

# THE OPEN DOORS

This book begins  
and ends with a door.



# The first Door: The open Door

**WELL, the door of primary school has opened outward and you're ready to go on in life.**

You may be feeling excited.

You may be feeling a bit churned up, with a mixture of sad and happy feelings. You may be feeling that things are changing forever. And they are!

This might be a bit scary, a little uncomfortable. Perhaps you are feeling that you are leaving behind everything you ever knew, and you are going to miss the old life at primary school.

We're going to miss you too.

Goodbye is a sad word. But it also contains the best of wishes, because the word 'goodbye' comes from the old saying 'God be with you'.

So, from all of us here:

**God be with you.**

One way God is with us is in our *memories*, good and bad. God is in all our memories, whether we feel it at the time or not. Sharing the joy when the memories are good, supporting us with love and acceptance when the memories are not happy. All of these memories are precious, unique, like you.

Remember above all how much God loves you.

You are growing up.  
This is a very exciting time to be you!



# GROWING IN YOUR FAMILY

Your family have been there for you.

You may go to a new school but they will still be there.

Stay in touch - keep communicating with your family.

So much is happening that things can get muddled.

## It even happened to Jesus' family

### When Jesus was your age

When Jesus was 12, his parents Joseph and Mary took him with them to Jerusalem for the major holiday feast of the Passover. They visited the great temple in the city and caught up with many friends and relatives. When the celebrations were over, Mary and Joseph left to go home, but separately. When they were a day's journey out of the city, they joined up again.

'Where's Jesus?'

'Oh no - I thought he was with you!'

'And I thought he was with you!'

They hurried back to Jerusalem as fast as they could. For three long, anxious days they searched for him.

He wasn't with anyone they knew.

Finally, they went back to the temple.

And there he was, large as life, safe as houses, listening and talking with some of the most important and knowledgeable teachers and priests in the whole country. Jesus had been so involved in all the discussions that he had stayed behind.

His mother said: 'How could you make us so worried?'

And he said: 'Why were you even looking for me? Didn't you know I was safe here in my Father's house?'

But although he argued with them, Jesus went home with his parents and was obedient to them.

PARAPHRASED FROM THE BIBLE 'LUKE 2:41-52'

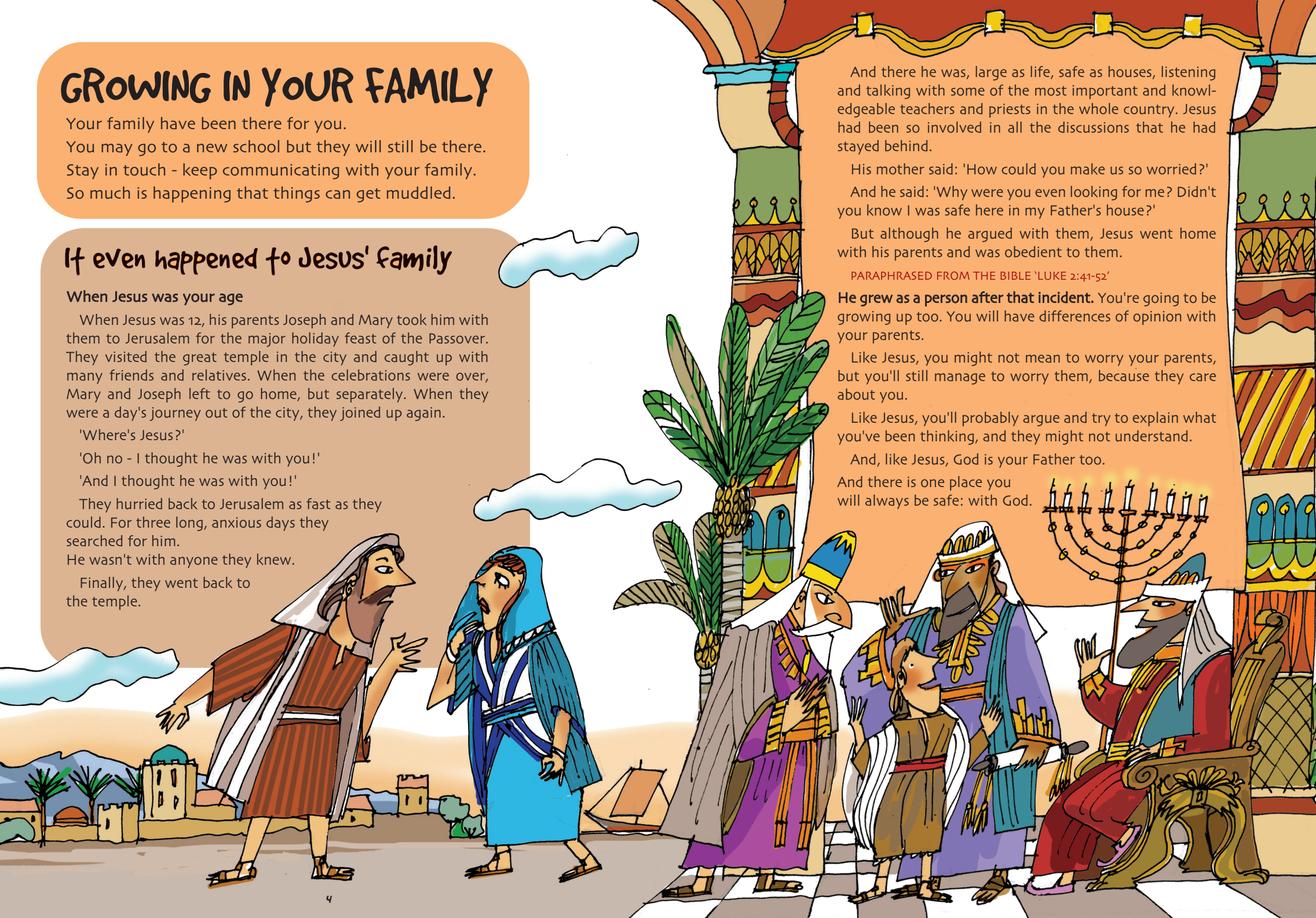
**He grew as a person after that incident.** You're going to be growing up too. You will have differences of opinion with your parents.

