Day 22 Christ

*The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). John 1:41*

Do you know anyone who speaks more than one language? Perhaps you speak more than one. Sometimes people speak English at school, at work, or when shopping, but at home they speak a different language.

At the time of Jesus, this was the case for lots of people. You might remember that the Old Testament was written in Hebrew. The word Messiah was a Hebrew word that meant the Anointed One or the king. Jesus spoke in a language called Aramaic. But the language that was most easily understood in lots and lots of countries near where Jesus lived, was Greek. So when Jesus’ followers wanted other people to know about him, they wrote the books of the New Testament in Greek.

Messiah was a Jewish word. They wanted to use a Greek word to help people understand that Jesus was God’s Anointed One, his King. There was a Greek word that meant ‘someone anointed’ and it was ‘Christos’. We translate it into English as ‘Christ’. That’s all a bit complicated!

So, what’s important to remember? It’s this. When Jesus’ followers said that Jesus was the Christ, they were saying he was God’s King. He was the Messiah King that the Jewish people had been waiting for. He was the King who was at the center of everything God was doing in the world.

You can think of it like this. ‘Jesus Christ’ means ‘Jesus the King’. ‘Christ Jesus’ means ‘King Jesus’. It doesn’t really matter which way round you put it.

Being a Christian is about knowing, trusting, and following Jesus as Christ the King.

He is a wonderful, welcoming, loving King. A King who says, ‘Follow me’ and live my way and you will enjoy life with me forever.