Do you want to know God and live as his friend?

It's not about trying to be good. That's great news, since you can't be totally good all the time! It's about accepting what Jesus did on the cross to rescue you. To do that, you will need to **ABCD**.

Admit your sin that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask him to forgive you, and to help you to change. There will be some things you have to stop doing.

Believe that Jesus died for you, to take the punishment for your sin that he came back to life, and that he is still alive today.

Consider the cost of living like God's friend from now on, with him in charge. It won't be easy. Ask God to help you do this.

Do something about it! In the past you've gone your own way rather than God's way. Will you hand control of your life over to him from now on? If you're ready to ABCD, then talk to God now. This prayer will help you.

Dear God,
I have done and said and thought things that are wrong. I am really sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. From now on, please help me to live as one of your friends, with you in charge. Amen

WHAT NOW?

Do you remember what the angel said? "you will name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to him. If you have put your trust in him, he has saved you from your sins and forgiven you. That's Great News!

WOW

When you are forgiven by God, you become his friend for ever. He loves you and will always be with you. This is what Christmas is really all about.

WHAT NEXT?

God will help you to change, and to live like his friend. Meeting with some of God's other friends called Christians will help you too. You can learn more about Jesus together. See if you can join a group at a local church, or ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Tell them that you have become one of God's friends too.

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WHY DID JESUS COME?

Shepherds, stars and stables.

Most of us think we know the Christmas story really well.

But do we?

What is Christmas really all about and why was Jesus born?

THE KING IS BORN

Jesus was born 2000 years ago in the country of Israel.
Matthew, one of the writers of the Bible, tells us all about it...

18 This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place.

20 An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. 21 She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

22 Now all this happened in order to make what the Lord had said through the prophet come true, 23 "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" which means, "God with us".

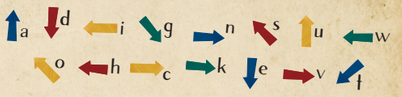
Matthew chapter 1 verses 18 to 23

Find each name in the story and draw a circle round it.

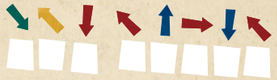
JESUS	CHRIST	IMMANUEL
verses 18 & 21	verse 18	verse 23

CRACK THE CODE

to see what these special names mean.



The name Jesus means



It tells us who Jesus is – He is G

It tells us what Jesus does – He S

Jesus has come to save people, as their rescuer. But what do we need to be rescued from?

SIN We all like to be in charge of our own lives. We do what we want instead of what God wants. This is called Sin.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN Sin separates us from God. It stops us from knowing him and stops us being his friends. The final result of sin is death. You can see why we need a rescuer!

Jesus didn't stay a baby. When he was about 33 years old, Jesus was crucified. He was nailed to a cross and left to die.

When Jesus died all the sins of the world all the wrongs people had done were put onto him. He took all of our sin onto himself, taking the punishment we deserve. He died in our place, as our rescuer, so that our sins can be forgiven.

What about Jesus' other names?

The name Immanuel means

When Jesus died, he dealt with the problem of sin. That means there is nothing to separate us from God any more. That's great news it means we can know that God is with us.

Jesus is sometimes called Jesus Christ.
This isn't his surname, it tells us who Jesus is.

The name Christ means

WOW!

Jesus didn't just come as our rescuer. He also came as King. Not as a king who lives in a palace, but King of our lives. Jesus died on the cross as our rescuer. But he didn't stay dead! After three days God brought him back to life. Jesus is still alive today, ruling as King. We can know him as our rescuer, friend and King.