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Finding Jesus

Gospels



"...these are the very scriptures that testify about me." John 5:39

Victorious Light

Finding Jesus

Gospels

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Jesus the King

Who is Jesus and what is the Bible really about?

The Bible is one story that leads to Jesus. Jesus is at the center of every part of the Bible.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is woven like a tapestry throughout the entire Bible.

God created the world by words. He created man in His own image (Genesis 1:28) and man was meant to rule and reign over the earth as part of the kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God.

When Adam and Eve ate of the tree, sin entered the world. Man lost his right to rule; he had voluntarily turned over his domain to the enemy.

But God had a plan of redemption

Jesus was always the plan. He was the “lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8) He was the “seed” spoken of by God in Genesis 3:15. The reader follows this “seed” through the Bible, looking and waiting for the One who will come and save the people and restore God’s kingdom on earth.

Prophecies of Jesus

Throughout scripture we see repeated themes and patterns that all point to Jesus. Words were spoken throughout the centuries prophesying about this “seed,” this Messiah, who would come to save his people. The prophecies were hidden and spoken in mysteries (1 Corinthians 2:6-8) so that the rulers of this world would not be able to prevent His coming.

The Word

God created the world with words, and all the prophecies of Jesus had to be through words. Everything was prophesied, in a mystery, but it all led to exactly who Jesus would be. But when the fulness of time was come, these words came together and formed the seed, that combined with a young virgin (seed of a woman) became the Son of God, the Word. (John 1:1)

This WORD, Jesus, through his death and resurrection, conquered death and the principalities of darkness. He restored the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven. We reign with Him as the body of Christ. And we can reign in this life with him and in the life to come. (Romans 5:17, 21)

This curriculum, *Finding Jesus*, is designed to do just that. He can be found from Genesis to Revelation.





READ THIS FIRST!

Teaching the Lessons

This guide is meant to be a Bible study for the instructor.

These lessons are not written as a script, nor designed to tell you exactly what to say. The lessons are written to help you gain a better understanding of the passages in the Bible.

Each lesson is designed to put the Bible into perspective by showing the historical context, Biblical context, and what was happening on or around that time. Some lessons refer back to the original meaning of the words - the original Hebrew language in which the Old Testament was written, or the Greek in which the New Testament was originally written. Each lesson has multiple cross-references to take the teacher to other places in scripture that are relevant to the story, and also to the message being taught. The author of this curriculum is not attempting to write theology, but to tell the reader a story and highlight other scriptures within the Bible so that the reader can decide. The Bible is meant to be interpreted by the Bible. It is the most complex piece of literature ever written, and contains over 63,000 cross-references.

1. Study the material.

Before the lesson, read the Bible passages first. Then **study** the notes and re-read the passage, multiple times if necessary. If the references give the accounts in more than one book or passage, familiarize yourself with versions in all passages. When you study, always read a few verses before and a few verses after for context. See if there is something that the Lord shows you that will enhance your telling of the story.

The gospels can be challenging to teach, as there are multiple accounts in different gospels. Read and study all the passages in each gospel. Take notes, combine the information in a way that will be helpful to you. Then choose the gospel from which you prefer to teach that particular story. Each lesson may have a different gospel that holds more information or present a more clear narrative, and is up to you as the teacher to choose the passage that speaks to you.

This teacher guide contains many cross-references. These are not-necessarily intended to be read to the students. The cross-references are included for personal study of the material, and designed to help the teacher gain a deeper understanding of the material so they can give a better explanation to the students.

2. Teach **ONLY** from the Bible.

Read the lesson and know the material, but **always** teach from the Bible. You do not need to read the Bible passage word for word, but can paraphrase it for your audience *without changing the meaning*. It is possible to put it into words that your audience will understand without changing the Word of God. When you teach directly from the Bible, it allows the Holy Spirit to speak directly to the teacher and the students. It gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to emphasize what is in the passage that is specifically relevant to the listener. The Word of God is alive and powerful!



Teaching the Lessons:

3. **Help create a mental picture of the scene.**

Picture it like you were there. This material is designed to tell the story in such a way that helps the listener imagine what it be like if they were there. Elaborate on the story, and help them think about what the characters would have been thinking, doing and feeling, but also being careful to distinguish between what might be speculated, and the definitive details told in the Word.

4. **Ask a lot of questions.**

The lessons are designed to be interactive; they are not intended to be a lecture. Ask a lot of questions, and allow your students to ask questions also. Questions and discussions make the listeners think.

You know your students! Do not limit yourself to the discussion passages suggested in the material. Feel free to make up your own questions, begin your own discussions. Discuss things in the story that would be relevant to situations with which your students can understand. And ask questions that encourage discussion. Let the kids participate in the study of the Word of God.

5. **Relate to the characters.**

Remember that the Bible is a real story about real people doing real things. Help your listeners to not see it as a distant story, but a story with characters with which they can relate.