Like Jesus, you might not mean to worry your parents, but you'll still manage to worry them, because they care about you.

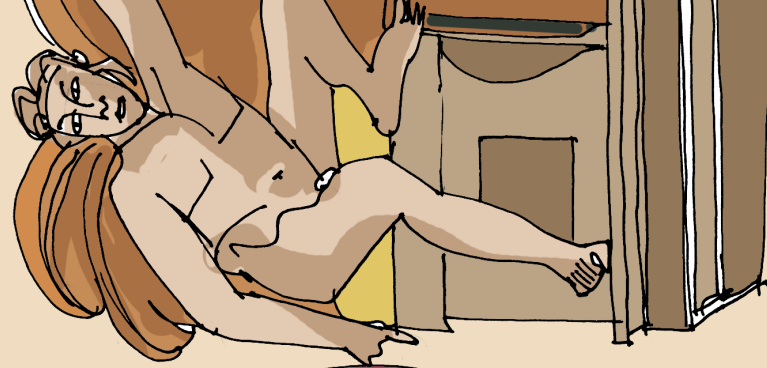
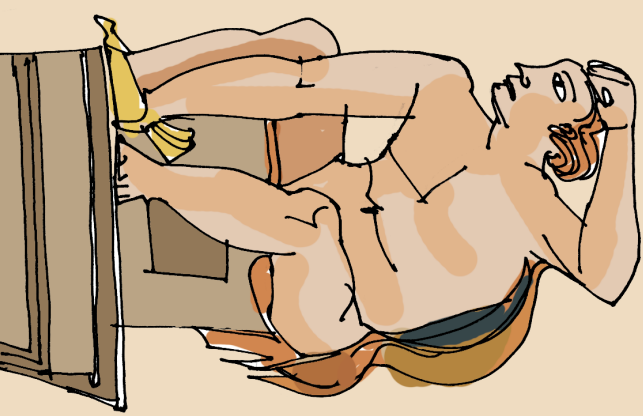
Like Jesus, you'll probably argue and try to explain what you've been thinking, and they might not understand.

And, like Jesus, God is your Father too.

And there is one place you will always be safe: with God.







# GOD IS ALWAYS THERE FOR US



- sharing the joy when the memories are good,
- supporting us with love and acceptance when the memories are not happy.

One thing to keep in your memory: God loves you. God encourages you to be the best you can be.

**but**

Even while we all sometimes struggle to be the best we can be - God loves us as we are.





CELEBRATING YOU RIGHT HERE AND NOW

# ME TODAY

THE TIME CAPSULE

My  
photo.

THINGS  
I AM GOOD AT

Memories of school: Fill in

My  
best moment  
at Primary  
School

My most embarrassing  
moment here

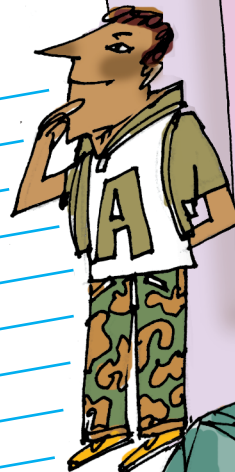
MY SIGNATURE

Top fives (people, movies, books,  
TV programs, sports, places, websites)

THINGS I WANT  
TO IMPROVE

My favourite  
subject

My least favourite subject



# HEROES

Some famous heroes past and present, real and fictional

St Francis of Assisi had a famous prayer that can be applied to all heroes, all people who bring God's love and care to others.

