



40

PICTURES
TO SHARE
WITH YOUR
FAMILY

WHO IS JESUS?

BY KATE HOX ILLUSTRATED BY JOE HOX

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	vi
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	vii
1: Jesus Is the Firstborn Over All Creation	1
2: Jesus Is the Serpent Crusher	5
3: Jesus Is the Ark and the Door	9
4: Jesus Is the One through Whom the World Is Blessed	13
5: Jesus Is the Lamb God Has Provided	17
6: Jesus Is the Stairway to Heaven	21
7: Jesus Is the Betrayed and the Savior	25
8: Jesus Is the Deliverer	29
9: Jesus Is the Passover Lamb	33
10: Jesus Is the Rock Moses Struck	37
11: Jesus Is the Mediator	41
12: Jesus Is the Tabernacle	45
13: Jesus Is the Mercy Seat	49
14: Jesus Is the One Who Is Lifted Up	53
15: Jesus Is the Star from Jacob and the Scepter from Israel	57
16: Jesus Is Our Kinsman Redeemer	61
17: Jesus Is the Great High Priest	65
18: Jesus Is the Son of David	69
19: Jesus Is Our Great Prophet	73
20: Jesus Is Greater Than Jonah	77

CONTENTS

21: Jesus Is the Horn of Our Salvation	81
22: Jesus Is the Prince of Peace	85
23: Jesus Is the Son of God	89
24: Jesus Is the Miracle Worker	93
25: Jesus Is the Cleanser	97
26: Jesus Is the Living Water	101
27: Jesus Is the Bread of Life	105
28: Jesus Is the Light of the World	109
29: Jesus Is the I AM	113
30: Jesus Is the Good Shepherd	117
31: Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life	121
32: Jesus Is Our Triumphant King	125
33: Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life	129
34: Jesus Is the True Vine	133
35: Jesus Is the Suffering Servant	137
36: Jesus Is the Firstfruits	141
37: Jesus Is the Son of Man	145
38: Jesus Is the Sender of the Spirit	149
39: Jesus Is the Last Adam	153
40: Jesus Is the Bridegroom	157
"REFLECT" ANSWERS AND SONG SUGGESTIONS	160
ENDNOTES	167
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	168

*In loving memory of my dear mom,
Doris Jean Boer. This book would not exist
without your encouragement. We love you
and can't wait to see you again in glory.*

-KH

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

ROMANS 15:4

INTRODUCTION

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). Wouldn’t you love to have been there? Can you imagine Jesus himself explaining the Scriptures, or can you guess which stories he shared? The Bible is filled with stories and pictures that point us to Jesus as the Savior, the One who can bring us back to God.

God had this plan for salvation way back in the beginning—before baby Jesus in the manger, before all those famous prophets and kings, before greats like Moses and Abraham, before Adam and Eve and their disobedience, and before the creation of people and bugs and trees and the entire world! Before it all, God had a plan to save his people—before he even created them (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:18–20)! Jesus was not God’s “Plan B” after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. The events of the Easter story were God’s great plan all along!

God has the best plan, and the biggest and best story. As we dig into his salvation story over the next forty days, we are going to keep one important question at the forefront of our minds:

Who is Jesus?

Let’s get started!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Each devotional includes a key verse, Bible passages for reference, and reflection questions. Choose whatever features are best for the various ages and attention spans in your family. Possible answers to most questions are included at the back of the book.

If your family enjoys singing as part of your devotional time, take note of the song suggestions in the back of the book corresponding to each day. Consider adding new songs your family enjoys so you can refer back to it year after year.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK FOR LENT AND EASTER

With forty days of readings, *Who Is Jesus?* fits perfectly as a family devotional leading up to Easter. If you’d like to follow the Lenten calendar, it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter. (Lent traditionally does not include Sundays, including Easter Sunday.) If you get behind, don’t worry! Day 35 is the Good Friday story, and Day 36 is the Easter story, so being a bit behind isn’t necessarily a bad thing. You may also consider lighting candles to make your devotional time special.



DAY
1

JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

In the beginning there was only God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It was just the Trinity, together. There were no humans, no animals, no plants . . . nothing. Not even dirt! Genesis tells us “the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (1:2).

It was just God in the beginning—just God and an

amazing plan. This plan involved his Son Jesus, and it also involves YOU.

God’s masterful plan was bigger and better than anything you or I could ever dream up! God would make one special planet in the midst of a vast universe reaching farther than any human mind could comprehend. This planet, named Earth, would be a place where green things would grow, and where millions of intricately designed creatures would live. Bugs would

crawl on delicate flowers, deer would dance through glowing meadows, and fish would dive in bubbling streams. God would take the empty, formless earth and make it full—full of life, color, noise, and beauty.

And then God would form human beings, special creatures made in his own likeness, in his image. These people would have the ability to know him well. They would walk and talk with him in a majestic garden. They would also be able to make choices, and sadly they would fail to make the right ones. Their disobedience and sin would separate them from God. Would it be sad? Yes. Would it be a surprise to God, proof that his plan had failed? No!

You see, in the beginning God had a plan—a plan to send his one and only Son, Jesus, to save the world by dying on a cross. God knew people would disobey him even before he created the first man Adam, but he created them anyway!

So God spoke.

He spoke and by the power of his voice he lovingly created our world. Out of the dust of the ground and the breath of his mouth, the first man, Adam, came into being, and from that man's rib came the first woman, Eve. God blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful, filling the earth with people who would rule over it and take care of it. God's wonderful plan was just beginning.

In the book of Colossians Paul gives Jesus, the center of God's plan, an important name: the firstborn over all creation (1:15). This doesn't mean that he was born first, or created first. Jesus existed before creation, and in fact *is* the Creator! To say that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation is to say that Jesus is exalted over all creation. The next verses tell us that all things are created by him and for him, and in him all things hold together. As Creator and Savior, he's the center and the focus. He's the most important, the most special, the most powerful. All creation glorifies *him*, the Savior, and he rules over it all forever.



REFLECT

1. Which persons of the Trinity were present at creation?
See Genesis 1:2, 26; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17; and Revelation 13:8.
2. Can you name what God created on each day of creation?
3. What does it mean to be created in God's image?
4. How does it make you feel to know that God created people even though he knew they would disobey him?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the "firstborn over all creation"?

BIBLE REFERENCE GENESIS 1; JOHN 1:1-3

KEY VERSE COLOSSIANS 1:15-17



DAY
2

JESUS IS THE SERPENT CRUSHER

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

GENESIS 3:15

God made a home for Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, a slice of heaven on earth. God assigned Adam to work in the garden and take care of it. Everything was perfect. Adam and Eve could eat from the Tree of Life and walk in the garden with God himself.

God gave them just one rule: they could not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God warned Adam that if he ate of it, he would surely die.

Along came a crafty serpent, the devil himself. He

tempted Eve to eat the fruit, telling her that when she ate it, she would be like God, knowing good and evil. Did Adam and Eve trust God, or would they eat the fruit?

The fruit looked so good! So Eve took a bite. Then she gave some to Adam, and he ate it too.

The world changed at that very moment. Adam and Eve had sinned. Their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked. They sewed some fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves. And they hid from God.