

Hi Friend!

We're Oliver and Emily and we're writing to you because we are learning all about Christmas. We have heard the Nativity story lots of times and know all about Mary, Joseph, the little donkey and the birth of Jesus in a stable. Now we want to know what makes all of that so important that billions of people all over the world decide to spend their lives following Jesus.

We've heard that there are over 300 places in the Bible that point to Jesus, which were written hundreds of years before he was even born! In the next four weeks before Christmas we are going to look into some of these bits of the Bible and write to you with what we have found out.

The first bit of the Bible that we're going to look at was written by a man called Jeremiah, who was a prophet (which means that he heard God speak to him very clearly) and he lived 650 years before Jesus was born. Here's what he wrote:

The Lord says, "Soon I will make a new deal with my chosen people (the Jews). It won't be like the deal that I made with them when I led them out of Egypt, because they broke my deal, even though I was faithful like a husband to them. Instead, this is the new deal I will soon make with them," proclaims the Lord "I will put my way of living in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. They won't teach each other or tell one another, 'You need to know God' because they will all know me, from the smallest of them to the most important. And I will forgive all they've done wrong and will choose not to remember their sins anymore."

Jeremiah 31:31-34

We wonder how on Earth Jeremiah knew that God was talking to him! They must have been very certain that it was right for it to be written down and have survived over two and half thousand years to today!

The first half of it seems to be talking about when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt by parting the Red Sea and when God gave Moses the 10 commandments, but we can't figure out how that links to Jesus being born - can you??

The second bit of the passage tells us that God was going to make a new deal with His people because they couldn't keep the rules. We were wondering if this promised new deal might be something to do with Jesus coming down to Earth, it's pretty hard not to 'know God' if He is living amongst you after all!




We feel like this Bible passage has given us more questions than answers, we hope the video helps answer them and that next week's passage makes things clearer!

We will write again next week!
Oliver & Emily

Now watch the video @
www.littleoakschildrensministry.co.uk/LettersForAdvent/Week1

Think about it

Use the space below to scribble down your thoughts (questions, 'aha' moments and applications) on the letter.

Talk about it

1. What do you think it means to 'know God'?
2. How would you feel if you knew God had promised something to you but you had to wait a really long time to see it happen?
3. Do you see any similarities between Jesus and Moses? How are they different?

Take it to God

- Thank God for His new deal that means that we are His people and that we are completely forgiven
- Ask God for His Holy Spirit to give you power in following Him, remembering that he makes you brave, faithful, patient, kind, controlled and able to do the miraculous in His name!
- Tell God about any bits of the letter that you struggled with and ask for his help in understanding or believing it.

Write Back

Write back to Oliver and Emily with your thoughts and feelings on what you have read, written down and talked about. Do you have any questions for them? Do you agree with what they wrote? What is it that stands out most?