

Ephesians 3.1-13

The gospel



The passage which we'll be looking at in the Bible today is all about 'good news'.

THE good news! In fact the *best* news ever.

That's what the word 'gospel' really means – 'good news'.

So let's start by thinking about things which might be 'good news

look at the pictures and see if you can say what the 'good news' is – write alongside the picture what the 'good news' is



a 'mystery'

In today's passage Paul described the 'gospel' as a 'mystery': read through the passage in the box and colour in the word 'mystery' every time you see it!



Paul didn't mean that the good news about Jesus was really weird!

Nor did he mean that no one could really understand it!

He meant that **we need God** to help us see it.



**You don't know what's inside the parcel ..
until it's opened for you!**

Ephesians 3.1-13

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

So we'll have a think about **how** God helps us see the good news.

**Read this short story from the Bible:
you'll find it in Mark 8.22-26**



What happened in the story?

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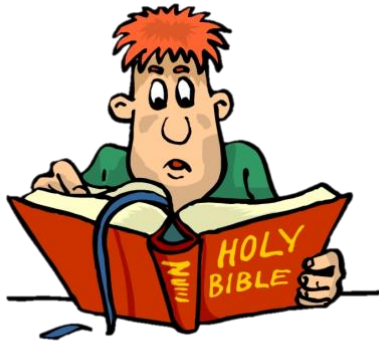
The man started to see only gradually.

What did he say he saw to start with?

Try drawing a picture here of what he said he saw!



Here are the three main ways God 'opens our eyes' and helps us to see and understand the good news of Jesus.



1. the Bible

How many books are there in the Bible?

Draw a circle round what you think is the correct answer!

3 22 50 66 87 111 150

The Bible is God's special book: **He is the author!** He's given us the Bible to tell us what we need to know about Jesus.

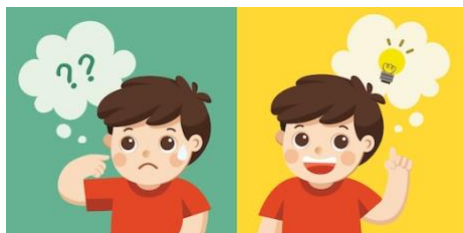
2. Bible teachers

God also gives us people to teach and explain the Bible to us.

Write the names of the tiles below



people who teach you the Bible in



3. the Holy Spirit

God helps us by His Spirit to understand what we're being taught!

Ask God to help you 'see' clearly the message about Jesus!

More 'mysteries'!

Hidden Pictures: Jesus Healed a Blind Man

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, crown, fish, jug, moon, necktie, needle and thread, snail, sock, star.



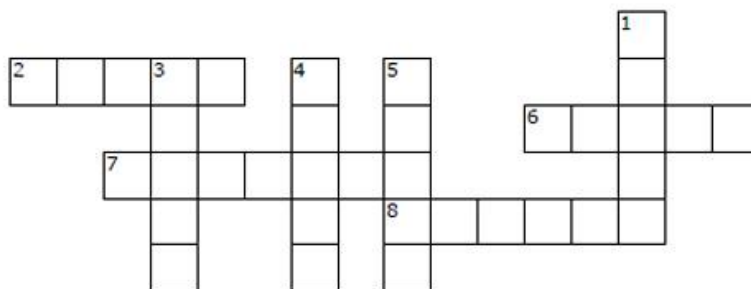
Try colouring in the picture too!

Now try this cross-word about another man whom Jesus helped to see

(the answers are all given in the box below the clues)

Blind Bartimaeus

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." Mark 10:51 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. Kind or compassionate treatment
6. Making little or no noise
7. Making an urgent plea; asking for charity
8. To be restored to health; cured

DOWN

1. Unable to see
3. To make happier or more joyful; a shout of encouragement
4. Confident belief in the truth
5. The ability to see

blind	mercy	cheer	healed
begging	quiet	faith	sight