

Name:

# First Steps

Dear Reader

Becoming a Christian is the start of a new life and there is a lot to learn. First Steps aims to lead you step by step to a fuller understanding of what Christians believe and to help you live your life with God.

Jesus once told a story about two builders. The wise one built his house on the rock, the foolish one built his house on the sand. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm, but the other one fell down because it had such poor foundations. Jesus said that if we hear his words and put them into practice, then, like that wise man, we will have a firm foundation for our life which will not shift when the storms come. I hope and pray that First Steps will help you build a solid foundation for your life.

John Robertshaw

## ● Which Bible?

You will need a Bible to use with First Steps. This course has been prepared using the *New International Version*. This popular version can be obtained at any shop which sells Bibles and quite inexpensive editions are available. You can, however, use other versions. There is a comparison of some versions of the Bible on page 72.

## How to use this book

### • One-to-one

*First Steps* was designed with one-to-one follow-up of new Christians in mind. Find a Christian friend who will spend time going through the units with you. They will be able to help you understand the Bible passages and apply them to your own situations. Your friend may not be a theological expert but should be able to get further help from their church if you run into difficulty. Meeting with a friend to look at a unit once a week works well.

### • In a group

*First Steps* can be used in small groups or home groups. Make sure that there is opportunity to apply the teaching to individual situations.

### • On your own

If you don't know anyone who can help you with *First Steps*, you may wish to work through it alone. Don't try to do it all at once — do one study at a time and spread the whole course over a few weeks.

### • Suggestions

*First Steps* is not just a reading book — it is a study book to use alongside the Bible. You might find these suggestions helpful:

- If you are unfamiliar with the Bible, you will find a *Quick Bible Guide* on the inside back cover of this book. If you and a friend have similar Bibles, it may be quicker to use *page numbers* to find verses.
- Read and think about all the Bible passages — the main ones are marked with \*. Don't just answer the questions — find out what you can for yourself from the passages.
- Take turns to read aloud if you are with others.
- Write answers to the questions in the spaces provided. Try to get the answers from the Bible passages — don't make them up yourself.
- Make a note of any other things which strike you in the passages. Discuss them with your friend or in your group.
- Pause to think, pray, act etc when suggested.
- Don't rush. Take your time. Each unit should take between 30 minutes and an hour.
- When you have finished a unit, look through it to see what you have learned. It may help to go through it again later.

