



"I am the way and the **truth** and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father."



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Thank you from Rob Bataev to all those who have shared their stories:

Ben, Bradley, Danny, Lauren, Nui, Phil, Sid, Sidey, Sierra, Tim, Jesse and Richard and for the photos from Sidey and Jashan. Thank you to those who helped put this together; you know who you are. A big thank you to the Bible Society in Australia. God Bless you all.....

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skaters bible

The **skaters bible** was designed by skaters for skaters. We designed this version so it would be easier to look at and read for a skater. This version of the bible is obviously a translation. We were going to leave it in the original Greek and Hebrew writings but some of us just haven't bothered to learn Greek and Hebrew!

We hope that this book will be able to help you as the Bible has helped so many millions of people all over the world. We have included personal experiences and stories scattered throughout the book. All of these experiences and stories are from the skateboard world.

"Everyone who searches will find"! God Bless.



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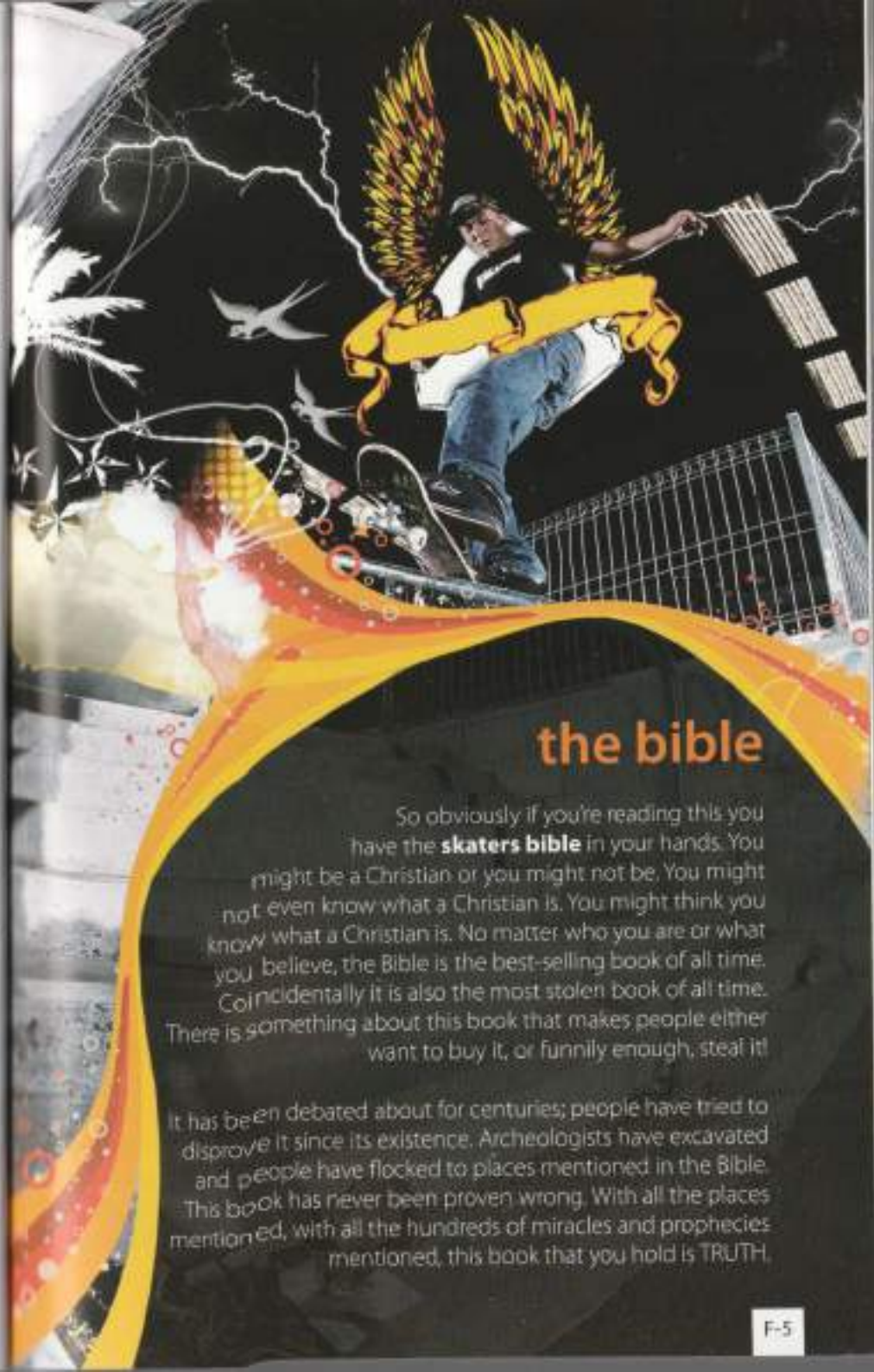
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the bible

So obviously if you're reading this you have the **skaters bible** in your hands. You might be a Christian or you might not be. You might not even know what a Christian is. You might think you know what a Christian is. No matter who you are or what you believe, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Coincidentally it is also the most stolen book of all time. There is something about this book that makes people either want to buy it, or funnily enough, steal it!

