



Stories • Puzzles • Jokes • Readers' Response • Serial and more...

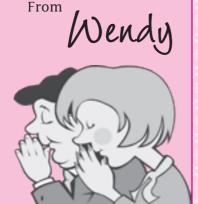
What does life as a Christian look like?

I guess that depends on who you are..

If you are a 10 year old who lives in a Christian home in NZ it will be much different to an adult who has just accepted Jesus and knows they will be persecuted for it.

The good thing is that Jesus does not change. He is with us through our life and our journey with Him and all we have to do is trust Him.

Get to know Him better today and PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!





I'm living my life with Jesus, He is my friend each day. I want to love and serve Him For He took my sins away,

I knew I was a sinner And that He died for me I asked for His forgiveness And He has set me free.

So now I try to please Him In all I do and say, Each day I read the Bible And then I also pray.

I'm glad I trusted Jesus That my sins have been forgiven And one day I will see Him When I reach my home in heaven.

Janet Fleming 10/4/11



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By Lois Farrow

Mr. Wiseman

Sophie giggled as she watched the wave return to the sea. "Look, Grandad," she said. "The water is trying to take all the sand from around my feet."

"And if you weren't sitting firmly, it would take you as well," he replied.

Sophie squealed with delight as the next wave washed over her legs.

Tim ran over from the rocks where he had been playing. "Those rocks are so hard," he said. "I scraped my leg when I jumped down and now it's bleeding." He washed the blood away in the next wave.

"That reminds me about a story Jesus told," said Grandad. "He talked about a very wise man who built his house on the rock."

"What was his name?" asked Sophie.

"Jesus didn't tell us his name, but we can call him Mr. Wiseman if you like." Grandad smiled. "The rock made such a firm foundation, that when the storms came and the waves lashed against it, like those waves out there, the house was all right."

"Wow." The children watched the powerful surging water washing over the rocks.

"The other man Jesus talked about built his house on the sand, and he was called foolish. When the waves and storms came, his house just washed away, and he had no home anymore."

"That's so sad," said Sophie.

"How did Mr. Wiseman build his house on the rock?" asked Tim. "It's so hard; you couldn't get any foundations in."

"Aha," said Grandad. "It took a lot of work you see, he had to plan and prepare and learn how to make a firm foundation."

"What do you mean?" asked Sophie.

"Well, the important things in life sometimes take a lot of work. Jesus told us to be like Mr. Wiseman, and build our lives on solid things, to think carefully about what is important, and to make wise decisions. Jesus said he is the rock, and he wants us to build our lives on him."

"How do we do that?" The children dug channels in the sand and watched the water run in rivulets back into the sea, washing the sand with it.

"Come over here and look at something." Grandad led the way across the soft dry sand to the bank by the road. "What do you see?"

"A very big Pohutakawa tree?"

"Yes, that's right. What else can you see?"

"The cliff has fallen away but the tree is still standing." $\;$

"Yes, and what else?"

"You can see the roots going down a long way into the hill, and even though the cliff has fallen, the roots are still holding the tree strong and straight."

"Well done. It's another picture God gives us in the Bible. He says we are to be like trees planted by streams of water which stay strong in hard times. Our lives grow deep roots like the tree when we enjoy reading God's word, and thinking about it all the time."

Grandad found a piece of driftwood and started drawing in the sand. He drew a bendy tree pushed sideways by the wind, and drew long roots going down, down, into the ground.

"Remember those trees we saw last week? The winds had been trying to push them over, but they stayed strong, because their roots went down deep. What do you think made their roots go so deep?"

"Looking for food and water," said Tim.

"Exactly," said Grandad.

"We need food and water to grow," broke in Sophie.

"Of course you do, to give you strong bodies. In our life as a Christian, the Bible is like our food and water; it makes us strong, and makes our character grow. When we know God's word we still trust him, even when difficult things happen."

"I want to be like Mr. Wiseman," said Tim, "and make wise choices."

