

Chapter 1     ***Good News***

I have called you friends. *John 15:15*

**To the Parents:**

In chapter 1 your child learned the following:

- To explain Jesus as the Good News from God
- To describe ways to be a good friend and Good News to others
- To give examples of how to live as friends of Jesus

When you pick up a newspaper, the front-page heads lead you to stories inside. A news magazine features a cover story and blurbs about high-interest stories. The television news anchor appears on the screen during a commercial to advise you about stories to come, saying “This story and more, right after these messages.”

All of these teasers and previews are nothing new. The Hebrew people had previews. John the Baptist was the last of a long line of prophets sent by God to prepare the people for the Messiah who was to come. Still, the people needed to hear the whole story.

Unlike many of the news stories you read in the paper or hear on the radio or television reports, the news that Jesus brought was good. In a world that is sorely in need of good news, Jesus *is* the Good News. A follower of Jesus is always watching for this Good News.

One of the hallmarks of a Christian is hope. Instead of giving up, Christians become involved in making positive changes. Instead of despairing, Christians remember that Jesus was strengthened by the Spirit and that they will be, too.

**With Your Child:**

1. Find ways that everyone in the family can be kinder to each other this week.
2. Take a few minutes each night to share good news with each other. Tell how you were a friend to Jesus today, or how someone was a good friend to you.
3. Together read the story of Cosmas and Damian on the Review and Explore page.