

Jesus came back to _____

Death wasn't the end for Jesus. Three days later, God brought him back to life again. The rescue was complete. Jesus had done what he came to do.



Jesus _____, _____ just come for Christmas!

Christmas is great – there's fun and parties and presents – and at Christmas we remember Jesus being born.

But Jesus didn't come just for Christmas. He is still alive today, living in heaven and ruling as King of everything. And the Bible says that one day Jesus will come back again. Until then, he wants us to know and love him – not just in December, but in January and February and March and...

And that's the really cracking news about Christmas – that if we trust in Jesus, we can have our sins forgiven and be friends with him for ever.

If you would like to find out more about Jesus, ask the person who gave you this leaflet, or see if you can join a group at a church where they teach the Bible.

And if you want, you might like to use this prayer to talk to God. It's the kind of prayer he loves to hear and answer:

*Dear Jesus, thank you for coming at the first Christmas.
Please help me to learn more about you. Amen.*

The real Christmas cracker

Discover what the first Christmas was really all about in this code-cracking Christmas adventure!

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Jesus was _____

▶ Copy the letters from each decoration into the spaces above.

Thousands of years before the first Christmas, God promised to send a very special person. He would be the greatest Rescuer and King the world had ever seen.

The years passed by, and God's people waited, until... 2000 years ago... God sent an angel as a messenger to say the time had nearly come.

The angel went to see a young woman called Mary. He told her she was going to be the mother of God's promised Rescuer King.

Mary was engaged to marry a man called Joseph, so God sent an angel to him too. Matthew, one of the writers of the Bible, tells us what the angel said:

Matthew chapter 1 verses 20-21

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."



Jesus was _____

God's promises came true, just as he had said. In a town called Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son. And Mary and Joseph did exactly what the angel told them: they called the boy Jesus.



Jesus had a special _____

When most babies are born, their parents choose their name. But Mary and Joseph didn't choose what to call their son. God did! And his name has a special meaning:

JESUS=XXGXOXXDX XSAXVXESXX

▶ Cross out the X's

It tells us who JESUS is – he's **God** – and what he does – he **saves** us.



Jesus was _____

Jesus was a real person. If you were around 2000 years ago, you could have seen him, talked to him and laughed with him.

But he was also God. Jesus was God himself, come to live on earth for a special reason...



Jesus came for a _____

The angel told Joseph something else. He told him *why* the baby was to be called Jesus: "because he will save his people from their sins".

Sin is doing what **we** want instead of what **God** wants. Everyone sins – and that means everyone has a big problem. Sin gets in the way between us and God. It stops us from knowing him and being his friends. And that's a problem we can't fix ourselves.

The angel said that Jesus was going to save people from their sins. But how?



Jesus _____

Jesus didn't stay a baby; he grew up. And he never sinned, not even once. Then, when he was about 33 years old, his enemies had him arrested and killed. He was nailed to a wooden cross and left to die. His enemies thought they were getting rid of him – *but they were wrong!* Jesus died for a completely different reason.

As Jesus died, all the sins of the world (all the wrongs people do) were put onto him. He took the punishment our sins deserve, so that everyone who trusts in Jesus can have their sins forgiven and be friends with God again.

That's how Jesus saves us.

