

My Friend Jesus

WRITTEN BY LIZ CELEGATO
Based on the original concept by Peter Mitchell,
author of **Make Jesus Real**



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



A BOOK
FOR LIFE

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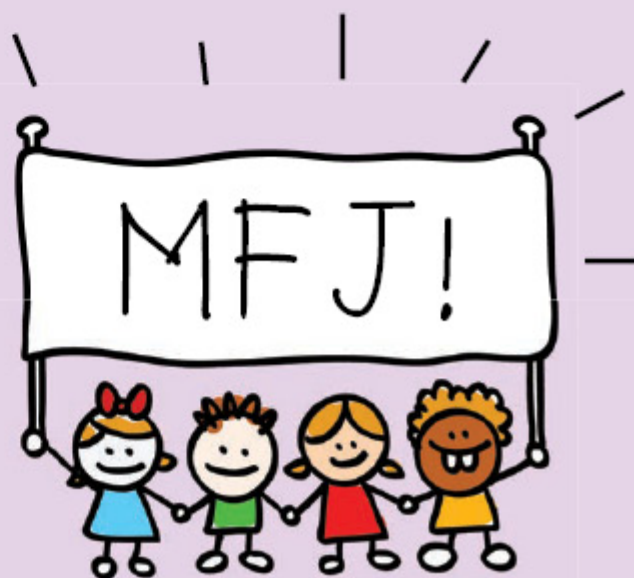
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INTRODUCTION

My Friend Jesus is an introductory resource book designed for Year K-2 students and is part of the *Make Jesus Real* series (or MJR for short). It has been written to complement the two other MJR resource books, *Spirit of Jesus* written by Jason Perry for Years 3-4, and the original *Make Jesus Real* written by Peter Mitchell for the Year 5-6 students. Each book has a similar message based on values, manners, attitudes, building resilience and encouraging us to respect and treat others in the way that Jesus did. These attributes are all intertwined with simple, yet very real spiritual teachings and relatable stories that focus on the Gospels.

This resource is a great supplement to the RE curriculum, as well as an important aid to understanding Catholic school values and being faithful to the mission of Jesus. It introduces students to MJR at the beginning of their school life in Years K-2 when they can relate to the concept of Jesus as a friend with qualities we all attribute to good friends – trust, respect and love.

My Friend Jesus is divided into 3 sections to cater for the educational range of students in Years K-2. In Section 1 Prep or Foundation level students are encouraged to 'be' more like Jesus, that is, to act and behave following the same actions and words adopted by Jesus. By looking at certain behaviours or values, educators and teachers strive to create discussion opportunities in the class and at home so as to encourage positive behaviour.

Section 2 continues with a similar theme with an emphasis on how to 'act' more like Jesus with the use of slightly more advanced language and ideals.

Section 3 emphasises the theme of how to 'live' more like Jesus and introduces the concept of looking out for (the spirit of) 'my friend Jesus' in nature and in others, in preparation for the *Spirit of Jesus* Years 3-4 resource book. It also contains journaling pages for students to record their

reflections and capture memories of these early school years.

My Friend Jesus is levelled at lower primary to lay a foundation to the MJR values and ideals explored in greater depth at middle and upper primary years. The language and rhyming structure ensures the enjoyment and the positivity it will create as students are exposed to the life-changing message of Jesus.

FROM THE AUTHOR

For Teachers

My Friend Jesus can be used as you wish – your way and within the setting and circumstances of your school – but it has been written with the intent that Section 1 is aimed specifically at Prep or Foundation level, Section 2 is aimed at Year 1 while Section 3 is written for Year 2 level students.

Each section contains a story which is written as an individual rhyming picture book with memorable prompts such as W.E.S.T. (Welcoming, Encouraging, Sorry and Thanks) and G.T.S. (Greet, Treat and Speak). There are 10 activity sheets following each story to be completed by the students which relate to the topics in the picture book. Both stories and activity sheets are valuable literacy resource tools. You will find excellent teachers' notes on the website www.makejesusreal.com.au to help you best teach the MJR way of life and learning.