## 'Let Me Be A True Way'

Lord let me be a true way for your loving peace to flow;  
Where hatred grows, to bring your love wherever I may go  
When I see harm and wrong done, let me bring forgiveness there  
And when uncertainty brings doubt - faith in you, Lord, to share.  
O let me be a true way for your loving peace to flow  
Wherever despair threatens let me help your hope to show  
Wherever darkness clouds us let me help the way be bright  
Wherever there is sadness, let me bring your joy to light  
O Lord, let me not seek my own comfort  
But let me comfort anyone in need.  
And Lord, let me not seek to receive love for myself  
But give your love in thought and word and deed.  
O let me be a true way for peace to flow from you;  
In giving pardon we ourselves are pardoned all anew.  
And when we give ourselves, we receive freely from your grace;  
And when we die we are all reborn to see your loving face.

*St Francis of Assisi*



## St Francis of Assisi

Francis of Assisi was born Giovanni Francesco di Bernadone in 1181. His mother, Pica, was French, which is why the name 'Francesco' was added to his birth names. Francis's father was Pietro Bernadone, a wealthy businessman who sold textiles.

Pietro expected his son to follow in his footsteps and head the family business. For a while Francis lived the life of a rich young man, and even fought in a war. Eventually he left home and took the name Francesco di Assisi. He started an order of monks who dressed in simple grey robes and went around helping the poorest of the poor. Francis had a great love for all of God's creation. He loved all people, he loved animals and trees. He even loved fire, wind, sun and moon. He saw God's love and creative spark in everything.



## Mary MacKillop

Mary's greatest attributes were her love of God and her determination to bring education to the poor. Now St Mary of the Cross, Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop was one of eight children born in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy in 1842. She struggled against ill-health all her adult life yet managed to found the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. They were dedicated to educating the children of poor people. She managed to change the face of Catholic education in Australia. No matter how poor a family was, they were never turned away. She died in 1909.



## Nelson Mandela

Born in 1918 into one of the most violently racist societies the world has ever seen, he became a freedom fighter. Arrested by the Apartheid regime in 1962, he was convicted of sabotage and sent to serve a life sentence, mostly in the

notorious prison on Robben Island, a place of such brutality that many prisoners died before their release. After 27 years behind bars he was released. He became the first president of a non-racist and democratic South Africa. He was notable for his forgiveness of those who abused and jailed him and has promoted reconciliation and peaceful justice wherever he has travelled.

## Jamie Oliver

Born in Essex, United Kingdom in 1975, he found school very difficult as he is a dyslexia sufferer. Despite this he became famous at the age of 22 when he was noticed by a TV producer working at a renowned restaurant in London. He became a successful TV chef and made millions out of sponsorships and cookbooks. Despite having enough money to live an easy life for the rest of his days, he decided to give something back by campaigning for marginalised youth, farm animal welfare and clean organic food. He was instrumental in changing UK government policy to make school canteen food more healthy and has started a food revolution in Britain and the United States of America to encourage people to adopt more healthy eating habits. He has struggled to succeed in his school health campaigns but continues to encourage young people who come from deprived and dysfunctional backgrounds to train and find employment in the food industry.



## Bear Grylls

Edward 'Bear' Grylls was born in 1976 to a privileged family in Britain. He was an active child who often took risks. He became a Cub Scout at the age of eight and learned sailing and mountain climbing from his father. He progressed, while still in his teens, to skydiving and karate, where he earned a black belt.



When he left school he went trekking in the Himalayas. On his return he studied briefly and then joined the British Army, gaining acceptance into the elite SAS force on his second attempt.

At the age of 20 he was parachuting in Zambia when he had a bad landing and broke his spine in three places. After 18 months of intensive rehabilitation he decided to get fit enough to climb Mount Everest, a goal he achieved the following year in 1998. At that time, at 23 years of age, he was the youngest British person to climb Everest.

Since that time he has been to many places all over the world, raising money for charity by undertaking expeditions and performing various stunts (such as holding the world's highest dinner party at 7600 metres in a hot-air balloon). He became a media star when he was commissioned to do a series of programs that show people what to do if they are stranded in the wilderness. He is the Chief Scout worldwide and is a committed Christian. He has said that his faith is the backbone of his life. He says that God, his wife and children are the most important things to him. He continues to work for charity and in the media.



## Harry Potter

This fictional figure became a global hero after the books and film adaptations became wildly popular. He is notable for his courage and loyalty in the face of evil.



## Aslan

This fictional figure in C S Lewis's Narnia Chronicles bears many likenesses to Jesus. His appearances throughout the Narnia stories reflect the author's deep faith and love of God. He appears as a lion, but in The voyage of the dawn treader, he gives a strong indication of whom he represents. He tells Edmund and Lucy that they won't be able to visit