

“Tim Chester and Katy Morgan want teenagers to know that Christianity is all about *Jesus*. They faithfully contextualize the gospel into language relatable to teenagers by defining biblical terms, asking meaningful questions, and providing plenty of teaching tools for group leaders. Meanwhile, they resist the urge to sacrifice on substance. The result is a study that will be accessible for all the students in your youth group—from skeptics and new believers to committed Christians—as they grow in knowing Christ.”

CHELSEA KINGSTON ERICKSON, Director of Publishing,
Rooted Ministry; former youth worker

“What does life with Jesus actually look like? It’s easy to say, ‘I’m a Christian’, but what does that mean for your life, your suffering, your relationships, your faith in God? *Life with Jesus: Youth Edition* is a fantastic resource for any young person serious about growing in their faith. You’ll love how this book helps you live life to the full as a disciple of Jesus. Gather a group, open the Bible, ask questions, hear real-life stories, and prepare to let God work in and change you. Go on, give it a go!”

DAVE CORNES, Associate Youth Evangelist,
Christianity Explored Ministries

“If you want your teenagers to be rooted in Christ, to see the world through a biblical lens because of their intimacy with Christ, and to know what it means to live for Christ in this crazy world, then let me commend *Life with Jesus: Youth Edition*. It is biblically sound, resonates with the issues and questions teenagers experience, and is written in a way to spark meaningful gospel conversations between youth and their leaders.”

MIKE MCGARRY, Director, Youth Pastor Theologian;
Author, *A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry*

"Life with Jesus: Youth Edition is a fabulous primer on the Christian life for teens! It's deeply biblical, highly relevant, gospel-centered, and easy for a youth leader (or parent) to pick up and use with their teens. The relatable stories, Scripture reflections, practical teaching, and interactive opening activities make this book perfect for youth groups, small groups, or one-on-one mentoring. Thank you for creating such a valuable youth ministry resource!"

JENNIFER M. KVAMME, Author, *More to the Story*; Student Ministries Catalyst, Centennial Church, Forest Lake, MN

"Another fab resource for young people from The Good Book Company! The shared wisdom of Tim Chester and Katy Morgan make the Bible studies clear, relevant and life-changing—with fun illustrations to keep young minds engaged. The twelve studies provide essential knowledge and practical guidance for healthy growing disciples and can be used by individuals or families or as part of a youth discipleship programme."

NICK JACKMAN, Director, Contagious Bible Ministries

LIFE WITH JESUS

YOUTH EDITION



the goodbook
COMPANY

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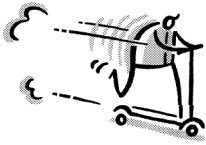
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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	7
PART ONE: Putting out shoots	
1. Jesus wins: exploring the gospel	11
2. Empty hands: exploring grace	17
3. Part of the family: exploring church	23
PART TWO: Seeing things differently	
4. Children, not slaves: exploring obedience	31
5. Root and branch: exploring our union with Christ	37
6. Hope and glory: exploring suffering	43
PART THREE: Connecting with God	
7. God speaks: exploring the Bible	51
8. A Father who listens: exploring prayer	57
9. Give me a sign: exploring Communion	63
PART FOUR: Living it out	
10. Treasure hunt: exploring money	71
11. True love: exploring romance	77
12. A life that speaks: exploring evangelism	83
ACTIVITIES AND REFLECTIONS	89



INTRODUCTION

I don't know what your hopes and dreams for your life are, but I'm guessing that you want it to be *good*. Everyone wants to live life to the full in one way or another—whether that's travelling the world, finding the perfect partner, making millions or just having plenty of time to sit on the sofa and chill.

Did you know that Jesus came to give us life to the full? He said it in John 10 v 10. Jesus promises that when we follow him, we will experience life as it's meant to be lived—because we're connected to the God who made both us and everything around us.

Life with Jesus isn't always straightforward or easy, but it is the good life. It's a life of purpose, wisdom and hope, where we get to walk alongside Jesus and learn from him every single day.

That's what this course is all about. We'll talk about who Jesus is, what it looks like to follow him and how he enables us to keep going. Whether you're sure that you're a Christian, you're on the fence or you're new to it all, this is your invitation to explore Jesus' offer of life with him—his offer of life to the full.

HOW IT WORKS



Each session contains four elements:

Meet... A little story to get you thinking about the topic.

Bible Time. A short Bible study that connects with the scenario you just read about.

Think it Through. Two pages of teaching to read, together with a few questions to discuss.

Reflect. Use this space to write a prayer, scribble down key points you want to remember, or anything else. Your leader might give you specific ideas for filling this page in some sessions.

FOR LEADERS

At the back of the book you'll find ideas for games and reflection activities—one each per session. These are primarily designed for youth groups, but most of the reflections will still work if you're using this book in a smaller discipleship meet-up.

Be creative about how you use this book—it'll work best differently in different settings! For example, you could...

