

FREE  
STICKERS

# christmas unpacked

eXplore The Bible



3-Week Christmas Special

xtb

Bible discovery for children and families

### **THE SMALL PRINT**

XTB is published by The Good Book Company, 37 Elm Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3HB. Tel: 0845-225-0880. [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk)  
email: [alison@thegoodbook.co.uk](mailto:alison@thegoodbook.co.uk). Written and fretted over by Alison Mitchell. Groovy design by Wilde Associates. Bible quotations taken from the Good News Bible. Special thanks to Alison's Mum for strange and curious gifts that keep us endlessly amused.

**AUSTRALIA:** Distributed by Matthias Media. Tel: (02) 9663 1478; fax (02) 9662 4289 email: [info@matthiasmedia.com.au](mailto:info@matthiasmedia.com.au).

Printed in Hong Kong.

# Welcome to **xtb** and Table Talk



Exploring the Bible together to discover God's Rescue Plan



**XTB** stands for **eXplore The Bible**.

Read a bit of the Bible each day.

Unpack Christmas with the help of Dr. Luke.

Find out all about God's Rescue Plan.



**Are you ready to explore the Bible? Fill in the bookmark...  
...then turn over the page to start exploring with XTB!**



**This book belongs to**

.....

**I am** ..... **(Age)**



**My birthday is**

.....

**My favourite chocolate bar is**

.....

**My favourite Christmas song is**

.....

## **Table Talk** FOR FAMILIES

**Table Talk** helps children and adults explore the Bible together. It can be used by:

- Families
- One adult with one child
- Children's leaders with their groups
- Any other way you want to try

Table Talk uses the same Bible passages as XTB so that they can be used together if wanted. Table Talk is at the back of this book. It's easy to spot because it's printed sideways!

**Never done anything like this before? Write to us or call for a free fact sheet (details opposite) or check out our website ([www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk)).**

## OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther  
Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

## NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew  
Mark  
**Luke**  
John  
Acts  
Romans  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
1 Peter  
2 Peter  
1 John  
2 John  
3 John  
Jude  
Revelation



# How to find your way around the Bible...

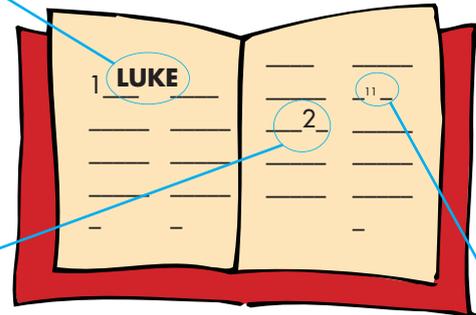
Look out for the **READ** sign.  
It tells you what Bible bit to read.



**READ**  
**Luke 2v11**

So, if the notes say... **READ Luke 2v11**  
...this means chapter 2 and verse 11  
...and this is how you find it.

Use the **Contents** page in your Bible to  
find where Luke begins



The chapter numbers  
are the **GREAT BIG**  
ones

The verse numbers are the  
tiny ones!

**Oops! Keep getting lost?**

**Cut out this bookmark and use it to keep your place.**



# How to use

**1**  Find a time and place when you can read the Bible each day.

**2**  Get your Bible, a pencil and your XTB notes.

**3**  Ask God to help you to understand what you read.

**4**  Read today's XTB page and Bible bit.

**5**  Pray about what you have read and learnt.

**6**  If you can, talk to an adult about what you've learnt. Remind them about **Table Talk** at the back of this book.

RESCUE!

RESCUE!

Rescue! stickers

RESCUE!

This Christmas pack comes with free Rescue! stickers. Be ready to stick one in every time Luke tells us something about God's Rescue Plan.

*(If your stickers are missing, contact us at the address inside the front cover and we'll send you some more.)*

Are you ready to find out about

**God's Rescue Plan?**

Stick your first sticker here, then hurry on to Day 1.

RESCUE!

# DAY 1 RESCUE NOT REINDEER

Circle the pictures that remind you of Christmas.



You probably didn't circle the fire engine or the helicopter. But surprisingly they have loads more to do with Christmas than reindeer or snowmen!

**That's because Christmas is about being rescued.**

**READ**  
**Luke 2v11**

An angel said this to some shepherds on the night Jesus was born. **Fill in the gaps.**



Your **S**.....  
was born - **C**.....  
the **L**.....

## God's Rescue Plan

The first part of the Bible (the Old Testament) shows that people are in trouble. They need to be rescued. God promised that He would send a Rescuer (Saviour), called the Messiah or Christ.



### Meet Dr. Luke

We're going to find out about God's Rescue Plan with the help of Dr. Luke. (You can discover more about Luke on the back page of this book.)

Luke wrote his book (called Luke's Gospel) to show **WHO** the Rescuer is and **WHY** we need rescuing. Luke shows us that **Jesus** is the promised Rescuer.

**PRAY**

**Dear God, please help me to learn more about your Rescue Plan as I read Luke's book.**  
**Amen**

**RESCUE!**

Stick a Rescue! sticker here.

# DAY 2 CHECK IT OUT!

xtb Luke 1v1-4



The school Christmas tree gets knocked over. Three people saw what happened, but your teacher doesn't ask them. He just assumes it was Clumsy Chris, and makes him stay in to fix it.