"Good on you," said Grandad. "Now come on, time to get back to your Mum and Dad. You can tell them about the sand, the rocks, and the trees."

"I like that," said Sophie. "I like the way Jesus told stories using things we can see around us. It makes it easy to understand."







Josh stomped in and hurled his schoolbag onto a kitchen chair. Not even the fresh smell of homemade chocolate chip cookies cheered him up.

"It just sucks, Mum!" he said gloomily.

His mother looked up from the sink. "What does, Josh?"

"Well, at school Pete was telling us how his auntie was killed in the earthquake in Christchurch. Mum, how come God didn't protect her? Pete said she was a Christian! If God really loved her, why didn't he stop her from dying? I mean, doesn't God wants us all to be happy?"

Mum put down her dish brush. "Let's talk about this," she said. She dried her hands, poured Josh a glass of juice, and sat down with him.

"Josh, God loves us very much, but he never promised everything would always go well for us, even when we're Christians."

"But it's so unfair, Mum!" Josh said, reaching for a warm cookie. "What's the point of being a Christian then?"

Mum thought for a moment. "There are plenty of good reasons for being a Christian, Josh! For one thing, Peter's auntie is in a better place now. She's with God."

"But he could have let her stick around a bit longer," Josh grumped. "Her family needed her."

"We may never know why Pete's auntie had to die at this time," Mum said gently, "but bad things happen because the world we live in today isn't like the perfect world God created. It's become broken in lots of ways. People no longer live the way God planned for them to live, and disasters happen all over, even to good people."

Josh sighed. "So what if they do? That doesn't help Pete's cousins who now don't have a mother." "The Bible does say God loves those who are his children," Mum answered. "That includes you, me, and Pete's cousins. God cares about those little kids, Josh. And he wants us to care about them too. If we can find ways to help them, and other people who are hurting, it's like giving our hands and feet for Jesus to use."

"But why," Josh persisted, "did God let the earthquake happen in the first place?"

"None of us knows. But we do know God loves us and that we can trust him even when we don't understand. The Bible says God works everything together for good. That must mean he can bring good things even out of bad events."

"Even earthquakes?"

"Yes, even those," Mum replied quietly. "We will always have questions, but some things we can be sure of. For example, we know God wants every Christian to become more and more like Jesus. So when others go through bad times, we have a chance to serve as God's helpers. We can make life a little better for those people. Bad times can be a test for us – will we keep on trusting God, and helping others? If we pass these tests, we'll become stronger Christians."

"I don't think I'll ever be that strong," Josh said doubtfully. "Some tests are just TOO hard."

"God never sends us a test that is too hard," Mum said thoughtfully. "With every test he also provides a way for us to stand up under it."

Josh finished his juice. Suddenly his face brightened.

"I'd like Jesus to use my hands," he said. "How does that work?"

Mum hugged him. "Tell you what," she said. "Go find me an empty box. We could start by sending Pete's cousins some chocolate chip cookies!"

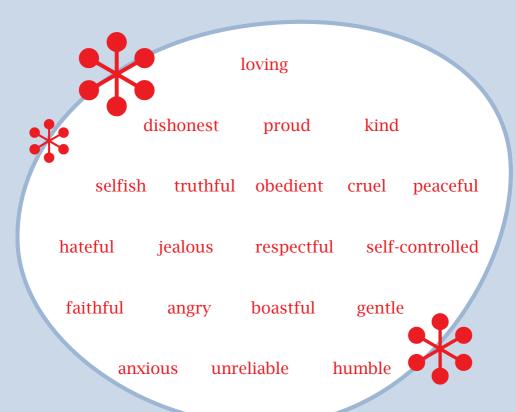
What does **a Christian life** look like?

The Bible says:

"But those who obey God's word really do love Him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in Him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did."

1 John 2: 5-6 (New Living Translation)

Put a circle round the words below that show what a true Christian life should look like.



