

# So what happened?



**FOUNDATIONS**  
The unique truths God has shown us through the Bible, his Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

You prayed a prayer, giving your life to Jesus

Was it real? Will my life be any different? What do I do next? What must I give up? How do I keep going?

## What this book is

Most new Christians don't have a clue about the implications of their decision, or about what to do next! So if you're feeling a bit confused, you are not alone! This guide will help.

It's NOT the answer to the whole of Christian life! It's just a hand to hold as you take your first steps.

This is the first of two booklets. Read this, then order the free sequel. See back page for details.

**The text in these boxes runs throughout the two booklets. It's about Jesus, from the Bible, to get you started!**

Every new Christian needs to read the Bible from day one! These boxes contain a third of the gospel of Mark in the two booklets. It is in the order it appears in the original, so its subject matter won't always correspond with the main text.

# chapter 1

## new life

### A new life begins

Within every seed is a miracle waiting to happen. Give it just the right amount of water, air, disturbance, light or dark, cold or heat, and time, and it will germinate.

The seed totally changes. First a tiny root, and then a shoot appears, and pushes up towards the light. The new plant with stem, leaves, flowers and fruits, is now totally unrecognisable as the tiny, hard seed it once was.

Of course the seed was not dead before – just dormant. When the water and the light penetrate our tough skin, we come alive!

For the physical world around us is a reflection of what God is doing for us spiritually as well. When we open our hearts to the Spirit of God (the water) and receive Jesus as our personal Saviour (the light), we have sent forth our first shoot! **Like the seed, all the locked-up potential within us suddenly springs into action!**

## FOUNDATIONS

### Who is God?

He is everywhere, knows everything, and is all powerful.

There are many 'gods' and many 'Lords' but only one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.

He is holy, loving, just, personal, and in charge!

### The story of Jesus from the Bible

Here begins the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, God said, 'Look, I am sending my messenger before you, and he will prepare your way. He is a voice shouting in the wilderness: Prepare a pathway for the Lord's coming!

Make a straight road for him!

This messenger was John the Baptist. He lived in the wilderness and was preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had turned from their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

He announced: "Someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am — so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"



*Christianity is not man seeking God,  
but God seeking man!*

## You were meant for eternity!

Every seed is different. Some require a long period of cold before they can grow. Others need to be burned! Some take years; some just hours.

In the same way, each of us will respond to the call of Jesus Christ in a different way – some through hearing preaching, or seeing the changed lives of friends; some by reading the Bible; some in dreams or visions; some with a simple prayer with a friend; and most of us with a combination of these over time.

But however we respond, there comes a moment when something spiritual inside us completely changes. The Bible, which is God's message to each one of us today, tells us that the old you has gone, and a new you has come. Jesus also puts it another way. He said, "*I am telling you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God without being born again.*"

And this spiritual new birth is not merely a temporary one until we die, but the beginning of an eternal life. *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

**From the day you were first born, you were meant for eternity!**

**Being 'born again'  
means spiritually.  
Flesh gives birth to  
flesh; Spirit to spirit.**

### Jesus, unlike anyone who ever lived

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. And when Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you."

Immediately the Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness. He was there for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.

Later on, after John was arrested by Herod Antipas, Jesus went to Galilee to preach God's Good News. "At last the time has come!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Turn from your sins and believe this Good News!"

Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum, and every Sabbath day he went into the syna-