years old. I remember it was when I was at (xx) My (xx) told me about You and what You did for me. Thank You, Jesus, that now I am also a child of God.

I told other people that I had decided to follow You by (maybe you told your friends at school, maybe you told your Mum or Dad)

Amen

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DAY 5: PARTY TIME

Jesus loved to enjoy Himself and He went to parties. In this story, Jesus wants to tell you about a party He went to. This is not the only time we read about Jesus enjoying Himself with friends and family. He clearly liked to spend time with His friends.

Let's read the story:

Jesus went a party - read about this in John 2:1-10



Remember the story:

- What sort of party was it that Jesus went to?
- What was the problem that Jesus was asked to solve?
- What did Jesus do?



Questions to talk about:

I wonder if you have any stories of parties that you have been to? Jesus loves to hear about things we have done.

1. What party do you particularly remember? Tell each other about the party - who was there?
2. What did you most enjoy about the party?
3. Can you remember what you wore to the party?
4. Do you like to spend time with friends? What do you like to do the most?

See if you can find a picture of you at a party or playing with friends to show Jesus.

Tell Jesus: Jesus loves to hear about our lives. Now that you have thought about a party that you have been to, you can tell Jesus about it. You can use the prayer below to help you. Remember Jesus loves to hear your words.



Dear Jesus,

It was nice to hear Your story of being at a party and enjoying a special time with Your friends and family. I do this too and can remember a party I went to - (now tell Jesus about the party).

I like to spend time with my friends and family having fun and I'm so glad that You like to do this too.

Amen

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DAY 6: MAKING FRIENDS

Just like you, Jesus had friends. He liked to spend time with them, eating, talking and enjoying their company. We know from the Bible that Jesus had 12 special friends. They became known as the disciples. They spent a lot of time with Jesus, walking around the area where they lived and listening to what He had to say. We also know that Jesus had three really close friends. Are you like Jesus? Do you have some very close friends and others that you play sometimes?

Jesus wants to be friends with you too.

Let's read the story:

Jesus chose 12 special friends and you can read about this. Read Mark 1:16-20 and then John 1:43-50. You can read a full list of who the 12 were in Matthew 10:1-4



Remember the story:

- Who did Jesus call first to be one of His friends?
- Can you write out the names of all 12 of the special friends?
- There is a name for these 12 special friends that begins with 'd' - do you know what it is?



Questions to talk about:

Talk with your grownup about your friends.

1. Who are your friends? What do you like about them?
2. We know that Jesus had three special friends. Do you have some 'best' friends? What makes them so special?
3. What do you think you can learn about how Jesus made friends?

Tell Jesus: Jesus wants to be our special friend. Jesus likes to spend time with us, hear what we have to say and tell us things He wants us to know.

Use the prayer below to ask Jesus to say something special to you today.



Dear Jesus,

Thank You that You want to be my special friend. I want to hear what You have to say to me today. I'm going to sit quietly with my grownup and listen carefully to what You have to say. Will You come close now and tell me what You want me to hear?

Amen



When we make friends, we don't just talk to them, we listen to them as well. Doing this with Jesus might be a new thing for you. Jesus often uses our imagination to talk to us. Sometimes, it's like a thought He puts into our minds, sometimes we see a picture of something when we close our eyes. You might want to write down what Jesus says to you and talk with your grownup about them.

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DAY 7: A DAY OFF

If you are working through these notes every day and you started on a Monday, then today is Sunday. This is our Sabbath day and we give it to Jesus to worship Him.

Today, you may well be going to Church. For Christians, Sunday is an important day for worshipping Jesus and the Bible tells us about the importance of having a Sabbath - which is a day of rest, given to Him.

So, today, there are no notes to follow.

If you can't get to Church today, remember you can follow all the Kids' work by following Kingsgate.church/kids and selecting the materials for your age range.

Enjoy resting and worshipping Jesus today!

NOW I KNOW JESUS

SAYING 'YES' TO JESUS

Jesus asks each one of us if we want to follow Him. He is waiting to hear our answer. Are you ready to say 'Yes' to Jesus?

Before you say 'Yes', Jesus wants you to understand some things.

- **Bad News:** Do you know that everyone has done wrong things, and that includes you? God calls these wrong things sin, and He says that all sin has to be paid for. The payment for sin is death.
- **Good News:** God knew that we could not pay for our sin, so He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for us. This is why Jesus had to die on the cross.
- **Even Better News:** Jesus did not just die, but came back to life again, showing that He is more powerful than death. He paid the price so that you don't have to.
- Jesus says that if we say 'Yes' to Him and follow Him, He will save us from death.

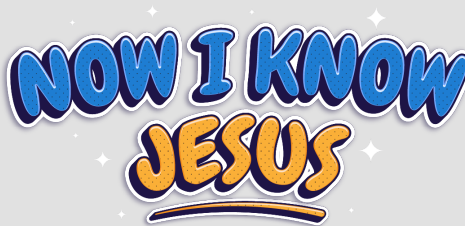
Jesus said to His friends 'follow Me,' and they left everything they had and followed Him. Jesus is calling you to follow Him today, but are you prepared to give Him everything in return?

Saying 'Yes' to Jesus Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for calling me to follow You. I know that I have done and said many things wrong and I'm sorry about this. Thank You that I can be forgiven because You died for me. I want to follow You and live life Your way. Thank You that You sent Your Holy Spirit to help me do this. I accept His help today.

Amen



If you prayed the prayer above to say 'Yes' to Jesus, you are now one of His followers. He wants to get to know you and for you to get to know Him. This is an exciting journey to go on and Jesus has given you others to walk with you on this journey. This is the Church! Jesus gave us each other, in the Church, to love and help one another. Keep coming to Church to get to know others who follow Jesus.

You can also use the rest of these notes to get to know Jesus better.