

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

B: Believe that Jesus is God, and that he died for you to take the punishment for your sin. Believe that he came back to life, and that he is alive today. If you are not sure, you may need to find out more about Jesus. Ask the person who gave you this leaflet. They will be glad to help you find out more. Or visit www.christianityexplored.com.

C: Come to Jesus as your rescuer, and stop trying to save yourself. Jesus said that he came to save sinful people by dying on the cross. You can trust him.

D: Do what Jesus wants – not what you want. Jesus is God and Lord of everything and everyone in this world. He proved this by coming back to life. If you want him to rescue you, you must give control of your life to him. If he is in charge of your life, he will make you God's friend.

If you are ready to speak to God about these things, then talk to him now. This prayer may 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.
Thank you that he came alive again.
I give my life to Jesus as my Lord and rescuer.
Please help me to live as one of your friends. Amen*

WHAT NOW?

Peter told Cornelius that everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. That's a promise that is still true today.

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to him. If you have prayed that prayer and put your trust in him, you can be sure that he has rescued you from your sins and forgiven you. That really is good news!

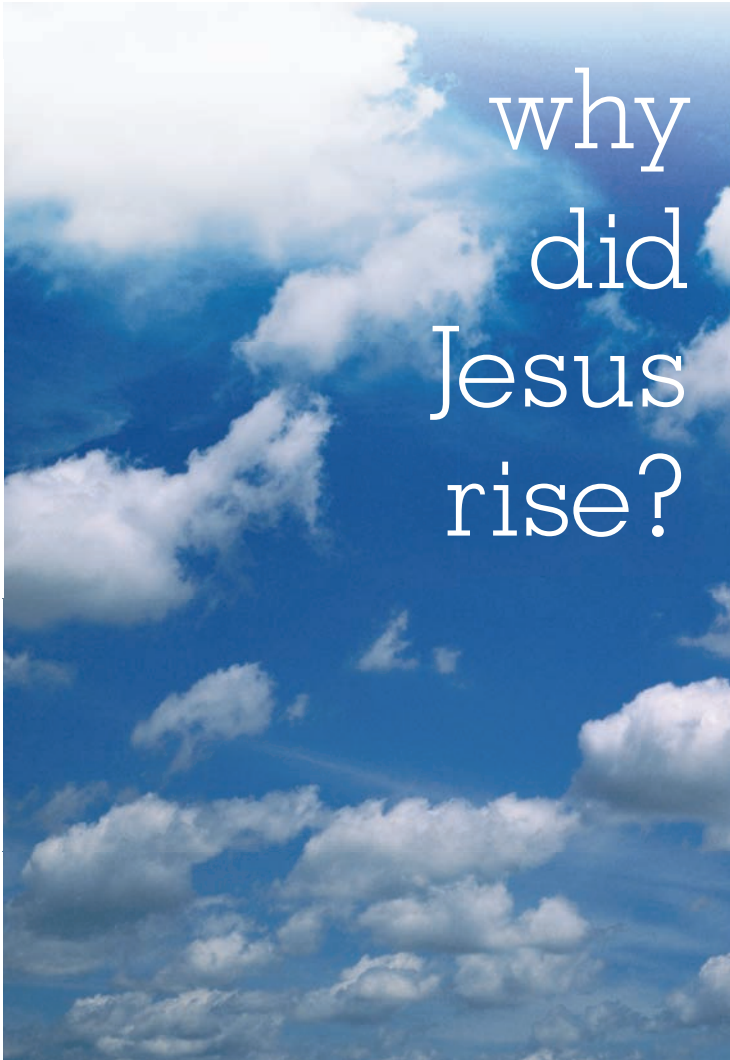
WHAT NEXT?

When you are forgiven by God, you become his friend for ever. He loves you and will always be with you. We can be sure of this because Jesus died and rose again. God will help you to change, and to live like his friend.

It will not be easy to give your life to Jesus. Your friends and your family may not like it. It may be hard to change some things in your life. But God will help you to change and to live as one of his friends.

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 where the Bible is taught, or ask the person who gave you this leaflet.

Tell them that you have become one of God's friends too.



why
did
Jesus
rise?



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Bible quotations from the New International Reader's Version.



When Jesus died on the cross, it seemed like the end for his followers. Their leader was dead. Their hopes shattered. But Jesus didn't stay dead!

Why did Jesus rise again? And is he still alive today?

Peter, one of Jesus' followers, was an eye-witness to the events that happened on the first Easter day. Some time afterwards, he went to see a Roman soldier called Cornelius. Peter was there to tell him all about Jesus, and about what happened after Jesus died... This is part of what Peter said:

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by nailing him to a cross. But on the third day God raised him from the dead. God allowed Jesus to be seen. But he wasn't seen by all the people. He was seen only by us. We are witnesses whom God had already chosen. We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

"He commanded us to preach to the people. He told us to give witness that he is the one chosen by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets give witness about him. They say that all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name."

Acts chapter 10 verses 39-43

Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. He was there, watching, when Jesus was nailed to a cross and left to die. At the time, Peter didn't understand why Jesus had to die. But later he *did* understand and explained it to Cornelius like this: *"all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name."*

WHAT IS SIN?

We all like to be in charge of our own lives. We do what we want to do. We do not live how God wants us to live. The Bible calls this 'sin'. Sin spoils our lives and hurts other people. But it also separates us from God. It stops us from knowing God. It means that God cannot be our friend.

After we die, our sin will separate us from God forever. We need forgiveness. Jesus came to save people from the problem of sin. As he died, the sins of the world (all the wrongs people have done) were put onto him. He took all our sin onto himself, taking the punishment we deserve. He died in our place, as our rescuer, so that we can be forgiven.

BUT JESUS DIDN'T STAY DEAD

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and buried in a stone tomb nearby. But amazingly Jesus didn't stay dead! After three days God brought him back to life. Peter was an eye-witness to this. He saw the empty tomb. Later he was one of those *"who ate and drank with Jesus after he rose from death."* Jesus wasn't some kind of ghost. Peter could touch him, talk with him and even eat with Jesus. Jesus really was alive again!

WHY DID GOD BRING JESUS BACK TO LIFE?

Because God accepted Jesus' death as full payment for our sins. Jesus died in our place. He took the punishment we deserve. When God brought Jesus back to life, he showed that he accepted Jesus' death as the way for us to be forgiven.

JESUS IS ALIVE TODAY

Jesus didn't die a second time. Instead, Peter saw Jesus going back to heaven to be with his Father. Jesus is still alive today. He sends his Holy Spirit to his followers. This means that we can know that Jesus is with us. He listens to us when we pray to him.

Jesus told his followers to *"preach to the people"*. Jesus wanted Peter and the others were to tell people the good news about why he had died and come back to life again. This good news about Jesus is still true today.

Jesus is coming back one day—but we don't know when. Peter tells us that Jesus *"is the one chosen by God to judge the living and the dead."* Peter says that Jesus is coming as our Judge.

All of us sin. We all live for ourselves instead of for God, and everyone will face the consequences of this choice at the end. But if we put our trust in Jesus as our rescuer, then our sins will be forgiven. This means that when Jesus judges us, he will decide we are innocent. Then we can enjoy eternal life with him.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD AND BE FORGIVEN?

It's not about trying to be good. That's great news, because none of us can ever reach God's standards of goodness!

It's about accepting what Jesus did on the cross to rescue you. Many people have started a new life as a Christian. You can too! You can know that they are forgiven and accepted by God if you do the following four things: