

BIG STEP

parent & child book



I chose to
take the
BIG STEP
today!



Let me tell you all about it!

Name: _____

Age: _____ Date: _____

Parents, write a message to your child encouraging them for taking the Big Step today!

Hi,

It's great that you have taken the BIG Step!
You will find that Jesus is the best friend you can ever have.

You have already taken many small steps to get here and you will take many small ones as you continue to learn about Jesus and how he is your friend – FOREVER.

There are things you do to help you grow physically, like eating and sleeping. At school you grow intellectually through the things you experience and learn. We grow in our friendship with Jesus (spiritual growth) by reading the Bible, praying and having people we can talk to and ask questions.

This booklet is designed to create conversation between kids and parents. For younger kids, read it with your Mum and Dad. For those who are older, get Mum and Dad to discuss the Big Step questions with you. You may like to ask someone who is special to you to be the adult who takes this journey with you.

Remember, it's not about how much you know. It's about how you are growing. It's a journey that you take one step at a time.

Are you ready?



the BIG idea

The best way to learn more about your friend Jesus is to read His story, the Bible. Jesus' life story is found in the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

What do you already know about Jesus?

Jesus coming to live on earth with us was all part of God's plan.

SIN

all the things we think, say and do that are not pleasing to God. Even the things we know we should do, but we decide for some reason not to do it – that's sin too!



Remember how we discovered that sin was a real problem. No matter how we tried to be friends with God, sin just got in the way. People try lots of things, like being helpful, giving away food and clothes to poor people, even trying to follow a whole list of rules. We just can't deal with sin!

That was until Jesus came and rescued us. He paid the price for our sin and because of him we can be friends with God forever.

Talk to your parents about a time when they had to pay a price for a mistake! (a fine, a bad choice, etc)

You might have an example from your own life too.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23





When you made the Big Step, you told God you know you have sin in your life. You asked him to forgive you and told him you want to follow Jesus' example. As you grow to know God more you realise what a big problem sin really is, and you are more grateful for what God has done for you.

Does it mean you will never sin again? No sorry, it's not like that.

You can ask God to forgive you, and He does. The more we know about Jesus, the more we want to live like him and follow his example. So when we do sin, it bothers us and we choose to do something about it.

Do you find yourself doing something that bothers you?

- lying
- saying mean things (gossip)
- a bad attitude

You are not alone in this. Everyone has sinned, except Jesus, that's why he can help. So how do we get to know Jesus?

READ

If you want to know more about a person, you ask questions and find out from others who knew them.

Did you know the Bible is NOT just a book?

The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written by over 40 authors over 1,600 years. And it all comes together in one BIG story! It is the story about a really BIG God who loved sinful people SO MUCH he became a human – Jesus.



Here are a few things we know from the Bible:

- God is good because he created our world
- Bad things happen because people broke God's rules and the world was broken
- God loves us even though we are part of the sin problem
- We can trust God to keep His promises because He has kept His best promise – sending us Jesus
- We can be forgiven because Jesus died for us and has already taken our punishment
- God has a place for us to live with him in heaven one day
- Until we see Jesus, we have a responsibility to follow his example.
 - Love God
 - Love others
 - Make disciples

Check out what Jesus said...

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Look these verses up in your Bible in Matthew 22:37-40. Can you write this out in your own words?



putting it into ACTION

DO THIS SECTION BY YOURSELF
OR WITH YOUR MUM OR DAD.

Jesus had 12 guys who he hung out with - the disciples. As they spent time learning from Jesus, they saw, they talked and then they wrote down what had happened. If you read the first four books of the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, you will discover what they knew about Jesus.

As you read, think about who God is and what he is saying to you. Hearing from God in this way will help you trust Him more.

READ:

- Mark 10:43-45
- Mark 12:30-31
- Matthew 5:16
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Luke 12:22



These two questions will help you as you are reading the Bible. It doesn't matter how old or young you are, God still speaks to you.

Sometimes it's good to write it down so you don't forget it. You may want to do this in the back of this book, or even get a special diary that becomes your place to write down the things God is talking to you about.

What is God saying to you?

What does he want you to do about it?



The book of Mark is a really good place to start.

CONNECT: Write down what verses you have read.

EXPLORE: What is God saying to you?

What is God saying to you about Him or about people?

PERSONALISE: What does God want you to do about it?

Making a new habit takes time

Use this grid to help you keep track of when you read your Bible over the next month. Only colour the square when you have done it. No need to make it up if you missed one – it's all about recording what you do on each day.

Here's the challenge...take one day at a time!

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT





PRAY

Have you ever tried to have a conversation with someone who did all the talking?

Frustrating isn't it!

Prayer is not just all about us talking to God or God talking to us. It's about listening too! - a two way conversation.

God talks to us...

- when we read the Bible
- when we think about him or see something that reminds us about him
- sometimes through the words of other people
- sometimes we have a feeling inside and we know it's from God

God wants us to talk to him

He wants us to tell him how we are feeling, our worries, our fears, what interests us and what makes us laugh. Actually, God wants us to tell him everything about us! Not that he doesn't know, he just loves to hear us tell him.

Jesus understands what it is like to...

- live here on earth
- feel hurt
- be tempted
- have others say mean things about him

Everything we experience, he knows first-hand what it is like, because he lived here too. The difference with Jesus was he never sinned, instead he defeated sin when he died and rose again.

Because of this we can pray to God at anytime, anywhere about anything!



When you **pray**
it helps you
connect
with God.

Ask your Mum or Dad about how they pray.

- What are some prayers that God has answered?
- When do you find it hard to pray?
- What do you love to tell God about?
- What are some of the different ways you pray?

putting it into ACTION

Do this section by yourself, with a friend or with your Mum or Dad.

Jesus talks to his disciples about prayer. See what Matthew 6:7-8 says. God hears all prayers, but He loves it when we tell Him what we really think. There are no special words that get God's attention. You don't have to impress Him with words, just be yourself. God knows you, and loves you – He's your friend.

Sometimes our prayers are about saying thank you and things we are grateful for. Sometimes our prayers are for other people, asking God to do something for them.

Sometimes our prayers are just about telling God what is going on with us. We can be 100% honest with God.



Here are some ideas that might help you pray from your heart.

It makes me angry when...

I get sad when I think about ...

I don't understand why...

I get frustrated when...

Help me to...

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

It's helpful to write down your prayers or even some key ideas about what you have prayed. You can then track how God answers your prayers and what you are learning.



LIVE

Have you ever had someone give you a gift or do something for you that was so unbelievably amazing that you just had to find a way to thank them?

You already know that God has done something amazing for you – He sent Jesus to die so you could be forgiven. As you get to know God more, you will discover new things about how awesome He is.





Don't be surprised if you find yourself suddenly wanting to sing or paint or play an instrument as a way to show God how amazing He is.

Or maybe that's not your thing. Maybe you will want to run a race or hike up a mountain. You might start loving and serving others more.

Regardless of how you do it, the more you spend time with God, the more you will want to honour God in big and small ways.

What gets you excited?

A band?

A movie?

A sports team?

How do you show others that you are excited?

After a while, people who spend time with us know what matters most to us. As we live out the things God is teaching us, we will be different – in a good way!

