

# Biographies Level 4

The following biographies are studied in *Themes for Christian Studies* Level 4

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## Mary Jones and her Bible

Mary Jones was a girl who lived in Wales more than 200 years ago. If you look at a map of Great Britain you will find Wales next to England. In those days the people of Wales didn't speak English. They only spoke their own language, Welsh.

Mary started school when she was nine years old and soon became a very good reader. At school there was a big Bible written in Welsh. One day she was asked by the teacher to read aloud from the Bible. Mary was excited. She loved the Bible stories and was now able to read them for herself.

She told her parents about her opportunity to read the Bible at school, but at the same time felt sad that there was no Bible at home. Her family was poor and could not afford to buy a Bible.

Mary decided that she would save up to buy one, no matter how long it took. Mary worked hard. She collected fire-wood and helped her neighbours with cleaning and baby-sitting. Every job earned her a few pennies. Finally, after six years she had enough money.

Mary was fifteen now. She knew of a man who sold Bibles in a village 40 kilometres away. Mary decided to go to see this man.

"How will you get there?" asked her parents.

"I'll walk," said Mary. "I know I can walk that far."

"We will pray that God will keep you safe," said her parents.

Mary had only one pair of shoes. She knew that she couldn't afford them to wear out, so she decided to walk barefoot. It was rough and stony. Mary's feet became sore but she pressed on. Finally, she arrived at the village.

"Can you direct me to the house of Mr. Charles?" she asked a friendly minister. The minister took her to the home of Mr. Charles.

"I'm so sorry, Mary," said Mr. Charles, "but I only have one Bible left and I have already promised that to a friend."

Mary started to cry. Mr. Charles felt sad too.

"Mary," he said, "I will let you have the Bible. My friend can have an English Bible while I am waiting to get some more."

Mary's tearful face quickly changed to a happy one.

The next day she started the long journey home with her Bible under her arm. After some days she arrived home. How happy her parents were to see her. God had protected Mary and helped her to get the Bible. Now they too could read the Bible.

Meanwhile Mr. Charles thought of Mary's eagerness to own a Bible.

"I'm sure there are others who would like to have their own Bibles as well," he thought. Mr. Charles went to London, and with a friend started working to produce Bibles for the many people who needed them. This involved translating and printing. It was his aim that one day there would be enough Bibles for the whole world. The work started by Mr. Charles in 1804 later became known as the British and Foreign Bible Society.

***God is Truth – Themes for Christian Studies 4***



## Activities – Mary Jones and her Bible

### PART A

1. What language did Mary speak?
2. Where is Wales?
3. How did Mary save enough money for a Bible?
4. How far did she have to walk to get the Bible?
5. Why did she walk barefoot?
6. Why was she disappointed when she got to the village?
7. What did Mr. Charles do for Mary?
8. What work did Mr. Charles start in 1804?

### PART B - God is truth

#### Read

When we know the truth, then we must not turn away from it, even when things get difficult. God shows us His truth in His word, the Bible. Having the word of God in our hearts helps us to stay with the truth.

#### Look up the Bible verses and write sentences to explain how God's word can help us when we are:

angry.....James 1:19-20

sad.....2 Corinthians 1:3-5

afraid.....Psalm 27:1

# The Story of Granny Smith

Granny stirred the pot on the stove, singing quietly to herself as she worked.

"Autumn is my favourite time of year," she thought. "There's always so much to do... berries to pick, apple pies to make, and of course, crab apple jam."

"That should be enough cooking," she said, as she removed a very large pot of crab apple jam from the stove. Granny then proceeded to fill two dozen crystal clear jars with the beautiful red crab apple jam.

"Now for the labelling," she said.

On each of the jars Granny proudly placed her own personal label...

GRANNY MARIA ANN SMITH

CRAB APPLE JAM

4th April 1902

Of course, there was now the cleaning up to be done. Granny gathered up the scraps. She put these in the barrel with the remains of the crab apples.

"All good for compost," said Granny. "Nothing to be wasted."

Granny threw the contents of the barrel on to the compost heap and continued cleaning up.

Months went by...

Granny gave no more thought to the crab apples. However, when Spring arrived, Granny noticed a small seedling growing out of the compost heap.

"Looks to be a small apple tree," she said, "just in the place where I threw those crab apples last Autumn."

Granny carefully transferred the seedling to some good soil in a protected part of the garden. As years went by, Granny watched the tiny seedling develop into a fine apple tree. Then one Summer she noticed some small green apples on the tree. By Autumn they had grown into large green apples, quite unlike any she had ever seen.

The story of Granny Smith is a true one. The large green apples were the delicious Granny Smith apples which are now world famous. The discovery of the new variety of apples near Sydney many years ago is something for which all Australians are very grateful. The story reminds us too that something good can come from something that looks useless. Just as new

life can come from a seed which is thrown away, Jesus can give new life to people.

God said that all people need a new start. At some stage in their life, every person needs to put their old life behind them and make a new start with Jesus. Jesus can forgive us for everything. The new life that Jesus gives us is the beginning of living forever. The Bible calls it eternal life.

*God is Life - Themes for Christian Studies 4*



## Activities – Granny Smith

### PART A

1. How do we know that Granny liked making jam?
2. What time of year did she make jam?
3. What are crab apples?
4. What did Granny do with the scraps and peelings?
5. What colour were the new kind of apples?
6. What is the name given to this kind of apple?
7. Where did this happen?
8. Find out what John 17:3 says about eternal life.
9. Write a sentence about each picture on the next page.

### PART B - God is life

#### Read:

God has always been there. God will always be there. This means He is eternal. He has always lived, and will always live. By giving our lives to Jesus, we can live with Him forever. We too can have eternal life. The story of Granny Smith reminds us of something new coming from something old. When we become a Christian, God gives us a new life.

#### Copy and fill in the missing words:

#### How can I give my life to Jesus?

I can ask Him to forgive me for my \_\_\_\_\_.

I can invite Him to live in my \_\_\_\_\_.

I can be His follower, and do the things He wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

Missing words: life sin do