To become a Christian

To find out how to become a Christian fit the following words in the spaces below then see if you can find them in the Wordfinder.

Hope, joy, ever, sin/s, blood, peace, forgiven, love, God, Jesus, new creation, free, born, follow, Bible, father, faith, repent, heaven, lives, name, heart.

F	A	Т	Н	E	R	E	N	X
0	R	S	E	М	A	N	E	J
R	E	E	V	0	L	E	W	E
G	P	V	E	X	w	V	С	S
ı	E	I	R	0	Н	A	R	U
V	N	L	L	E	E	E	E	S
E	Т	L	Q	P	A	Н	A	G
N	0	G	В	0	R	N	Т	0
F	A	ı	Т	Н	Т	X	ı	D
Z	D	0	0	L	В	Υ	0	J
E	L	В	ı	В	S	ı	N	S

To become a Christian you sho	ould be sorry for your _	The	word for this
is to r You need to	have in a	and know that you	can be
through the	of Jesus. When	you do this God be	ecomes your
, J becomes	your master and friend	d, and God's spirit	in your
You are now a	and	have been	again. If you are
a Christian you will want to $_$	Jesus and you	ı will have	, and
in your heart. Then	you will be truly	If you are a Chi	ristian your
is written in	_ and you have	for the future whe	en you will share
God's home for			

A little girl's testimony

The little girl lay tossing and turning in bed,
With all these thoughts running around in her head,
"I'm not very old, I'm only just eight,
There's plenty of time for me to wait,
But what if Jesus comes back today,
I'd be left behind, there's no other way.
But I don't WANT to do what I know I should,
I'd be alright, I knew I would
I know I'm a sinner, the preacher said,
But I'll be careful how I tread!"

And so these thoughts came night after night, Giving no peace and no further light, Until one night as the battle raged, The war for one soul was surely being waged, And then at last she slipped out of bed, Got on her knees and quietly said, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart tonight, I'm confessing my sins and all my fight, It's against You all this time, that I have fought, When I knew the verses that I've been taught"

Oh the relief, now the deed was done!

No more struggle against God's Son,

If Jesus came, with Him she would go

Her burden was gone that had worried her so.

But still there was one thing she must do,

That verse that said "Confess Him too"

She called to her mother, "I'm a Christian now,
I've come to Jesus the best I know how"

Time has gone by, many years have fled, Much gladness has passed and tears have been shed, But Christ has not failed, throughout the years His goodness endures in spite of all fears His promises stand, on them we can stay, Until we reach that eternal day.





Congratulations for years completed...

Eden Ballantyne Samuel Baxendine **Emily Buckham Bek Button** Zak Button less Button Marcy Downs Esther Downs Samuel Green James Harrison Glory James Matthew Knight Joyce Lau James Shivas Toa Tipeni Ogunkoya Toyin Logan Turner Harry Whiting

2 Karen Hoyland Jared Roke

3 Mikayla-Jo Beets Flynn Braun Simon De Beer Grace Finlayson Hephzibah Kwara Okonkwo Obiajulu Maegan Shivas

4 Sadie De Beer Samara Henry Lily Hutchinson Rosalie Reesby Isaac Seiuli 5 Laura Posthuma Joel Shepherd

6 Maraea Korewha

7 Chinedu Ani Helena Holtslag

8 Steven Hall Jane Ochiba Josiah Peach

11 Isaiah Elachi Clifford Obinwa 13 Allan Anthony Dorothy Lowry

20 Darryl Alexander



BIBLE READINGS

June

DAT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun	BOOK Jer. Jer.	VERSE 25:1-11 26:1-9 26:10-16 36:1-10 36:20-26 36:27-32 37:1-10 38:4-13 39:1-10 39:11-18 40:1-6 42:1-6	17 Fr 18 Sa 19 Su 20 M 21 Tu 22 W 23 Th 24 Fr 25 Sa 26 Su 27 M	at Acts In 2 Cor.	VERSE 19:1-10 19:11-20 19:28-41; 20:1 1:1-7 1:8-11 2:12-17 3:1-11 3:12-18 4:1-12 4:13-18 5:1-10 5:11-15
11	Sat	Jer.	40:1-6			*** **
13 14 15	Mon Tue Wed	Jer. Jer. Jer.	42:7- 17 43:1-7 50:1-5		de 2 Cor. ded 2 Cor. ded 2 Cor.	5:16-21 8:1-9 8:10-15