It has been debated about for centuries; people have tried to disprove it since its existence. Archeologists have excavated and people have flocked to places mentioned in the Bible. This book has never been proven wrong. With all the places mentioned, with all the hundreds of miracles and prophecies mentioned, this book that you hold is TRUTH.

going through and how to use the bible

Bibles have been used as paper weights and ornaments (looks good on a shelf), for hitting people, stepping up to reach things, storing alcohol (by cutting out the inside) and many other crazy things. ... I suggest reading it. The Bible itself is just a book but the contents have been inspired by God himself. It's an amazing book; please take the time to have a read. Below is some help on how to look up stuff in the Bible.

The Bible is not one continuous book like a novel, it is made up of many books. The entire Bible is 66 books, while the New Testament is 27 books. We suggest reading sections like certain books or chapters. Below is an explanation on how to read certain chapters and verses.

The Bible is divided into chapters.

A chapter starts when you see a large bold number on the left-hand side of the page. It will look something like this:

In each chapter you will notice small numbers in front of some words. These are called verse numbers.

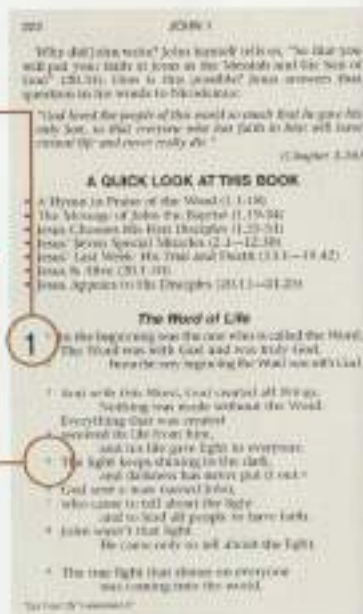
Like a street map, someone can give you a book name, chapter number and verse number so that you can find it in the Bible. For example, the location of the Bible text shown on the right is **John 1**.

The book name is **John**, the chapter number is **1** and the verse number is **5**.

This location is called a reference. Happy hunting!

The New Testament

The New Testament includes several eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus. It's about as old as the number of years in the date you're reading this on! (In case you didn't realise, our date system is based on Jesus' life!) Go on, take on the challenge and read it for yourself! (For those who want to cheat, go to the back section.)



MATTHEW ABOUT THIS BOOK

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everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world." (Chapter 28.18b-20)

A QUICK LOOK AT THIS BOOK

- The Ancestors and Birth of Jesus (1.1—2.23)
- The Message of John the Baptist (3.1-12)
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The Ancestors of Jesus

(Luke 3.23-38)

1 Jesus Christ came from the family of King David and also from the family of Abraham. And this is a list of his ancestors. ^{2-6a}From Abraham to King David, his ancestors were:

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and his brothers (Judah's sons were Perez and Zerah, and their mother was Tamar), Hezron;

Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz (his mother was Rahab), Obed (his mother was Ruth), Jesse, and King David.

^{6b-11}From David to the time of the exile in Babylon, the ancestors of Jesus were:

David, Solomon (his mother had been Uriah's wife), Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram;

Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, and Jehoiachin and his brothers.

¹²⁻¹⁶From the exile to the birth of Jesus, his ancestors were:

Jehoiachin, Shealtiel, Zerubbabel, Abiud, Eliakim, Azor, Zadok, Achim;

Eliud, Eleazer, Matthan, Jacob, and Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷There were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were also 14 from David to the exile in Babylon and 14 more to the birth of the Messiah.

The Birth of Jesus

(Luke 2.1-7)

¹⁸This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learnt that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph was a good man^a and didn't want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

²⁰While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. ²¹Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus,^b because he will save his people from their sins."

²²So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, ²³"A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

²⁴After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do. ²⁵But they didn't sleep together before her baby was born. Then Joseph named him Jesus.

The Wise Men

2 When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men^c from the east came to Jerusalem² and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east^d and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. ⁴Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

⁵They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote,

^agood man: Or "kind man," or "man who always did the right thing." ^bname him Jesus: In Hebrew the name "Jesus" means "the Lord saves." ^cwise men: People famous for studying the stars. ^dhis star in the east: Or "his star rose."

innocent disciples of mine. ⁸So the Son of Man is Lord over the Sabbath.

A Man with a Crippled Hand

(Mark 3.1-6; Luke 6.6-11)

⁹Jesus left and went into one of the Jewish meeting places, ¹⁰where there was a man whose hand was crippled. Some Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of doing something wrong, and they asked him, "Is it right to heal someone on the Sabbath?"

¹¹Jesus answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a ditch on the Sabbath, wouldn't you lift it out? ¹²People are worth much more than sheep, and so it is right to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³Then Jesus told the man, "Hold out your hand." The man did, and it became as healthy as the other one.

¹⁴The Pharisees left and started making plans to kill Jesus.

God's Chosen Servant

¹⁵When Jesus found out what was happening, he left there and large crowds followed him. He healed all of their sick people, ¹⁶but warned them not to tell anyone about him. ¹⁷So God's promise came true, just as Isaiah the prophet had said,

- ¹⁸ "Here is my chosen servant!
I love him, and he pleases me.
I will give him my Spirit,
and he will bring justice to the nations.
¹⁹ He won't shout or yell
or call out in the streets.
²⁰ He won't break off a bent reed
or put out a dying flame,
but he will make sure that justice is done.
²¹ All nations will place their hope in him."

Jesus and the Ruler of the Demons

(Mark 3.20-30; Luke 11.14-23; 12.10)

²²Some people brought to Jesus a man who was blind and couldn't talk because he had a demon in him. Jesus



ben

What does being a Christian mean to you?

I know that all my sins have been forgiven and that I have eternal life. I'm never alone because the Holy Spirit lives inside me. I know that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. God hasn't given me a spirit of fear, but a spirit of love, power and of a sound mind.

You're obviously a Christian so what's your journey been like as a skater coming to a Christian faith?

I was raised a Christian right from when I was young, so I grew up with the teaching of faith in God and in his Word. I overcome fear by trusting God's Word. God says that he's given his angels charge over me to protect me wherever I go. So I try new tricks with confidence. That's why I don't get skid marks in my underpants. I don't give a rip when people speak negatively about me. I know who I am in Christ. I'm a child of the most high God, who loves me. I don't get ticked-off and throw temper tantrums if I can't land a trick in the first few goes. God says that patience in practice builds character and eventually delivers results.

Jesus Condemns the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law of Moses

(Mark 12:38-40; Luke 11:37-52; 20:45-47)

23 ¹Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ²The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses. ³So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else.

⁴They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders and won't lift a finger to help. ⁵Everything they do is just to show off in front of others. They even make a big show of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms, and they wear big tassels^a for everyone to see. ⁶They love the best seats at banquets and the front seats in the meeting places. ⁷And when they are in the market, they like to have people greet them as their teachers.

⁸But none of you should be called a teacher. You have only one teacher, and all of you are like brothers and sisters. ⁹Don't call anyone on earth your father. All of you have the same Father in heaven. ¹⁰None of you should be called the leader. The Messiah is your only leader. ¹¹Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others. ¹²If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured.

¹³⁻¹⁴You Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses are in for trouble! You're nothing but show-offs. You lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. You won't go in yourselves, and you keep others from going in.^b

¹⁵You Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses are in for trouble! You're nothing but show-offs. You travel over land and sea to win one follower. And when

^awearing Scripture verses . . . tassels: As a sign of their love for the Lord and his teachings, the Jewish people had started wearing Scripture verses in small leather boxes. But the Pharisees tried to show off by making the boxes bigger than necessary. ^bfrom going in: Some manuscripts add, 'You Pharisees and teachers are in for trouble! And you're nothing but show-offs! You cheat widows out of their homes and then pray long prayers just to show off. So you will be punished most of all.'

bradley

What verse of the Bible stands out for you?

'Try to shine as lights among the people of this world, as you hold firmly to the message that gives life' (Philippians 2:15-16).

My testimony

Jesus was all about the people and relationships but not just the status quo.



15:19 a ring for his finger and sandals¹ for his feet. 20:1 Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. 20:2 This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate.

20:3 The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing. 20:4 So he called one of the servants over and asked, "What's going on here?"

20:5 The servant answered, "Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father ordered us to kill the best calf." 20:6 The older brother got so angry that he wouldn't even go into the house.

His father came out and begged him to go in. 20:7 But he said to his father, "For years I've worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you've never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. 20:8 This other son of yours wasted your money on prostitutes. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast."

20:9 His father replied, "My son, you're always with me, and everything I have is yours. 20:10 But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he's now alive. He was lost and has now been found."

A Dishonest Manager

16:1 Jesus said to his disciples: 16:2 A rich man once had a manager to take care of his business. But he was told that his manager was wasting money. 16:3 So the rich man called him in and said, "What's this I hear about you? Tell me what you've done! You're no longer going to work for me." 16:4 The manager said to himself, "What shall I do now that my master is going to fire me? I can't dig ditches, and I'm ashamed to beg. 16:5 I know what I'll do, so that people will welcome me into their homes after I've lost my job."

¹ring, sandals. These show that the young man's father fully accepted him as his son. A ring was a sign of high position in the family. Sandals showed that he was a son instead of a slave, since slaves did not usually wear sandals.

lauren

What does being a Christian mean to you?

A Christian is someone who believes that Jesus is God and that when he died and rose again, he took all sin on himself so all people could be forgiven and have a relationship with God in this life and eternally. As a Christian I try to make a decision every day to trust and follow Jesus and his teaching. I live in friendship with Jesus and I want to share that with others as well.

You're obviously a Christian, what's been your journey as a skater coming to a Christian faith?

When I started skating what I was really doing was trying to find God. Skating helped me to have healthy fun and focus in my life, so I stopped all my out-of-control partying and reckless endeavours.

I tried to go to church and find God but I still was trying too hard just to 'be good' and hoping this would help me find the real God.

Living up to 'goodness' got too hard and I realised I didn't know God any more than before. I met some people who were Christians and they explained to me about having a 'relationship' with Jesus and the forgiveness he is willing to give if we accept it. It isn't about being 'good' or 'perfect'. Jesus just wants to hang out with me as I am. I hadn't heard that before but I could see God was real as I saw him in these friends' lives and in the passion they had for him. I sat back and thought about it and I knew I needed to make a decision about giving my life over to God and to trust and follow him. It was 100% or nothing. He is really all right and real, or he is not at all. I chose that night to live 100% with and for God.



20 The sun will turn dark,
and the moon will be as red as blood
before the great and wonderful day
of the Lord appears.

21 Then the Lord will save everyone
who asks for his help."

22 Now, listen to what I have to say about Jesus from
Nazareth. God proved that he sent Jesus to you by
having him work miracles, wonders, and signs. All of
you know this. 23 God had already planned and decided
that Jesus would be handed over to you. So you took
him and had evil men put him to death on a cross.
24 But God set him free from death and raised him to
life. Death couldn't hold him in its power. 25 What
David said are really the words of Jesus,

"I always see the Lord near me,
and I will not be afraid
with him at my right side.

26 Because of this, my heart will be glad,
my words will be joyful, and I will live in hope.

27 The Lord won't leave me in the grave.
I am his holy one,

and he won't let my body decay.

28 He has shown me the path to life,
and he makes me glad by being near me."

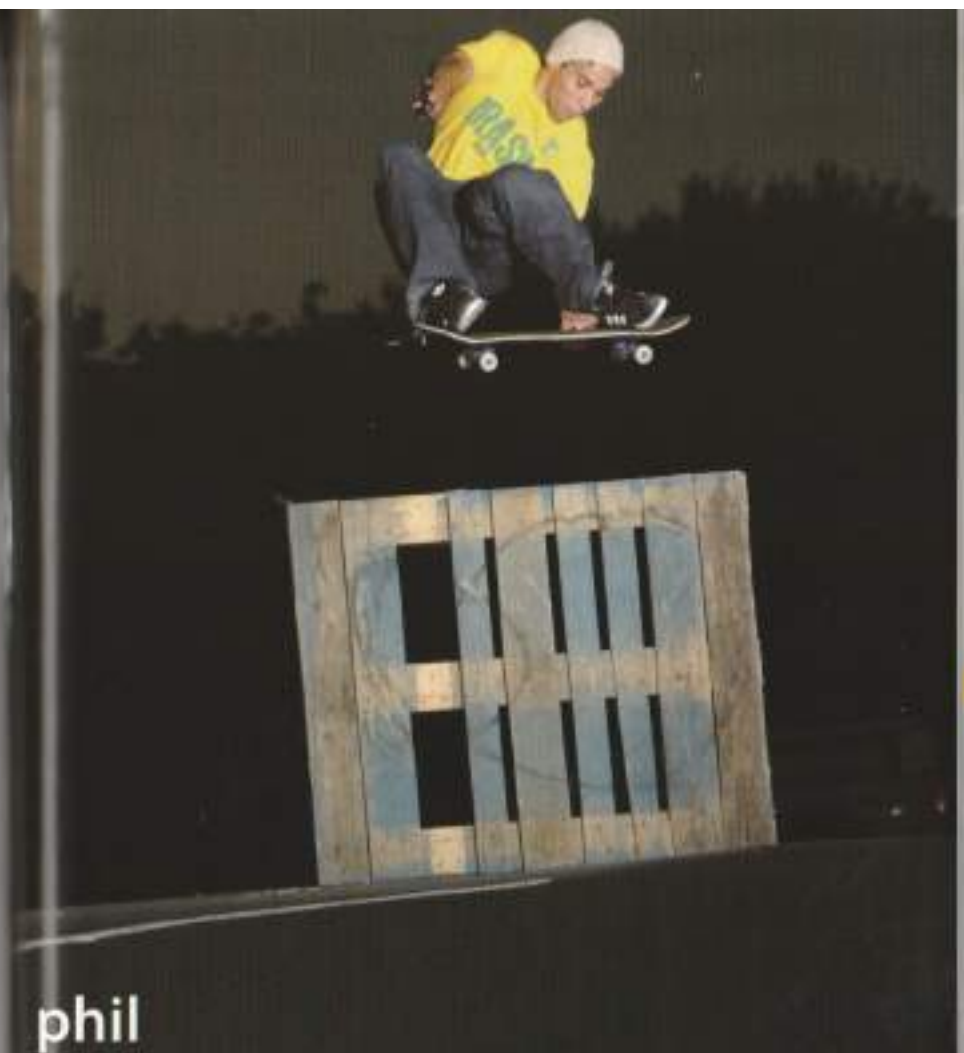
29 My friends, it is right for me to speak to you about
our ancestor David. He died and was buried, and his
tomb is still here. 30 But David was a prophet, and he
knew that God had made a promise he wouldn't
break. He had told David that someone from his own
family would some day be king.