Author and creator of *Make Jesus Real* Peter Mitchell says, 'MJR is not a programme – it's a way of life!'

MJR is not meant to be an additional subject added to an already busy curriculum or daily schedule – it is meant to be something that complements what you are already doing within a classroom setting and beyond. The sayings, concepts and terminology can be used during a language, PE or maths-based lesson, just as easily as it can be used during an RE lesson.

You can commit 10 minutes to MJR or a whole lesson depending on how you would like to approach it. MJR can also be a useful tool for teachers when dealing with behavioural issues where the language and terminology can be used to reach out to children and teach them right from wrong. MJR also makes students, adults and educators aware of all the wonderful things that occur throughout our normal daily lives.

The best advice I can give is to take one step at a time if you are new to MJR. You do *not* have to study it for it to be an effective teaching tool in your classroom or school. Learn the language and 'lingo' as you teach it to your students and know that there is always a helping hand not too far away via www.makejesusreal.com.au.

For Parents

This book is aimed at introducing your child/children to Catholic spirituality through relating it to their everyday behaviours.

It shows them how Jesus treated others and then highlights that by following in his footsteps – by using manners, respecting others, being helpful and using gentle hands and feet – they will discover the best way to 'live out their religion.' They will learn this through listening to rhyming stories that will introduce them to many of the existing MJR concepts and sayings (MJRisms).

When your child/children talk about these concepts and MJRisms at home, please engage in enthusiastic discussion as these concepts will be most helpful to you at home within the family environment. If you would like to know more about MJR, please feel free to obtain information on the website at www.makejesusreal.com.au or contact your child/children's school.

This book is the beginning of a journey that will carry your child/children through their Catholic primary school education and prepare them for secondary school and life in general.

About the Author

I have been a teacher aide (school officer) within the Brisbane Catholic Education school system for approximately 14 years. I have worked in all areas of schooling from Prep to Year 7 (now Year 6) and I am now the MJR Facilitator in my school.

When I was first introduced to MJR, it filled me with such hope and I could see that there would be real benefits to utilising this fantastic values education resource. It was age appropriate and very relevant to students in a time when fewer of them were receiving any form of spiritual experience outside of the school environment.

The original MJR book that Peter Mitchell (Mitch) wrote was well utilised at our school amongst senior primary school students but it started me thinking! The messages and teachings of MJR could also be just as valuable for our younger years' students, so I began to write the MJR messages and concepts into a format aimed at Prep/Foundation to Year 2.

I can honestly say that the integration of MJR has been a huge success within the early years' age group at our school and it now filters throughout our school where every student and staff member is familiar with the MJR terminology and teachings.

When our students leave us, they take everything they have learnt about MJR with them. They have learnt to see the goodness in others but probably more importantly and hopefully, they have learnt to see it in themselves.

This book has also been part of the lives of so many others as it grew from such a small idea into what it is today. Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

Kindest MJR regards,

Liz Celegato



SECTION 1





MJR are just three little letters.
It means **M**ake **J**esus **R**ead. How cool!
It spreads the word of my friend Jesus
at home and here at school.



The way that Jesus treated people
those many years ago,
is the way to live our lives today,
it's the only way to go!