Finding Jesus in every lesson.

Every lesson ends with "Jesus in the Story." The lessons in the gospels will point back to prophecies of Jesus. The lessons in the Old Testament will point forward to the prophecies of Jesus. He IS the Word of God, and the central core, focus, theme and meaning of the entire Bible. Tell the story first, and incorporate the Jesus in the Story themes into the lesson, being sure to make Him the ultimate focus of everything you teach.

Multiple Age Levels:

This material is for ages 3-99. You are the teacher. A story you know is a story you can tell. These lessons can be adapted to any age level. If you are teaching to very young children, tell them the story in a way that they can understand. If you are teaching to older children, give them more information. And if you are teaching to young people, you can bring in some of the cross-referenced scriptures, and discuss how they connect with the story. If you teach to adults, use it as a full study guide to look up all the scriptures and discuss. Always teach a little above what you think they can understand; you may be surprised at the comprehension of your audience.



Teaching the Lessons:

Weekly Lesson:

1. Begin each week by discussing the lesson from the previous week. Ask questions, see what the students remember from the last lesson.
2. You do not have to teach the lessons in the order in this guide. It is up to you if you would like to teach a certain theme, a certain story, or a certain time frame. This is your classroom.
3. Feel free to lead children to Jesus after each lesson or if you feel led by the Holy Spirit to do so. You can tell by the response to the lesson if they are ready. And remember, you know your students!

Memory Verses and Questions:

The lessons are designed with a memory verse and questions for the teacher to display to the class. If you choose, you may ask the students to bring a “church notebook” where they may write down the memory verse every week. Writing down the scripture will definitely help with memorization, and this will help the child learn the responsibility of keeping the notebook and bringing it every week.

The teacher may also choose to give the children the questions on the display page. The children can write down the questions and take them home to look up the answers, or simply write the answers in their book. It is completely up to the teacher how to use these resources.

Coloring Pages:

Each lesson has a black and white coloring page. If you have the ability to print copies, feel free to make copies and distribute these to the younger children. If not, you may choose to have them recreate the illustration with their own drawing in their notebook.

Get Creative!

So many of the stories in the Bible can be acted out. Many of the Psalms can be acted out.

Have fun with it! Creating a play or drama from a story helps the children remember the story. Let them help you design the play. Let them put their own interpretation into the characters. Make it fun, and make the Bible memorable!







How Much More?

Matthew 7:7-11
Luke 11:5-13

Parables of Jesus

Today we will be talking about a parable. What is a parable? A parable is a story with another meaning; or a story told to illustrate a lesson.

Discuss: Have you ever received a gift? What was it? Was it for a special occasion?

Have you ever asked for something special from your parents and opened the present to find a rock?

Have you ever told your mom you were hungry for some bread, and she went outside and gave you rocks on your plate? Have you said you were hungry and she gave you a snake? If you asked for fish or chicken for dinner, would she give you a scorpion?

Jesus is telling a story about praying, and what we ask for.

He tells a story about someone who has visitors come to his house late at night. What if this were you? You had a friend who has been traveling all day, and shows up very late one night at your house. He's hungry, and you have nothing to feed him. It's late, the stores are closed, and you have no food. But you know that your friend who lives nearby probably has some food. You go knock on your friend's door (illustrate knocking) and ask him for some bread. You tell him you need three loaves of bread to feed your visitors. You ask him nicely, saying: please, help me, my guests are hungry.

What is your friend going to say?

What would your friends say? What would you say?

In this story, the friend said, "No. Leave me alone."

Do you have friends like this?

This friend said: It's late. My kids are asleep. I don't want to get up, I don't want to wake them up, Don't bother me.

But, what are you going to do? Are you going to keep knocking?

What do you think this person did?

This person kept knocking. And Jesus said, because he was persistent, he kept knocking, he kept asking, and the friend finally got out of bed and gave it to him because he bothered him so much.

He reluctantly got up and gave him everything he asked for.

Do you have friends like this? Sometimes people are like this. They don't want to do something, but they will do it just because they want you to stop bothering them and leave them alone.

Discuss: Is God like this? What do you think?

Do we have to keep asking and bothering God so that he will give us what we ask for?

No, this is not how God is.





How Much More?

If you knock on Jesus' door, what will happen? Will he say, "Go away!"? Will he say, "This is not a good time, leave me alone!"? What happens if we knock on the door seeking Jesus? Will he say come in? Will he open the door?

Jesus said, if you knock it will be opened to you.

Everyone that asks receives. Everyone that seeks will find. To him that knocks it will be opened.

Does God say no? What if we ask for something and we don't get it?

There is a verse that says if we ask for something and we do not receive, it, it's because we are asking for the wrong things. (James 4:3)

If you are angry at someone and you ask for God to punish them, will God answer that? No, because it is not in his will. When you pray, it needs to be something that God wants for you.

