You can be Jesus’ friend too!

Katherine Zell

John Wycliffe

Robert Walpole

William Wilberforce

George Whitefield

Susan Wesley

John Wesley

Charles Wesley

William Tyndale

Liias Trottier

Hudson Taylor

C. T. Studd

Charles Spurgeon

Mary Slessor

Lord Shaftesbury

Selina, Countess of Huntingdon

Rembrandt

Robert Raikes

Patrick

Rosa Parks

Florence Nightingale

John Newton

George Whitefield

Henri Mora

Dwight L. Moody

Martin Luther

Karl Barth

C. S. Lewis

John Knox

Adoniram Judson

Mary Jones

Maria von Trumbach

Billy Graham

Jim and Eleanor Elliott

Edward V I

Fanny Crosby

John Chrysostom

George Washington Carver

Amy Carmichael

William Carey

John Calvin

John Bunyan

William and Catherine Booth

Corrie ten Boom

Thomas Barnardo

John Sebastian Bach

George Handel

Augustine

Brother Andrew

A note to parents and careers

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A note to parents

There are loads of Christian biographies around for older children and adults, but almost none for younger children - yet it is never too early to introduce the next generation to some of the heroes of the faith. These are people from hundreds of years ago and people still living. Some are very well known while some are almost unheard of. Jesus has always had and always will have friends in all shapes, sizes and colours, from all different countries and backgrounds. My hope and prayer is that, as you read about these remarkable men and women with your child, you will both realise that anyone who is a friend of Jesus can do remarkable things for him - even you!

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Hebrews 13:8
What do you like most about going to church? Bible stories? Singing? Meeting friends?

But Brother Andrew and his friends are still hoping.

And there are still lots where it is not safe at all. It is still difficult and dangerous to help Jesus' friends in those countries.

Not in some of those countries it is now safe to be Jesus' friends.

Jesus' friends told stories, sang songs, and other Bible stories to help Jesus' friends understand who Jesus is and what he said and did. People often needed Bibles to read - but how could they get Bibles into countries where it is dangerous to be friends with Jesus? Andrew's friend Jesus looked after him - and the Bible.

Time after time Andrew took cars stuffed with Bibles to countries where Bibles were not allowed. There were soldiers and spies and secret police; it was difficult; it was dangerous. Time after time Andrew's friend Jesus looked after him - and the Bible.

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Meeting friends.
Augustine (354–430)

Do you ever get told off by your teacher or by your mum? Do you sometimes not do what you are told? Some children find it easy to be good – some don't!

Augustine didn't find it easy to be good. He enjoyed doing naughty things. His mother was Jesus' friend – but Augustine wasn't. He was having too much fun to bother with Jesus. He took things that weren't his. He didn't do what his mother told him. He thought this was funny. It made his mother sad. She asked Jesus to show Augustine that the things he did were wrong.

Then, one day, he was in the garden. He heard a child say, "Pick it up and read it!" But there was no one there. What could it mean? Then he saw his friend's Bible on the ground. He picked it up and read it. The story he read was one that he had never seen before. It was a story about a boy named Augustine. He was bad and made his mother sad. The story told him that Jesus could forgive him for all the bad things he had done.

Augustine grew up. He still did naughty things. He still made his mother sad. He didn't want to stop just yet … But then he was in the garden again. He heard a child say, "Pick it up and read it!" But there was no one there. What could it mean? Then he saw his friend's Bible on the ground. He picked it up and read it. He read that Jesus could forgive him for all the bad things he had done. He read that Jesus could help him stop doing bad things. He read that Jesus could make him a good boy.

Augustine became Jesus' friend. His mum was so happy.

Psalm 25:7

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways: according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

Change anything. Even though Augustine had been a naughty boy, Augustine became Jesus' friend. His mum was so happy.

Psalm 25:7

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways: according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.
Are you good at lots of things, or a few things, or do you feel just ordinary? Gladys Aylward was just ordinary. She was not very clever – just ordinary. She was not very rich – just ordinary. Her job wasn’t special – just ordinary. She worked as a maid in a rich home, tidying and cleaning.

Some people thought Gladys was too ordinary – but Jesus extraordinary. So Gladys went on her own.

With the help of her extraordinary friend Jesus, ordinary Gladys did some extraordinary things. She ran a hotel in the middle of nowhere and told Bible stories to the travellers. She worked for the government and did odd jobs to help the villagers. She was a newspaper boy, and worked in a hotel, but the people all liked her. She helped the prisoners escape from danger. She helped the children escape the mountains to escape the fighting. Gladys had some extraordinary adventures!

Some people thought Gladys was too ordinary – but Jesus didn’t. Jesus can help his ordinary friends like you, me and Gladys. You can be extraordinary too.

Psalm 149:4

"For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory."

(1902–1970)

Gladys Aylward
Can you play a musical instrument? Do you have lessons on the piano or recorder? Perhaps you just like making music for fun.

When Johann Sebastian Bach was growing up in Germany he loved playing music. He played the violin ... and the viola ... and he played the organ. He also played the harpsichord and the clavichord (which was like an old-fashioned piano) ... and he was really good at singing. Johann Sebastian loved music, but he loved Jesus too. Sometimes he wrote music for church. He wrote new music for old church songs. He wrote special happy music for Easter Sunday and Christmas. He wrote special sad music for Good Friday when Jesus died. He wrote all his music to show how much he loved Jesus. He knew that Jesus helped him write all his beautiful music.

When he grew up, Johann Sebastian's job was to play music and sing in church. He could just play and sing the new music too. When he grew up, Johann Sebastian loved music to show how much he loved his friend Jesus.

Why not ask Jesus to help you make up a tune to show him how much you love him too.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre ... petition with musical instruments.
Corrie ten Boom

Do you like hiding? Do you have a favourite hiding place? Behind the sofa? Under the bed? In the wardrobe?

Corrie ten Boom had a very special hiding place - a tiny little space in her bedroom. It was hidden and secret. Corrie lived in Holland. Bad people took over the country and did very bad things. They wanted to kill all Jewish people (who come from the family of Abraham in the Old Testament). Corrie's family were Jesus' friends and helped the Jews - but the Jewish people were safe in Corrie's special hiding place. They sent the whole family to prison for helping the Jews but the Jewish people were safe in Corrie's special hiding place.

When they were cold, hungry and badly treated, Betsie told Corrie and her sister Betsie were treated very badly. Betsie told Corrie that their friend Jesus was with them - even when they were cold, hungry and badly treated. Betsie told Corrie that Jesus was always with them. When they were cold, hungry and badly treated, Jesus was with them and told Corrie and her sister Betsie were safe in prison. When they were cold, hungry and badly treated, Corrie and her sister were safe in prison. They helped the Jews - but the Jewish people were safe in Corrie's special hiding place.

You are my hiding-place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance."  

Psalm 32:7

Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)