ACTIVITY 1

MY FRIEND JESUS LOVES

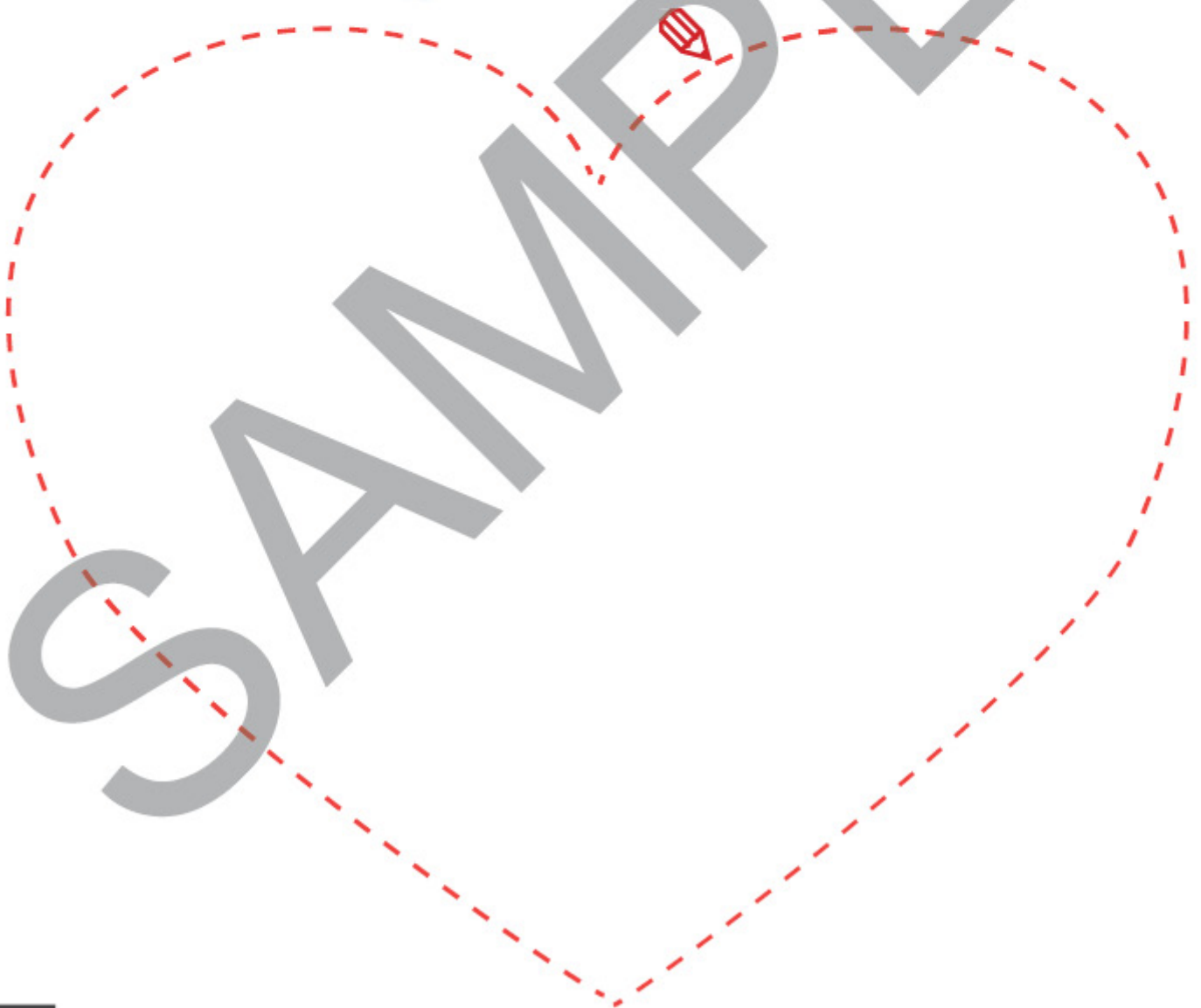


Write your name here!



The Bible tells us many stories about how Jesus treated people when he lived here on Earth.

Draw a picture below of Jesus showing **kindness** or being **caring**.



SECTION 2





How can we be *MORE* like
my friend Jesus?
Let's see what's in this book.

Today we will look at:
Attitude
Teamwork
Giving



We'll learn about attitudes, teamwork
and giving.
Let's turn the page and look!

YOUR ATTITUDE IS CONTAGIOUS

Fill in the blank space below.



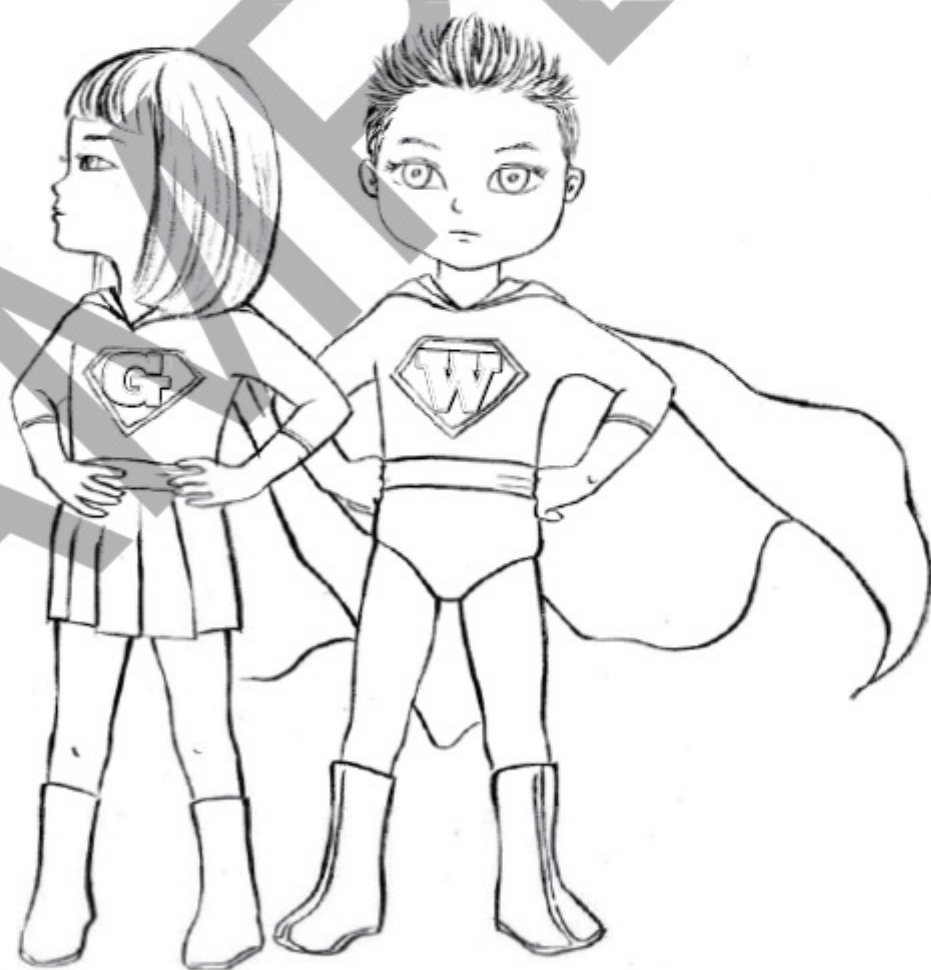
Your attitude is contagious.

Make sure yours is worth **catching**.

Colour in this picture. Trace over the words.