There is another verse about how we ask. It says when we ask, to ask in faith without doubting.

If you ask and doubt, do not expect to receive from God. (James 1:6-8)

God will give us things because he cares about us, and he blesses us and gives us things we don't need. There was a time when God reminded King David of all the things he had given him. He even told him, if that wasn't enough, I would have given you more. So, God does not just give us only things we have to have, but he wants us to pray for things that are in God's will. He wants to bless us, but not when it would bring harm to someone else. (2 Samuel 12:8)

Jesus talks about gifts. He says, if you ask bread from your dad, will he give you a rock?

If you ask your dad for a fish, would he give you a snake? Would you want a snake?

If you ask your dad for an egg, would he give you a scorpion? Would a good dad do that? Would you want a scorpion?

Then Jesus talks about God. He is comparing God to people.

Without Jesus, are we good? Compared to God, are we good? Can we ever be good enough without Jesus?

No. Everyone has sinned, and the only way to get to God is through Jesus. (John 14:6; Romans 3:23) Jesus died for our sins, and compared to Jesus, we are evil. Without Jesus, we are sinners.

Jesus says, if you, who are evil compared to God, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will God give things to those who ask of him?

This story is not saying that he have to be persistent and if we annoy God so much, and keep bothering him, that he will answer us and give us what we ask for. The story is contrasting God to a person. It is saying, you can bother your friends so much that they will finally give you what you ask for just to get you to go away. But God is not like that. You ask God, and he wants to answer you. He wants to bless you. He wants to give things to you because he gives good gifts.

The Bible tells us what kind of gifts that God gives. Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above.

(James 1:17)





How Much More?

If something bad happens to you, is it from God? (No)

Does God put bad things on you to teach you things? (No).

The bad things that happen in this world is because we have an enemy. (John 10:10: 1 Peter 5:8)

The thief is the one who comes to steal, kill and destroy you, and Jesus came to give you abundant life.

Every good and perfect gift comes from God, and it says that God does not change. (James 1:17) He does not change his mind, he does not act one way one day, and act different another day.

Do you know people who get in a bad mood? Sometimes they're mean, and sometimes they are nice? God is never in a bad mood. He does not change his mind; he is not going to decide whether or not to answer your prayer because of his mood, or because of whether or not you were good enough. He answers your prayers and responds to you because of Jesus. (Romans 3:22-24, 28; Romans 5:1, 17-18)

How much better is God? How much more will he give you good gifts than the friend who finally gets out of bed and gives you what you ask for just to get you to go away?

God says yes. You asked me, let me give it to you. You're looking for me, here I am. If you start seeking God and looking for him in your life, he will come.

In all your ways acknowledge him. If you start looking for all the ways you can recognize God in your life and you start giving him glory, he will tell you where to go (Proverbs 3:5-6) and he will direct your path.

Discuss: What are some ways that we can look for something that God did for us today?

What are some things that God has done for you this week or recently?

What are some things that God has done in your life?

When we start looking, we can find all kinds of things to praise God for.

Jesus finishes this by saying,

Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets.

This is also known as the golden rule. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Do not respond and say, they did this to me, I'm just doing what they did. That is what sets us apart as followers of Jesus. We don't retaliate, but we respond differently than everyone else.

We respond the way that we WANT to be treated, not the way that we were treated.



Jesus in the Story



Righteousness is the state of being in a condition that is acceptable to God. It is being in “right standing” with God.

It is because of Jesus that this whole story is true. It is because of Jesus that we can relate to God in a completely different way.

Because of Jesus’s death and resurrection, we are able to have new life and a new Spirit in us by faith in Him.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive his righteousness. (Romans 4:3,5) It is not by the things that we do that God sees us. He knows that in ourselves we are nothing, but with Jesus we are complete. It is by our faith only, not by our works.

Our faith brings us into right-standing with God, and he gives us the righteousness of Jesus.

Jesus became sin for us, and through faith in him we receive his righteousness. (2 Corinthians 5:21).

God is no longer judging us according to our actions, but giving us grace because of Jesus.

This grace gives us all the privileges, all the rights, and all the benefits of living in the kingdom of heaven. (Colossians 1:13). The kingdom of heaven is not far off in the future, Jesus told his followers frequently that the kingdom of heaven is “at hand.” (Matthew 10:7) Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven to this earth and those who believe in him are citizens of this kingdom.