31 David knew this would happen, and so he told us
that Christ would be raised to life. He said that God
wouldn't leave him in the grave or let his body decay.

32 All of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life!

33 Jesus was taken up to sit at the right side of God,
and he was given the Holy Spirit, just as the Father had
promised. Jesus is also the one who has given the Spirit
to us, and that's what you are now seeing and hearing.

right side: The place of honour and power.



phil

Hometown: Portland, Oregon

Favourite Trick: Kick flip

Career Highs: 9th at 2004 Tampa Am and 2001 Gravity Games

I was sitting on the porch and I think I was high at the time, because I used to smoke a lot of weed. My friend showed up and asked if I wanted to go to Skatechurch. I was sceptical; why would I want to go to a place like Skatechurch? He explained how rad it was. There were these pro skaters who went, and all these skateboard ramps. They talked about God, but ultimately it was just like all these rad skateboarders were there. I was like, OK, sure.

But then, over a period of time, I noticed something about the people who worked there. They had a love for people, and it was kinda crazy to see that kind of love. Those people had no idea who I was, but they just loved me. I wanted to know why they loved me so much.

Then one day this guy gave a talk about dying two deaths. I was taken with that because I thought you only died once. He explained that the second death is for people who don't accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour—they reject him. It was strange for me because that was what I was like. I thought they were trying to con me into getting into Christianity—that they were just trying to manipulate my emotions because I didn't want to die. But then he started talking about the love of Jesus and the fact that he came down to earth and he died for our sins so that we could have a relationship with him. "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die" (John 3:16).

I went home and said, "God, if you are real and that stuff is true, make yourself known to me." I saw for the first time that God's Word was true and it was living. God instilled in me a passion to share that love. I had wanted that love so badly in my life that I was searching for it in drugs, girls and hanging out with dudes who were doing sketchy things.

It's been exciting just learning what is right and wrong—what really and truly is being a man of integrity. It's been a struggle, but ultimately God's love prevails and he does refine you. He transforms you into the person he created you to be.

If you think he doesn't exist and he's not real, then all you can do is ask God to come into your life and show you—to make himself known to you. If he's not real, then nothing's going to happen. But if he is real and things start to happen, then just be prepared to open your heart to him, because once you do that it changes your life and you see the truth.

³⁴David didn't go up to heaven. So he wasn't talking about himself when he said, "The Lord told my Lord to sit at his right side, ³⁵until he made my Lord's enemies into a footstool for him." ³⁶Everyone in Israel should then know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, even though you put him to death on a cross.

³⁷When the people heard this, they were very upset. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "Friends, what shall we do?"

³⁸Peter said, "Turn back to God! Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit. ³⁹This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live."

⁴⁰Peter told them many other things as well. Then he said, "I beg you to save yourselves from what will happen to all these evil people." ⁴¹On that day about 3000 believed his message and were baptised. ⁴²They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread^a and prayed together.

Life among the Lord's Followers

⁴³Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. ⁴⁴All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. ⁴⁶Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, ⁴⁷while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

Peter and John Heal a Lame Man

3 ¹The time of prayer^b was about three o'clock in the afternoon,^c and Peter and John were going into the

^abroke bread. They ate together and celebrated the Lord's Supper. ^bThe time of prayer. Many of the Jewish people prayed in their homes at regular times each day (see Daniel 6:11), and on special occasions they prayed in the temple.



so now what?

If you are serious about turning to God and living his way you have to take some big steps:

- 1. Admit** to God that you've blown it, regardless of how 'good' you think you've been compared to others.
- 2. Trust.** Believe that Jesus died so that you could live. He came back to life to prove it! Ask for his forgiveness.
- 3. Change.** It is a big surrender to let God be GOD of your life. Stop doing things he doesn't want, and start doing things he does want. This is true repentance.
- 4. Follow Jesus.** This involves all aspects of life for the rest of your life. It is a lifelong adventure, with God shaping you his way. You can start by talking to God about all this. Maybe a prayer like this expresses the way you feel:

"... Jesus, I'm sorry for running my own life and rebelling against you. I'm sorry for the hurt I've brought to myself, others and you. I need the forgiveness that you paid for on the cross. Jesus, save me. I give you my life, messed up as it is. I commit myself to follow you. But I can't go it alone. Come into my life and help me to become the person you want me to be. Thank you for your promise to hear all who call on you."

becoming a christian is just the birth ... now comes a lifetime of growth!

Skaters all know that it takes daily practice and commitment to become a good skater. You can tell if someone is a poser; same with becoming a Christian. You need to practise and be committed. Here you will find some helpful ways to do that.