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"Hey kids - this is YOUR page - so send in (original materials) your

favourite joke, one of your own poems or prayers, a letter or a question about being a Christian and it might end up here!!"

Please send your poem, prayer, question, joke or <mark>whatever to us a</mark>t Discovery Magazine. We'd love to hear from you!

Being a Christian is like running a race - you must do your best until the end!



Psalm 37.4 says "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Most people think this means that if you put God first, He will then give you whatever natural desires you happen to have.

I interpret this verse in a slightly different way. I believe it means that if you concentrate on "delighting yourself in the Lord", He will then put His desires for you in your heart, so that they become your desires as well.

Lite as a Christian

Did you know?

- 1....that living a Christian life does not mean you will always be healthy, wealthy, popular and free from life's problems?
- ...that Jesus told his true followers to expect trouble and suffering because they would be hated
 by the world system just as it hated Him?

 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first." John 15:18
- **3.** ...that Christians have suffered for their faith and beliefs throughout the past 2000 years of church history?
- 4. ...that in many countries of the world today there is no freedom of religion. Christians are unable to gather in church buildings but must meet in secret places. Many are forbidden to own Bibles and they face grave dangers if they share their faith with others?
- 5. ...that true Christians should expect ill-treatment often called persecution and this can take many forms ranging from embarrassment to ridicule, discrimination, harassment, imprisonment and even death?
 - "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12
- 6. ...that followers of Jesus are told to rejoice when they are persecuted because suffering and hard times can strengthen their faith and make them more like Him? "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." James 1:2-3
- 7. ...that Jesus has promised to be with us in all our troubles and will give us strength for each day?

 "So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6
- **8.** ... that there will be special rewards in heaven for all Christians who have suffered for their faith? "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12

Conclusion

Don't be surprised then if people misunderstand, criticize or try to hurt you for living a Christian life. Don't give up. Continue to live as you know you should in obedience and gratitude for what God has done for you. Pleasing God is all that counts and the Christian life is the only one that brings lasting joy, peace and satisfaction

By Andrew Simpson

Life as a Christian Involves Witnessing

Living as a Christian means we have something extra special that unbelievers don't have: we have Christ in us (Romans 8:9-11)! We have believed in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and we have been amazingly forgiven, saved from our sins, and re-created as new persons inside (2 Corinthians 5:17). And even now we enjoy many of the benefits of eternal life!

These are very important truths that we can share with our friends who are not Christians. We can and must witness to (or tell) others what God has done for us (read I John I). And by living holy lives we clearly witness how God has changed us.

Why not share your testimony with others during the next week? Tell them that Jesus loves them and offers salvation to them too, and challenge them to repent from sin and believe in Jesus! He is faithful and just to forgive all sin and guarantees believers a home in Heaven!

Who Is a Witness for Christ?

A witness for Christ is a person who is...

Willing to do what God wants every time

nvolved in Christian activities

Telling others about the new life Christ offers

Not afraid to tell others about God's love

Eager to show the Fruit of the Spirit

Striving to use the gifts God has given

Serving God by serving others

Following Jesus' and His example

Obeying Christ's teachings in the Bible

Reaching out to care for others

Committed to Christ and holiness

Happy in heart for all that God has done

Renewed daily through prayer

nfluential on others by godly examples

Speaking out about God without shame

Trusting in God for all things

Witnessing is not merely an activity... it is a way of life.

Christians don't only do witnessing... they are witnesses good or bad.

