Timing is often crucial when saving for your retirement. Starting to invest as soon as you can could make a huge difference - as this simple illustration demonstrates: Jane saves £2,500 pa from age 21 to 32 then stops. £30.000 total £82,500 total Steven saves £2,500 pa from age 33 to 65 then stops. By starting to invest earlier, Jane achieves a similar sized pension pot to Steven despite investing Steven invested £52,500 less: £82,500 and ends up with £210,167 However, Jane invested **£30,000** and ends up with **£209,046** - only slightly less Source: JM Finn. Calculations assume investment growth of 5% per annum.

The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.