READ YOUR BIBLE DAILY It's the 'Manufacturer's Handbook' and will give you understanding about this new life you've started. You'd never survive skating all day without some food, how much less can you survive life without referring to God's Word! Hint: when you read, God's advice doesn't work unless you follow it! To help you get started, we've compiled a little 'Bible Trouble-Shooter' of relevant verses (see 'how to find stuff in the bible when you wouldn't have a clue where to start or look!')

TALK TO GOD We call it praying. Not like looking up and asking for no rain, or calling out just when you are in trouble (though don't feel bad about asking for help!). Keep in contact for all things. God is with you everywhere. God is a friend and you talk with friends and let them in your life. Thank him. Ask for things for others as well as asking for yourself.

GO ALONG TO CHURCH! What?! With all those old grannies and organ music? Well, some may still be that way, but not all. The Church is not a building, a ceremony or a fashion. It is God's family gathered together. So church can be in someone's living room. Christianity is a team sport. We need each other to get encouraged, to learn and to receive advice. Some churches have cell groups for specific groups just like skaters. Most people have at least one friend who is a Christian; they would love to take you to church. If not, find out if you have a Skate Church in your area. If you're not sure or need help go to www.skatechurch.org.au



DO SOMETHING FOR GOD! Yes you! You have something to offer the 'team' as well. It's good to tell others about God and your experience of him. There's a whole world of needs that God wants to meet and he uses people just like you, people who will let him reach out to the world through them. Go Skate!

ABUNDANT LIFE Jesus said (John 10:10), "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest." This full, or 'abundant,' life is not about material possessions, financial freedom or quality of life. At its foundation, the abundant life is simply knowing that we are precious to God. Understanding this, Paul the apostle was able to say, "I have learnt to be satisfied with whatever I have" (Philippians 4:11).

FEAR Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us that fear, anxiety and worry is at one extreme, and faith, peace, rest and confidence at the other. Despite what circumstances might suggest, God is still in charge and on your side. The question is whether we are on his side. Remember: "If God is on our side, can anyone be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

GOD'S GRACE Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us of another important truth: that salvation is God's gift. I had sort of figured out that God did his part to bring me to the front door, but I thought from there it was up to me and my efforts to go on from there by being 'good enough.' However, my efforts never seemed good enough. I was continually in a cycle of trying to measure up, falling short somehow, then feeling condemned and discouraged. As a result I saw God as hard to please. As I looked closer at what Jesus did on the cross, however, I saw that my relationship with God was based entirely on Christ. God is a loving Father who wants me to be with him.

GOD'S MERCY John 8:3-11 and John 3:17 remind us about God's kindness. God's kindness, often called 'grace,' is us getting the good that we don't deserve, and his mercy is when we don't get the bad that we do deserve. You know when you are caught out in the wrong, and expect to pay the price. There is little mercy in our world, but through Jesus there is hope! Seek mercy from Jesus when you have failed God, others and yourself so miserably.

SECURITY John 10:27-30, Romans 8:31-39 and 1 Peter 5:7 offer us a new kind of confidence. Our world is full of insecurity, with so many changes, 'new world orders,' wars, fears and uncertainty even in our jobs and families. Let's face it: even skating itself is insecure as the jumps are never dependable and our skating prowess and popularity will fade away. That is why it is so good to know God, who never changes and who is committed to stand with you for this life and beyond.

TEMPTATION It's important to know that being tempted is not in itself a sin (see Hebrews 4:15-16). Everyone is tempted on a fairly regular basis—it comes with being human! Giving in to temptation is sin. The more you give in, the harder it will be to stop. The less you give in the easier it will become. If you find yourself in this cycle, just know that the first step of resistance is the hardest, but it gets easier after that. For encouragement, see 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. But 1 John 1:9 shows us God's antidote when we fail.



SEX 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 and Hebrews 13:4 talk about our most intimate relationships. Sex is a bit like money. Having enough is always just out of reach! Unrealistic pursuit of either sex or money can result in addictions that God never intended us to be bound by. Sex is not equal to love. Outside the security of a committed relationship or marriage, sex can have a devastating effect. I realise now that God knew what was best all along and his rules were just there to protect us from bad consequences—1 Thessalonians 4:3.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS Ephesians 5:15 and Galatians 5:16-23 give us really good advice about lifestyle. It is all too easy to look for the escape or acceptance or freedom that mind-altering substances can bring. Being drunk or stoned also opens us up to thinking, speaking and acting in ways that make us less than God made us to be. We can in fact become 'slaves' to these things. Jesus came to bring us true freedom, under his influence. This is better for your relationships, responsibilities and even your skating.

definitions

If you've never read about Jesus before, or if it's time you 'updated' your understanding of him, we'd like to offer a few hints. We've been talking a lot about **God**, **Jesus** and **Christian**. These things mean a lot of different things to different people. Here are a few definitions to help you get started.