- Start with an activity, or put one in the middle of the session to break things up.
- Choose just one part of the **Think it Through** pages (they're always divided into two sections), whichever works best for your group.
- Use the **Think it Through** pages as the basis for a short talk or seminar.
- Perform the **Meet...** section as a drama.
- Do part of the session as one big group, then divide into smaller groups for other parts.
- Ask the young people to do **Bible Time** on their own in advance, then focus on **Think it Through** in the time you have together.
- Turn the course into four super-sessions by combining the chapters into groups of three.
- Add your own questions, games, creative reflection ideas and anything else!

Finally, make sure you leave time to pray—both as leaders and when the group meets. After all, this course on its own will not bring growth in Christ. It is God who makes people more like his Son, through his word and by his Spirit.

PART ONE

PUTTING OUT SHOOTS



A new plant needs three things to survive: water, sunlight and nutrients. Christians have some basic needs too. If we're going to start putting out shoots in our life with Jesus, there are three things we need to get straight first of all.

The gospel: why did Jesus come, and why is that good news?

Grace: how do we qualify for this new life with Jesus?

And church: where do we belong, and how do we grow in our faith?



1. JESUS WINS

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL

MEET AVA AND JORDAN

Ava looked at Jordan, sitting next to her in the school cafeteria. It was plain that he was nervous. Very nervous. He kept glancing at her, mouth open, then looking away again.

“What?” she snapped eventually.

Jordan met her eyes at last. “It’s just...” he stuttered. “Well, I wanted to tell you.” He swallowed. “I’ve become a Christian.”

Ava blinked. This wasn’t what she’d expected. “A Christian,” she said. “So what does that mean? You going to be all perfect and good now? Get all religious?”

“No...” Jordan answered, frowning. “Don’t worry, I’m not going to suddenly be a different person.” He paused. “Except, I guess I am a different person now in some ways. It’s hard to explain... Christianity isn’t just about being good. And it’s not just being religious.”

Ava raised her eyebrows. “What *is* it about, then?”

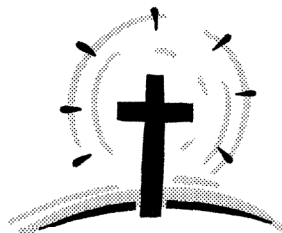
★ What would you say if you were Jordan?



BIBLE TIME: COLOSSIANS 1 V 18-23

¹⁸ And he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.



1. Read Colossians 1 v 18-20. Can you pick out one thing that Jesus *has done*, and two things that Jesus *is*?
2. Read verses 21-23. How does verse 21 describe people before they become Christians?
3. How does verse 22 describe people *after* they become Christians?
4. What has Jesus done to bring about this change?
(Look at verses 20 and 22.)
5. Based on this, what do you think Jordan could say to Ava?



” DICTIONARY

supremacy = first place

reconcile = bring back together

alienated = separated or far apart

without blemish = perfect



THINK IT THROUGH

VICTORY FOR WHO?

The Christian message is good news—the good news that Jesus has triumphed over evil.

To understand who the winners are in this victory, we need to wind the clock back to the beginning of history. God made a world of beauty and wonder where humans could share his joy. But humanity rejected God’s rule. We wanted to be gods of our own lives. We still do. This is what the Bible calls “sin”. Our rebellion has put us on a collision course with God.

- ★ What do you think it means to try to be “gods of our own lives”? Can you think of ways in which people might try to do this, even if they wouldn’t express it that way?

Jesus came to defeat evil. That’s really good news. Unless you’re a rebel against God—and all of us start life as rebels against God. For rebels, Jesus’ victory means defeat and judgment.

That’s not good.

But the wonderful twist in the story is that we *can* share in Jesus’ victory, even though we’ve rebelled against him. How? Because God’s judgment fell upon Jesus himself at the cross. Jesus died under God’s judgment in our place so we could go free. Three days later God raised him to life again as the beginning of God’s new people and the Lord of God’s restored kingdom.

Jesus’ victory is good news for sinners!

- ★ Jesus has already defeated sin and death and, if we follow him, we share in that victory. How could this change life now?

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Here are some assumptions that people make about Christianity.

It's about trying to be good.

It's about believing that God exists.

It's about being religious and going to church.

- ★ Why might someone making each of those statements assume that Christianity is not for them?

The truth is that first and foremost, Christianity is about Jesus. He has won a victory, and we get to share in it! This means that...

Christianity is not about trying to be good—though it does transform us.

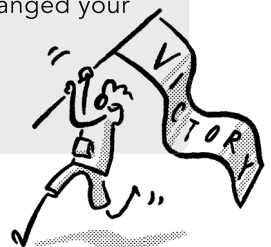
Christianity is not a new set of opinions—though it does make us see many things differently.

Christianity is not becoming religious—though it will make us want to pray.

First and foremost, Christianity is about Jesus, his victory and how we get to share that victory.

- ★ Is there any way in which you need to reset your own thinking about what Christianity is all about?

- ★ Is there any way in which faith in Jesus hasn't yet changed your life, but you want it to?



REFLECT

Don't rush off—take some time to reflect on what you've read and discussed. What do you want to remember? How will it affect your week? Use pages like this to write prayers or notes, to doodle, or anything else. You can also find reflection ideas for every chapter at the back of the book.

