

### Your words

Those first Christians ate together with 'glad and humble hearts, praising God'. That will have made a difference to what they said. Perhaps things like, 'Thanks for sharing your food', 'It's good to meet together', 'Isn't God fantastic!'.

People always notice what we say. So, how can the way you speak show that you're a Christian? Are there things you need to stop saying...? (Swearing? Gossiping? Answering back?) And things to start saying...? (Thank you! Can I help? Isn't God great!)

What you say will show that you care about others and believe Jesus is your King.

### Show time

Do you want to show people that you're a Christian? If so, think carefully about the things in this leaflet. What difference will it make to your life if you really live with Jesus as your **King**? What will you do with your time? Your money? Your words? How will the things you do and say show that King Jesus is in charge of your life?

Think carefully, then talk to God about these things. You can use the prayer below, or talk to him in your own words, whichever you find easiest.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus Christ to die for me and to be my King. Please help me to change the things I need to change so that I can show other people that Jesus is King of my life. And when they notice those changes, please help me to tell them about Jesus —and show them how they can follow Jesus, too. Amen

### People will notice

The way those first Christians lived was certainly noticed by the people around them. They liked what they saw. But did you spot what else happened?

Fill in the gaps from verse 47—that's the sentence that starts with a tiny 47.

E \_\_\_\_\_ day the Lord a \_\_\_\_\_ to their group those who were being s \_\_\_\_\_.



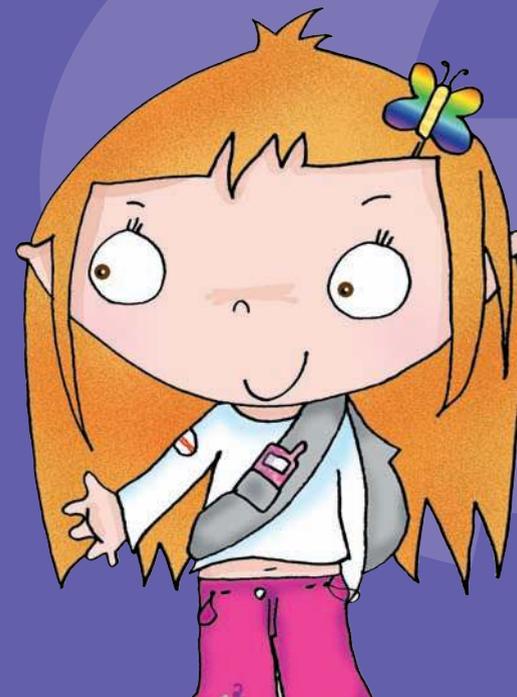
When we live as Christians, with Jesus as our King:

- people notice the difference it makes;
- and that means we can tell them why we are different;
- and then we can talk to them about Jesus;
- and some of them will want to find out more;
- and maybe even become followers of Jesus themselves, just like those people who saw those first Christians.

**What a fantastic reason to show that you're a Christian!**



# ? how do I show I'm a Christian



Are you a football fan? Do you have a favourite band? If so, you'll show it in some way. Maybe you wear your team shirt, or have posters on your bedroom wall.

But how do you show that you're a Christian? By what you wear? What you do? What you say?

And why does it matter, anyway...?

## Action!

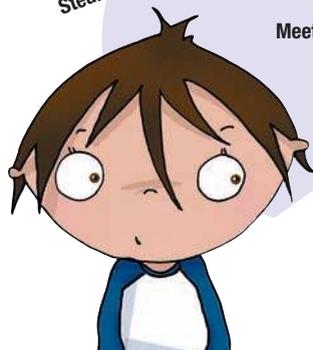
One of my favourite books in the Bible is **Acts**—short for ‘Acts of the Apostles’. It tells us about the **acts** of the first followers of Jesus, and their leaders (called apostles). Let’s see how those first Christians **acted** when they were together...

### Acts chapter 2 verses 42-47

<sup>42</sup>They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. <sup>44</sup>All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. <sup>45</sup>They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. <sup>46</sup>Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

Which of these things did the first Christians do? (Circle your answers.)

- Steal from each other
- Share with each other
- Join the Roman army
- Pray
- Meet together
- Sell their belongings
- Ignore each other
- Eat together
- Watch gladiators
- Race camels
- Learn from the apostles
- Praise God



Wow! Have you noticed how those first Christians acted? The people around them did! (v47) The Christians really cared about each other. They even sold their own things, so that they could share the money with others. And they met together every day to thank and praise God, and to learn more about him from the apostles.

## Why so different?

These first Christians were so different that the people around them noticed how they lived, and thought it was good. But why did they live like this? Had they just decided to become ‘The Be-Nice-To-People Gang’??

To understand why these Christians lived so differently, we need to think about their name. The first followers of Jesus were given a nickname—**Christians**—because they believed that Jesus was the **Christ**.

Take the first letter of each pic to find out what **Christ** means...



Those first Christians believed that Jesus was their **King**. He had died for them, so that their sins could be forgiven. But God had brought him back to life again, and now Jesus ruled as King of everything. That meant he was also King of their lives. Those first Christians were so different because they lived the way that King Jesus wanted them to.

## Living with Jesus as King

People who follow Jesus are still called Christians today. It shows that we believe that **Jesus is our King**. You show that you’re a Christian by living with Jesus as King of your life. That will make a difference to what you **do**. And also to how you **think**, and what you **say**. What difference do you think it will make in your life? Think about this for yourself first. Then check out the boxes below.

### Your time

Those first Christians made time to meet together, to pray and to learn about God. How can you do the same? Making time to meet with other Christians is really important. But you may need to give something up—playing less football? watching less TV?— to be able to do it.

The first Christians learned about following Jesus from the apostles. We can do the same by reading God’s book, the Bible. Make time each day to read a bit of the Bible, and to pray. If Jesus is your King, you need to spend time learning more about him.

People will notice how you use your time. It will show them what really matters to you.



### Your money

Did you notice how keen those first Christians were to share with each other? They even sold things so that they would have money to give to others! How can you use your money for God? (Giving some to your church... or to support a charity... or to buy booklets about Jesus to give to your friends... or...) And what about the stuff you have? Can you share it with others? (Yes, even your games console!!)

People will notice how you spend your money. They’ll see you sharing your things.