GOD – with a big 'G'! A.K.A. The Big Boss, Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, Lord of Lords, King of Kings, First and the Last, Creator of EVERYTHING. Absolute (which means he is there whether you believe in him or not!). God's not found in the telephone directory, but he's provided information about himself in what he has made (creation), in your conscience (being aware of right and wrong), and by giving the big tip-off in his Word—the Bible. All these point out that he full-on loves us, but he is also pure and just, and so he must punish sin (see 'sin').

SIN – is doing your own thing against God. You choose what you reckon is 'right' and 'wrong' but you miss God's standard. It's like treason or rebellion against God, whether you blatantly deny and curse him, or just keep him at a distance. Like cancer, it's in your system, even if you don't feel it, and it's gonna kill you in the end! It can't be removed by your own efforts, it needs salvation (see 'salvation').

JESUS – Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is what it's all about—God's final step in his rescue mission to save the human race. Jesus came to earth in a human body to show us what God is really like, and pay a ransom to rescue us from ourselves. Jesus paid this ransom with his own life! As we read through this book we discover some amazing things about Jesus:

1. Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Jesus' life was full of great things he did for other people.
3. Jesus was nailed to a cross, died and came back to life.
4. Jesus is still living today.

SALVATION – when you wake up to all this and realise you're LOST. You turn yourself in (ask for forgiveness), you apologise to God and you put your trust in Jesus. It's when you come alive to a REAL relationship with God and know him as a father. Some call it being 'born again' (see 'Christian').

CHRISTIAN (bible basher, religious freak or nut, born again, churchie, chriso, oh those guys, etc) – Someone who has made God boss of their life and lets God call the shots. Read ROMANS 10:9-10. Christians trust in Jesus. They are trying to obey and grow more like Jesus so that they can please and obey God. BEWARE OF RELIGIOUS IMITATIONS!

REDEEMED – 'the purchase back of something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom; the dictionary says, or 'to save from a state of sinfulness and its consequences'. The word *redeem* means 'to buy out'. The term was used specifically in reference to the purchase of a slave's freedom. The application of this term to Christ's death on the cross is very meaningful. If we are 'redeemed', then our prior condition was one of slavery. God has purchased our freedom, and we are no longer in bondage to sin.

how to find stuff in the Bible when you wouldn't have a clue where to start or look!

You wonder if you're a Christian/Saved

Romans 10:9-10

You wonder if God can forgive you

Mark 2:1-12, 1 John 1:8-2:2

You're stressing out

Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7, Romans 8:37-39

You are afraid of the devil

Mark 1:21-27, James 4:7, Matthew 25:41

You wonder if you're 'real' as a Christian

Mark 4:3-20, 1 John 2:4, 3:16-19, 4:1-3

You want to know the cost in following Jesus

Mark 8:34-38, Romans 12:1-2

You wonder if being a

Christian is worth it

Mark 10:28-31, Romans 8:17

You feel like giving up

Hebrews 10:35-39, 4:14-16,

Romans 8:28-38

You want God's advice

about family

Ephesians 5:21-6:4, Mark 10:2-9

You find it hard to forgive

Matthew 18:21-35,

Colossians 3:12-15

You wonder if you

should obey the law

Mark 12:13-17,

Romans 13:1-7

You want to do the

best thing for God

Mark 12:28-34

You want to know

about the end of

the world

Mark 13:1-37,

Matthew 24:36-51



where to look when...

You're tempted with sex/drugs/alcohol

1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Proverbs 23:20, 20:1

Your situation is changing

Philippians 4:12-13

You can't handle church

Hebrews 10:25; 13:17, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

You are hassled for being a Christian

1 Peter 4:12-19, John 15:18-21

You are tempted to do wrong

1 Corinthians 10:13, Psalm 119:9, 11

You are facing trouble in your life

James 1:2-8

You need to watch your language

James 3:2-12, Ephesians 4:29, 5:4

You are unsure about whether you should work

Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

where to find...

Why Did Jesus have to die?

John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:23

God's big Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

The Prodigal Son - blows it and comes home

Luke 15:11-32

The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 23

Creation of the world

Genesis 1

Adam and Eve and their BIG mistake

Genesis 2-3

Jesus' famous speech about being a real Christian

Matthew 5:1-16

Please note: Some of the above Scriptures are in the Old Testament; you'll need to get the full Bible for that!

essential truth one the Bible

WHAT

The Bible is God's inspired, authoritative, and infallible revelation of himself to humankind. It is the source for objective truth and for right belief and behaviour. But ultimately, the Bible's primary purpose is to teach people about God and transform them by the saving work of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

WHERE

- The people of God under the inspiration of God wrote the Bible (see 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16).
- The Scriptures are infallible and without error in the purposes for which God intended them (see 2 Timothy 3:16).
- God inspired the Bible to teach us and direct us (see Romans 15:4; Psalm 119:105).
- We should not add to or take away from the Word of God (see Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18, 19).

