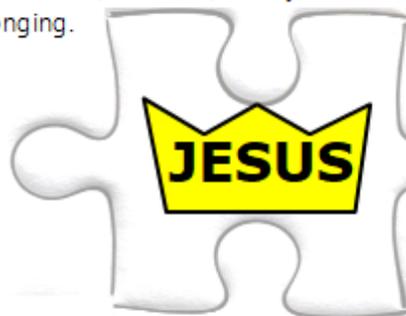


## What's missing?

Do you ever feel, "If I just had \_\_\_\_\_, I'd be happy and fulfilled"? What would you put in the blank? Perhaps much of your life is sorted, but there's just something missing.

For many, it's a sense of meaning or purpose that's absent. Others lack freedom, unable to do what they want. Some are desperate for security: physical, financial or emotional. Maybe you wish you had good health, a home, family, friends, work, or a feeling of belonging.



## Can we 'have it all'?

The Bible tells of a man who had a wife and children, vast wealth and a highly respectable job as the chief official for the king. He had family, riches, power, honour, security and purpose. He 'had it all!' Yet he admitted to his friends "All this gives me no satisfaction"<sup>1</sup>. Something was missing.

Even religion couldn't do it for one young man. He came to Jesus, knowing that something was missing. Jesus identified that, though religious, God wasn't first in his life.

## The God-shaped hole

The renowned physicist and Christian philosopher, Blaise Pascal, said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of everyone, which cannot be filled by any created thing; only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus"<sup>2</sup>.

If we look to fill what's missing in our lives with anything other than God, then we'll be forever dissatisfied.

## We need Jesus

Jesus invited that young man, "Come, follow me!"<sup>3</sup>. As we try to fill the hole in our lives, Jesus calls us to turn from looking elsewhere. He invites us to receive himself as our missing piece. He says we should ask God to forgive us for keeping him out of our lives. He gave up his life on a cross and rose again, so we might be forgiven.

God tells us now to take Jesus as our King, living to honour him. All who genuinely do so, find what was truly missing. Their life becomes complete. Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth and the life"<sup>4</sup>, and proclaims, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"<sup>5</sup>.

Lord God, as I've looked to fill what was missing in my life, I've ignored you and your Son, Jesus. I'm truly sorry, please forgive me. Lord Jesus, please rule as King of my life forever. Amen.