Snippets of Christian Lives

I'm just a child but I can tell others what I know about God. I can read the Bible and I can pray. I can do what I think God wants me to do, and I can learn more about God. I'm a very busy person and have many things to take care of, but being a Christian means I always make time to pray. In the morning and at naver was proving and at



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I am an old lady and can't get out much. Life as a Christian for me means praying for many different people. I feel close to God and know that what I do is important.

An eight year old girl in the school playground was crying. I asked her what was wrong, and she replied that none of the other girls ever played with her. I told her that I would pray for her and ask God to give her a good friend.

As I began to pray, another girl about 100 metres away began to run towards us. She arrived just as I finished my prayer and had said 'Amen.' She looked at the girl I had been praying for and said, "Will you come and play with me?" An instant answer to prayer!

of Jessie (who interestingly was a Christian). Jessie had no doubt felt her conscience urging her to do good and she was obedient to what God said:
"Be kind to each other"

(1 Thessalonians 5:15).

The following story came out of China a few years ago.

A fairly new Christian worked for a mining company. It was part of his duties to ring a bell when it was time for the miners working underground to finish their shift and come to the surface.

One day this man kept having this little thought in his head: "Ring the bell, ring the bell." He tried to ignore the thought, reasoning that it wasn't time for the miners to come up. The thought persisted however, and the man finally gave in to it and rang the bell even though it was still too early. On hearing the bell, all the miners came up to the surface. At that moment there was an earthquake, and the whole mine collapsed.

If those miners had still been underground, they would all have been trapped and almost certainly killed. However because one man responded to the thought he had, many lives were saved. It seems God gave him a sense of danger, just like dogs and other animals always sense when an earthquake is beginning and run for safety.

Peter's Dad was a Christian. He went to church every Sunday, and to home groups during the week. He took Peter with him to church and Peter enjoyed Sunday school.

As he grew a bit older, Peter found that while he enjoyed church and Sunday school, he did not seem to have the same friendship with Jesus that most of the other children had. He watched his Dad and found that he was also different from the other fathers. His Mum, who went to Church with them, was different. Mum had a sense of calmness and love that his Dad did not.

Peter decided to investigate. He pretended that he was a P.I. That means a Private Investigator. The first thing Peter did was start a diary. He called it his 'notebook'. Each day he watched and listened to his Mum and Dad. As soon as he saw them do anything, even if it was just helping with the dishes, or doing some housework, he would write it down in his diary. Peter did that for one whole month. At the end of the month, he wrote down a list of all the things his Mum did, and beside it, a list of the things his Dad did.

The list looked something like this:

Mum	Dad
Said Prayers	Had a shower
Made breakfast	Sat at table
Said grace	Ate breakfast
Did housework	Went to work
Read the bible	Ate lunch
Worked in the garden	Worked
Prepared dinner	Arrived home
Said grace	Ate dinner
Read Bible with family	Read Bible with family
Washed the dishes	Dried thedishes
Watched television	Watched television
Said prayers	Read a book

Can you see what Peter discovered? His Mum and Dad did something different from each other. Yes, they did different types of work; Dad went to work while Mum did her work at home, BUT, the big difference was that Mum said her prayers at least twice a day. Peter knew that his Dad said his prayers but they were at a house group, or in Church or at a Church gathering. His Dad did not say personal prayers with just him and God together.

To live a Christian life you need to say your prayers. You become a Christian by accepting God as your personal Saviour, which means that you know God sent Jesus to die so that you could be God's child and have Him as your Heavenly Father. To live a Christian life though, you have to pray to God. You have to talk to him, and you have to listen to what He says in the Bible, by reading and obeying it. That way God will send the Holy Spirit to you and He will help you to pray.

Jesus said that as a Christian you should pray all the time. That means when you are at school, work, doing homework, and playing. You do not have to have a special place to pray. You can do it while you are walking, or sitting under a tree, at the park, or at the Mall.

