we can become friends with God. We can't save ourselves by trying to be good. That's because none of us can ever be good enough for God. But Jesus has done everything that is needed to save us. That's great news!

There are four things you need to do to begin a friendship with God.

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 things you will have to stop doing. There are some 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. You can do this by talking to the person who gave you this leaflet. Or visit www.christianityexplored.com.

C: Come to Jesus as your rescuer, and give up trying to save yourself. He 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 your ruler, he will make you God's friend.

If you are ready to talk 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 HAPPENS NOW?

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

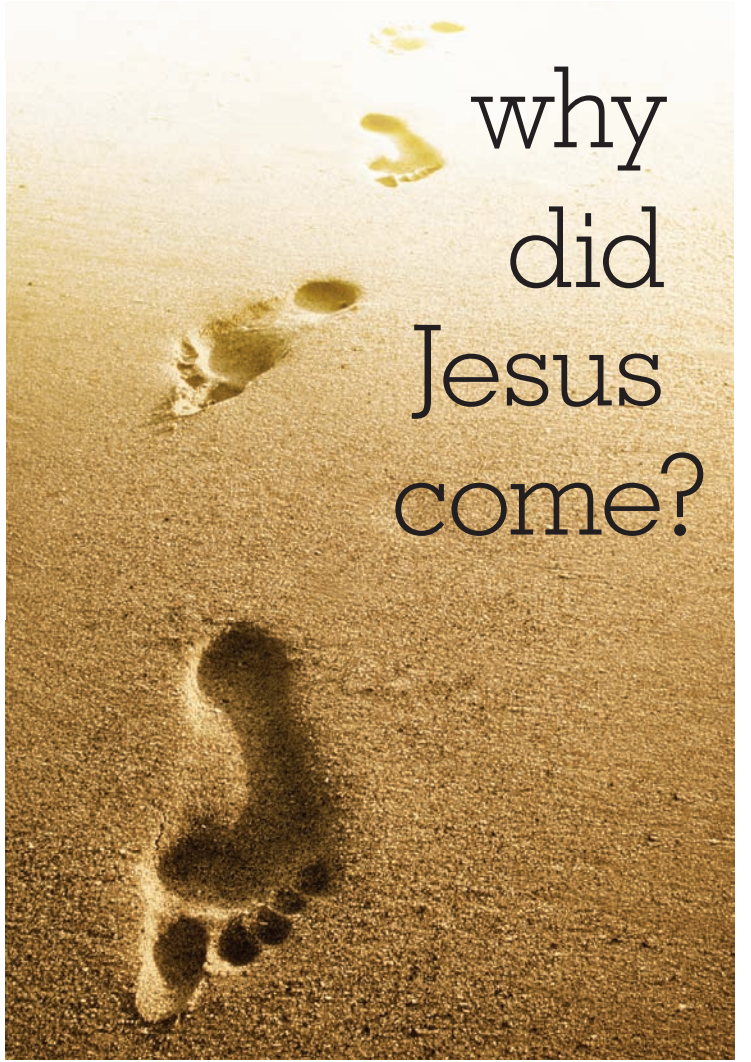
Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to him. If you have come to Jesus, then he has saved you. Your sins are forgiven. That's great news!

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.

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.

Meet with some of God's other friends – Christians. They will help you. 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.

© The Good Book Company 2007. www.thegoodbook.co.uk
Bible quotations from the New International Reader's Version.



why did Jesus come?

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

> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was a godly man. He did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.
>
> But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, 'Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."
>
> All of this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." The name Immanuel means 'God with us.'
>
> Matthew chapter 1 verses 18-23

The baby who was born on the first Christmas Day was given three names, He was called **Jesus** by his parents. He came to be known as **Christ** later on. And Matthew quotes from a part of the Bible written 600 years before Jesus was born, which gives him a third name: **Immanuel**.

Most names have a meaning – perhaps yours does. The names of Jesus have a meaning too. They tell us everything we need to know about why Jesus came.

IMMANUEL

Matthew tells us that Jesus wasn't born by chance. Before Jesus, people in the Bible looked forward to a time when God would come into the world. The name Immanuel means 'God is with us'. How amazing that God, our creator, chose to be born as a baby! And when the baby Jesus grew to be a man, he showed what God is like.

He was a powerful teacher. He did amazing miracles to show his power over nature, illness, evil spirits and death. And he loved all kinds of people deeply and cared for them. Everything about him showed that he was God. But why did he come? His first name tells us...

JESUS

The name Jesus in the Hebrew language means 'God saves'. It tells us who Jesus is. Jesus is God. It also tells us why he came. He came to save us. But why do we need to be saved?

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. And we are not able to save ourselves. That is why we need a rescuer.

When Jesus was about 33 years old, he was crucified. That means he was nailed to a cross and left to die.

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

When Jesus died, he solved the problem of sin. We don't have to be separated from God any more. This is wonderful news – it means we can be friends with God.

But how do we begin this wonderful new relationship with God? Jesus' other name will help us understand...

CHRIST

Jesus is often called Jesus Christ. Christ isn't his family name, or surname. The word Christ means: 'God's Chosen King.'

Jesus came into the word as our rescuer. But he also came as our ruler.

Jesus died on the cross as our rescuer. But he didn't stay dead! After three days God brought him back to life. Now he is in charge of the whole world. Jesus is the Lord of everything. We begin a new relationship with God when we start to live with Jesus as our rescuer, our God and our Lord.

WHY DID JESUS COME?

He came so that you could have your sins forgiven and be friends with God. He gives everyone in the world a choice.

1. We can go on doing what we want. We can ignore what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. That means we will die and be separated from God forever. Or...

2. We can be rescued by Jesus. Our sins can be forgiven and