- The Bible is authoritative and binding and every detail of it will be fulfilled (see Matthew 5:17-18; John 10:35).
- Jesus Himself attested to the inspiration of Scripture (see Matthew 26:31, 54; Mark 9:12-13; 14:27; John 13:18; 17:12).

WHY

The Bible is essential because it is God's inspired Word. It is accurate, authentic, and true. Not until the modern era was the inspiration of Scripture even doubted. It was always considered to be God's Word by the people of God, the Son of God, and the early apostles and church. It is important to note that no one created the canon of Scripture, that is, the 66 books which comprise the Bible; the church merely recognized its authenticity and apostolicity through meetings such as the Council of Carthage in A.D. 397. More than anything, the Bible is essential because it contains the very words of God. The Bible reveals the heart, mind, and will of God. If we want to know God, we need to get to know his Word. For from it, flow the wells of salvation.

essential truth two the nature of Christ

WHAT

From the early believers to present-day Christians, the church has confessed that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. He is fully God and fully man. Jesus is the perfect union of two distinct but never separate natures—one human and one divine—in one eternal person.

WHERE

The incarnation of Christ is supported throughout Scripture, where Christ is revealed as being fully God and fully man:

Fully God . . .

- In him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily (see Colossians 2.9).
- He is eternal (see John 1.1; 8.58; 17.5).
- He is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and immutable (see Matthew 28.20; John 16.30; John 5.19; Hebrews 1.12; 13.8).
- He is Creator (see John 1.3; Colossians 1.16).
- He forgives sins (see Matthew 9.2; Luke 7.47).
- He raises the dead (see John 5.25).
- He executes judgment (see John 5.22).
- He is identified with the Old Testament Yahweh (see John 8.58).
- He accepts divine worship (see Matthew 14.33; 28.9; John 20.28-29).
- He possesses divine names (see Revelation 22.13; Matthew 1.22; Luke 1.43; John 1.1; 10.36; 2 Peter 1.1).
- He is the centre of all history and eternity (see Ephesians 1.10; Colossians 1.18; Revelation 1.8).

Fully Man . . .

- He was born of a virgin (see Matthew 1.18-2.11; Luke 1.30-38).
- He had a human body (see Matthew 26.12; John 2.21).
- He possessed reason and will (see Matthew 26.38; Mark 2.8).
- He became weary, hungry, and thirsty (see John 4.6; Matthew 4.2; John 19.28).
- He was tempted but sinless (see Matthew 4; Hebrews 4.15).
- People called him a man (see John 10.33).
- He suffered and died on a Roman cross (see Luke 23.33, 46).

WHY

Jesus' ability to reveal God and offer salvation to us depends upon his being fully God and fully man. If he was not fully man, then he could not have died for our sins and lived for our righteousness. If he was not fully God, then he could not have forgiven our sins; nor could he be worthy of our worship. Ultimately, a right belief in Jesus Christ is essential to our salvation.



essential truth three the resurrection of Christ

WHAT

The resurrection affirms that God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day in fulfillment of the Scriptures. The resurrection is so essential to Christianity that the apostle Paul declared that the Christian message and belief are meaningless without it (see 1 Corinthians 15:14).

WHERE

Despite what some might claim, the Bible is emphatic that Christ rose from the dead:

- That Christ would be raised from the dead (see Psalm 16:10; 49:15; Mark 16:6-7; Matthew 28:2-7).
- Christ predicts his own resurrection (see Matthew 20:17—19:27-28).
- The resurrection declares Jesus as the Son of God (see Romans 5:3, 4).
- Christ rose from the dead on the third day (see 1 Corinthians 15:3; Acts 10:40-41).
- The apostles proclaimed the resurrection as a part of preaching the gospel (see Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:10).
- Christ rose from the dead for our justification (see Romans 4:25).

WHY

The resurrection is essential to our faith because it represents God's victory over sin and death and affirms his intended purpose for Jesus Christ (see Romans 1:4). It proves that Jesus is who he said he was, and provides us with the hope that we too will have a future bodily resurrection like Jesus did (see Romans 6:5).

essential truth four the gospel message

WHAT

The gospel is the Good News of the saving work of God in his Son Jesus Christ and a call to faith in him (see Romans 1:16-17). It is God's plan of salvation that was set in motion in his people Israel, fulfilled in his Son Jesus Christ, and proclaimed by his church.

WHERE

The gospel message ought to include these core elements whenever it is shared:

- The proclamation of Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation as fulfillment of the Scriptures (see 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).
- The confession of belief that Jesus is both Lord and Saviour (see Romans 10:9).
- The summons to repent and receive the forgiveness of sins (see Acts 3:19).
- The only way to be saved and reconciled to God is by grace through faith, made possible through the saving work of Christ (see Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:17).

WHY

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the pulling together of all the points we have covered. It is important that we get the gospel message right, because it is God's plan to save the world from its sins. Any other plan will not suffice. Belief in the risen Christ as Lord and Saviour stands as the only way to the Father (see John 14:6).