To live as a Christian you have to talk and listen to God, and you have to do it often.

BEING A CHRISTIAN

"Aw, Grand-dad" said Josh one day when his grandfather was reprimanding him for forgetting his chores again, "I couldn't help it! You're only a hypocrite anyway!"

Grand-dad flared up (he wasn't the most patient of men!) "What do you mean, I'm a hypocrite?"

"Well, you say you're a Christian and you don't even go to church!" Josh said as a parting shot as he slouched off to feed the dog.

Grand-dad stopped and did some hard thinking. He knew Josh was right. He WAS a Christian, of that he had no doubt. But he also knew that he wasn't walking with the Lord as he should be.

For the first time for many years, he admitted the truth. He had held a grudge against some old friends who had employed him years earlier, and who had had to put him off work . He knew their business wasn't doing as well as it should have done, but he was still resentful about the whole thing.

"All right then", he thought, "I'll show Josh he's wrong!"

The next Sunday morning, he poked his head around Josh's bedroom door at the usual time instead of leaving him to lie in (Josh was living with his grandparents). "Come on, get up!" he said, "You said I was a hypocrite not going to church the other day, so get up. We're ALL going to church this morning!"

As Grand-dad sat listening to the sermon that morning, he felt he had finally come home after a long journey. A long journey filled with

resentments and bitterness. He knew that God had blessed him as he had gone on to have a successful business of his own, and he had learned that at times one has to do unpleasant things to keep a business running well. He knew now that he had been totally in the wrong.

† † † † †

Grand-dad started reading his Bible again, and Josh could see that there was a big change in both of his grandparents. They were more patient with each other and with him too. He even got to enjoy the Youth Group at the church, and thought the leader was quite a cool guy.

After some months, Grand-dad knew there was still something he had to do to get truly right with God. He had to apologise to those people he had once worked for. He knew it was his pride that had got the better of him before, and he was determined to finish his repentance off properly. After all, he was the sort of person who always got to the bottom of things and sorted them out. Josh knew that only too well!

It was only God who could bring that about. Things happened in a way that brought them in touch again. Grand-dad knew that now he had to do his part, so he made the long journey back to the city where it had all begun, taking Josh with him.

Josh could see now how different Grand-dad was and he said on the way home, "I guess you really meant what you said, Grand-dad! You aren't a hypocrite any more!"

"No", said Grand-dad, "It's only God who can make the difference!"





Two girls a world apart

Marianne is a Christian

She lives in New Zealand where there is freedom of religion and equal rights for all.

* * * * *

Marianne's parents have well paid jobs and they enjoy a good standard of living.

At school, Marianne has equal opportunities and career options with boys and has a wide choice of subjects.

Marianne loves fashion and enjoys choosing different styles and colours to wear outside her home.

Marianne is free to attend church on Sundays and can take part in other Christian activities. Bibles are freely available and she can share her faith with anyone.

Sometimes Marianne may be criticized or laughed at for her Christian beliefs and the things she refuses to do, but mostly she is free to enjoy her faith.

Marzieh is a Christian

She lives in a Muslim country where Christians are disliked and do not have freedom of religion and equal rights.

Marzieh's family is very poor. Because her parents are Christians they are prevented from getting good jobs and struggle to improve their standard of living.

* * * * *

Marzieh has little chance of getting an education because she's a girl and is poor. The Islamic law of the land (called Sharia) teaches that women and girls are of less worth than men, so Christian girls and women are especially despised and are often in danger.

* * * * *

Marzieh is expected to wear Muslim clothing and can be punished if she doesn't.

Marzieh is not free to worship publicly with other Christians and often they must meet in secret. Bibles are not permitted. Harsh punishments are imposed on Christians who share their faith and converts to Christianity are punished severely.

Life is extremely difficult for Marzieh and her family, but she knows her God is with her at all times and will never fail her.

[&]quot;Don't be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God that you belong to him." I Peter 4:16