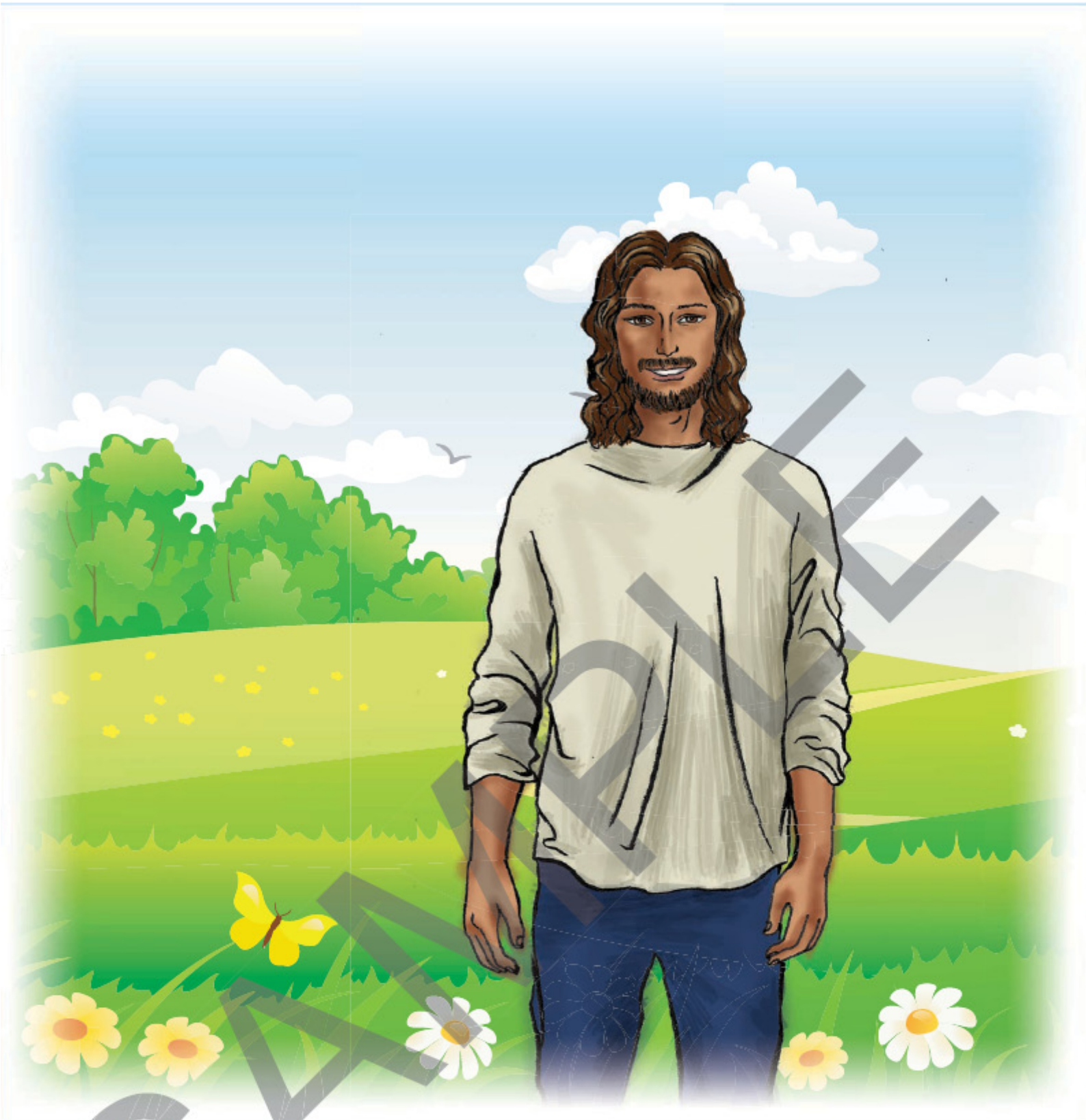
helpful kind happy sharing



Show your good attitude by how you **G**reet, **T**reat and **S**peak to others.

SECTION 3





Where is my friend Jesus today,
in our modern, everyday living?
Do you sometimes see him in our world?
Or in others who are thoughtful and giving?



Take time to look out for my friend Jesus
in the people and nature around you.
Take time to be thankful to my friend Jesus
for the wonderful things that surround you.

LOOK OUT FOR MY FRIEND JESUS

My friend Jesus is all around us, even though he no longer lives on Earth.
We see his goodness in all sorts of people who are caring, kind and loving.



Who do you know that is caring, kind and giving?
Draw them and write their names in the circles.



Look out for my friend Jesus in people around you!