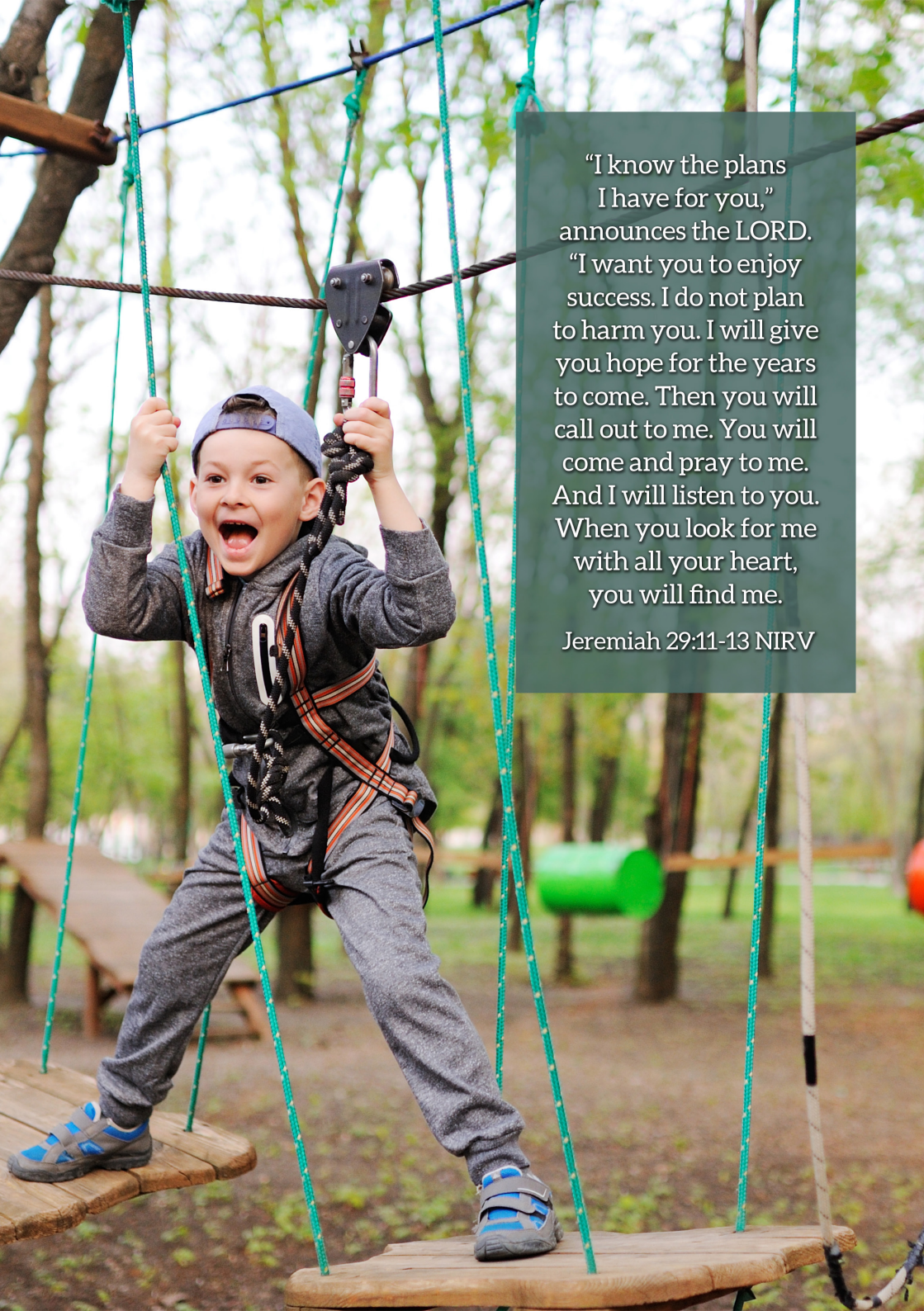
Think about the things that you already love to do.

How can you do those things to show God how much you love him?

God is working in us to change the world around us! God has a special purpose for you and it is something exciting and will make a difference.

If you want to know more about God, make him more important than anything!





“I know the plans
I have for you,”
announces the LORD.
“I want you to enjoy
success. I do not plan
to harm you. I will give
you hope for the years
to come. Then you will
call out to me. You will
come and pray to me.
And I will listen to you.
When you look for me
with all your heart,
you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIRV

What is God saying?

Choose a verse or passage from the Bible.

BIBLE VERSE:

WRITE DOWN A PART OF THE VERSE OR IDEA THAT STANDS OUT TO YOU

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

WRITE A PRAYER TO GOD

One way to remind you of your BIG STEP is wearing the wristband. It gives you an opportunity to talk to your family and friends about it too.



The first symbol - Broken World

God created the world and it was perfect in every way. His favourite creation was people - Adam and Eve. They were given the whole garden to live in and enjoy. God told them that there was only one tree that they were not allowed to eat from, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They disobeyed God and sin entered the world, this changed everything.

The second symbol - Cross

Sin changed everything except God's love for them. God provided a way to deal with the problem of sin and restore his relationship with people. This was costly, as it involved his son giving his life, paying the price for our sin. He didn't stay dead, three days later he rose proving that his love is greater than any sin.

The third symbol - Feet

God wants us to love Him and love people the way that Jesus did. Nothing can stop God's love for us. He calls us his friends. We say he's our friend forever. That's God's part done, even before we knew him. Our part is to admit we have a problem with sin, believe Jesus has dealt with that problem by dying for us and choosing to follow him everyday. That's what you prayed as you took your Big Step.

Wear your wristband as a reminder and use it to tell your story.

A close-up photograph of a man and a young girl reading a blue book together. The man is on the left, and the girl is on the right. They are both looking down at the book. The book is open, and the text is printed on the inside cover. The background is softly blurred, showing the man's face and the girl's face.

I am an
important part
of God's
BIG
story!

It's really important that you have made the Big Step, but you keep growing as you take everyday steps. At Crossway Kids we come alongside you in this journey.

FOR KIDS

- Take home sheets that help you apply the things you are learning about and talk with your parents and friends.
- A small group leader who is interested in you and will encourage you

FOR PARENTS

- Parent Cue App – things to do together with your family
- Parent Conversations - meetings scheduled throughout the year. An opportunity to consider five principles of parenting and how these can apply at home.
- Serving - be part of the Crossway Kids team by being involved in a variety of ways