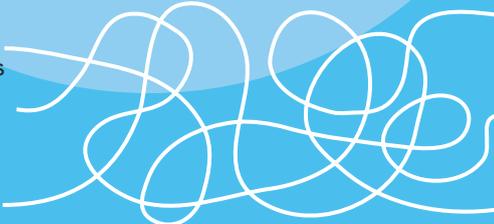


## FAIR or UNFAIR?

.....  
**READ**  
**Luke 1v1-4**

Like that unfair teacher, some people make their minds up about Jesus without looking at the evidence (proof). Luke wants us to be **sure of the facts**. That's why he wrote his book.

**Follow the lines to check the evidence Luke used for his book.**

- A** Spoken reports from eye-witnesses who saw Jesus themselves verse 1
  - B** Written reports verse 2
  - C** Luke's own careful investigation verse 3
- 

## Who was Theophilus?

We don't know! The name Theophilus means "friend of God". He was someone who wanted to know more about Jesus. Luke also wrote **Acts** for Theophilus. Friends of God want to know all about Jesus.

Do you?

**PRAY**

*Ask God to help you to know more about Jesus as you read about Him in Luke's book.*

# DAY 3 WHO'S WHO IN THE RESCUE?

xtb Luke 1v5-11



Dr. Luke starts the Christmas story by introducing us to some people who lived 2000 years ago.

**READ**  
Luke 1v5-7

Underline the right words:

Zechariah was a **doctor/priest/king** and Elizabeth was his **wife/mother/sister**. They both **ignored/forgot/obeyed** God. They were **old/young** and had **2/3/no** children.

Take the first letter of each picture:



They \_ \_ \_ \_ God.



They \_ \_ \_ \_ God.

It was Zechariah's turn to be on duty in the Temple. While he was there something very surprising happened.



**READ**  
Luke 1v11

Who did Zechariah see?

The angel is called Gabriel. He has a message from God. **More about that tomorrow.**

Can you think of someone else Gabriel gave a message to at Christmas time?

Check Luke 1v27 if you're not sure.

**More about that on Day 6.**

**THINK + PRAY**

Look at verse 6 again. Do you want to love and obey God like Zechariah and Elizabeth? Talk to God about your answer.

# DAY 4 AND THE ANGEL SAID...

Perhaps you have a gran and grandad. Imagine they suddenly announce that they are going to have a baby! **What would you think?**

No way!

They're joking!



Gabriel told Zechariah that he and Elizabeth would have a son. What would the baby be called?

J \_ \_ \_

**Who would be full of joy because of John's birth?**

- Zechariah
- Elizabeth
- and .....(v14)

When Gabriel suddenly appeared in the temple he had an amazing message for Zechariah and Elizabeth.



**READ**

**Luke 1v11-14**

## CHRISTMAS CLUE

100s of years before, God promised to send a messenger to His people, to tell them "Get ready for the Rescuer". When John grew up he would be that messenger.

**xtb** Luke 1v11-17



**He will get the Lord's people ready for him. (v17)**

God kept His promise by sending John as His messenger. John's birth was all part of God's Rescue Plan. **Stick a Rescue! sticker here.**

**RESCUE!**

God has made many promises in the Bible. **How many will He keep?**



**PRAY**

**God kept His promise to send John as the messenger. Thank God for always keeping His promises.**

# DAY 5 WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

xtb Luke 1v18-25

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!



Which of these would you believe?

- The planet Jupiter is made of chocolate. ✓ X
- All schools are being closed down for ever. ✓ X
- Your mum will be the next Queen of England. ✓ X

Zechariah knew that his wife Elizabeth wasn't able to have children. But the angel Gabriel has just told him that she will have a son. **Do you think he will believe the angel?**

Yes / No / Maybe

## ZECHARIAH

READ

Luke 1v18-20

Did Zechariah believe the angel?

Yes / No

The angel told him, "Because you have not believed, you will be unable to s\_\_\_\_\_ until the day the promise comes true." (v20)

## ELIZABETH

READ

Luke 1v23-25

The name John means

**"Gift of God"**.

Elizabeth knew that her son was from G\_\_\_\_\_ (v25)



**God doesn't usually send angels to speak to us! Instead, God speaks to us when we read His word in the Bible.**



THINK + PRAY

*Is it easy to believe the Bible?*

*Is it easy to do what it says?*

**Ask God to help you to understand, believe and obey what you read in the Bible.**

# DAY 6 HAPPY FAMILIES

xtb Luke 1v26-33

**READ**

**Luke 1v26-31**

## THE MOTHER

Jesus' mother lived in a small town called Nazareth, in the country of Israel. What was her name?

M \_ \_ \_ \_



### Think Spot

Why do you think God sent **an angel** to tell Mary about her baby?



**READ**  
**Luke 1v32-33**

## THE FATHER?

Mary was soon to marry a carpenter called Joseph, who came from the family line of King David.

But Joseph wasn't Jesus' father!

**Mary's son would be known as The S \_ \_ of the**

**M \_ \_ \_ H \_ \_ \_**



The Most High is another name for God. That means that God Himself was Jesus' Father!

## THE SON

Gabriel told Mary that her son would be the most amazing baby ever born.



Jesus was **God's own Son**, who came to earth as a human baby!

*More about Jesus, and why He came, tomorrow.*

**PRAY**

**As you look forward to Christmas, thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, as our best Christmas present ever.**