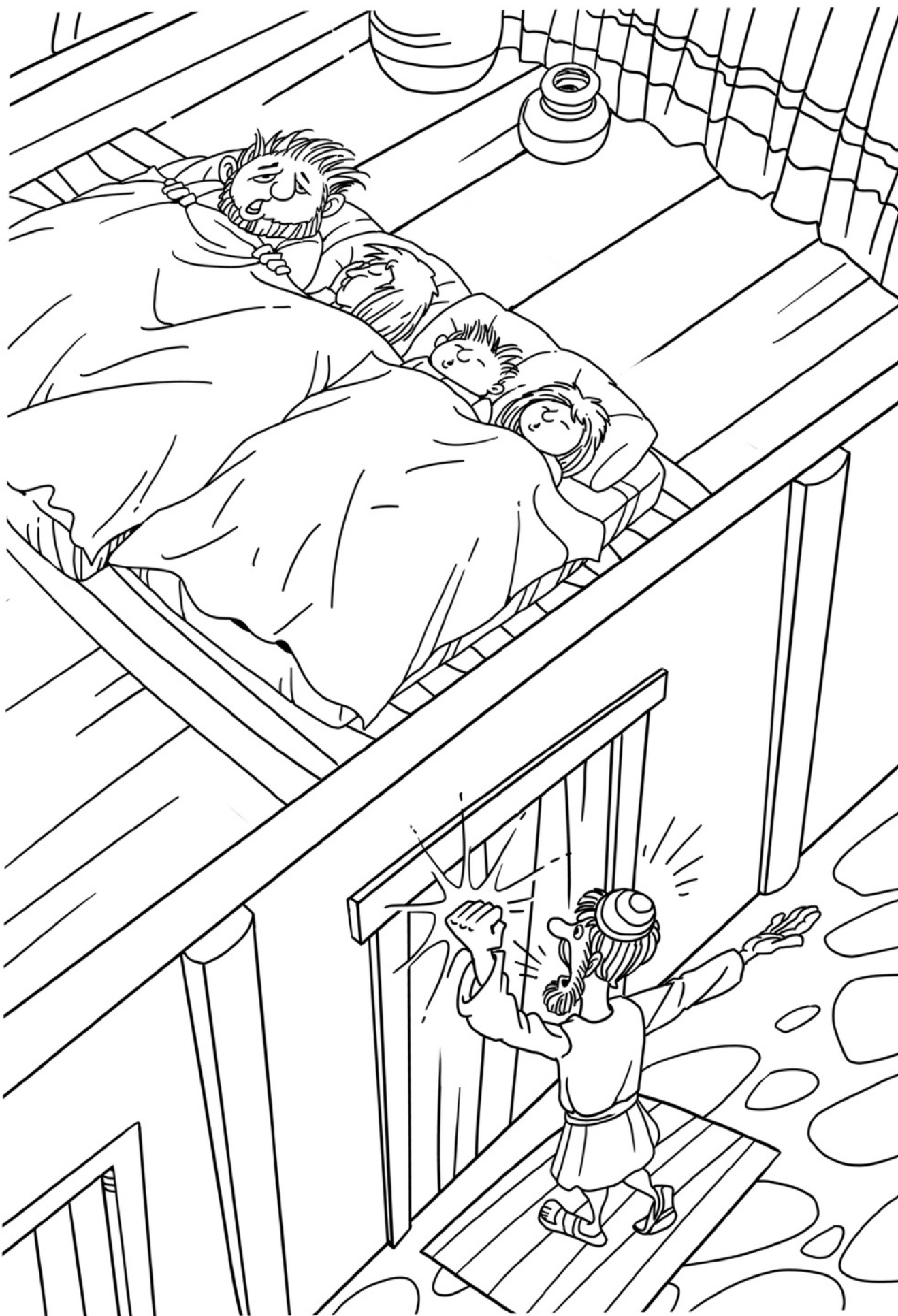
We live on the earth, but we live by a different set of rules than the unbelievers who are outside of the kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights, with
whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

James 1:17





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Finding Jesus

is a curriculum designed to help children find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Because the Bible is one continuous story that leads to Jesus, He can be found from Genesis to Revelation. Finding Jesus is a Bible study designed for the teacher. This one-year Gospels volume includes 52 lessons which can be adapted to teach any age from 3-99. The instructor customizes the lesson for their audience, using only the Bible as a text. The teacher decides how to relay the information to their students, with regard to their background and level of education.

Jesus IS the Word of God.

***Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
He is woven like a scarlet thread throughout the tapestry of the Bible.***

VICTORIOUS LIGHT

About the Author



Laura Baca is a lifelong student of the Bible with a heart for reaching the next generation with the truth and love of God's Word. Over ten years ago, while teaching in children's church, she began to recognize a gap in the way that biblical truths were being communicated to young hearts. This sparked the idea to write a curriculum designed to help children

connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the formation

of Victorious Light, a non-profit organization established in 2025 with a desire to make this resource available to all. Laura is committed to offer materials freely to anyone, anywhere in the world. Through Victorious Light, children around the globe can encounter the transformative love of Jesus Christ through the stories of the Bible.

www.victoriouslight.org

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