

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!







One Thing I Know

John 9

Life of Jesus: Miracles

The Gospel of John starts out showing that Jesus is Word of God, and that Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. The whole gospel has a theme of the deity of Jesus, of Jesus as God.

Jesus is walking and he passes a man who has been blind since he was born.

We see in John 9:8 that he has been a beggar.

Jesus's disciples are with him, and they ask him who sinned to make this man blind.

They are trying to put a reason to why this man was born blind. It was common in the culture of the day to completely attribute sickness only to sin. So they ask, who sinned? Did he sin, or his parents? If he was born blind, would this mean that he had sinned before he was born?

Jesus doesn't really answer the question completely. He just says it was neither. It wasn't the man that sinned or his parents. But then he says that the works of God will be manifest in him. Now to clarify, we know that the parents and the man were sinners. (Romans 3:23) But it was not those sins that made this man blind.

Some people have used this to say that God made this man sick just so he would be healed to bring glory to God. But this is inconsistent with scripture. If God had made this man blind, it would be going against God to bring healing to him. Deuteronomy 28:28 says that blindness is a curse. Jesus came to redeem us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13). Acts 10:38 says that Jesus came to do good, and healing those who were oppressed of the devil.

Basically Jesus was saying, regardless of the cause, the works of God, or the power of God, would be seen in him.

The man was blind, not deaf. Imagine that he hears Jesus say this. He must have been expectant; hearing that something was about to happen.

Next Jesus does a strange thing. He spits on the ground, and makes clay, or mud, out of the dirt and spit. He spreads the clay on the man's eyes, then he tells the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. This word Siloam means 'sent.'

The pool of Siloam was a manmade body of water that was fed by the Gihon spring. It is believed that this is the water source was a result of a series of tunnels and conduits built by King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20:20, approximately 700 years before Christ. Some believe that it was used for purification at the time of Christ.

This man would have to walk about half a mile, or almost 1 kilometer to reach the pool of Siloam. He had mud all over his face, so it would have been an unusual sight.

Discuss: How he would have possibly got there?

He was blind; what would this have looked like? Did he have help?

Did he know how to get there? Did someone take him? Maybe one of the disciples walked with him?

All we actually know is that he DID get there, he washed the clay / mud off, and he could see.





One Thing I Know

The people who had lived around him saw him and said, "Isn't this the man who was blind who sat and begged?" And some people said it was him, and others said it is like him, but he said, it is me.

This man was not only born blind, but it seems likely that he was born without eyes. This could be how they knew without a doubt that he was blind at birth, and also explain why people did not recognize him after he was healed; why they were astonished and reacted it so strongly. This could help explain why Jesus made the clay.

People asked him, how were your eyes opened?

He told them that a man named Jesus made some clay, put it on his eyes, and told him to go wash. He went, he washed, and now he can see.

Then they asked where Jesus was, and the man did not know. Notice that Jesus did not stay to see what happened; he had already gone on his way.

The people took the man to the Pharisees. This man has just had the most amazing day of his entire life. But the people are acting as if he has done something wrong.

*These things happened on the Sabbath day.

Now, the Pharisees asked him how he received his sight. Again, he tells them the story. Jesus put clay on his eyes, he washed them, and now he can see.

Discuss: Shouldn't the Pharisees be happy for this man? Are they happy for this man?

At this point, the Pharisees get into a disagreement. Some of them said that Jesus was not of God because he did not keep the Sabbath. They thought that when he made the clay, that was considered work, and he broke the Sabbath. Discuss.

But the other Pharisees said, how can someone who is a sinner do such miracles? This seems to be an absolutely amazing event, which is why many believe that he had no eyes. The Pharisees were divided over this issue.

Then the Pharisees asked the man what he thought about Jesus. He told them he thought Jesus was a prophet. What would you say?

But the Jews did not believe that this man used to be blind. They went to talk to his parents.

They asked the parents, is this your son? You say he was born blind? How can he now see?

The man was obviously an adult. We do not know his age, but his parents were still living.

The parents said, **"Yes, this is our son. We know this is our son. He was born blind. But, we don't know how he can see."**

They weren't there when it happened. They said, "He's of age," meaning, he's grown, ask him.





One Thing I Know

John gives us some insight into the situation. The parents were afraid of getting kicked out of the synagogue (basically liked getting kicked out of church.) The Jews had already said that if anyone confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, they would be put out of the synagogue. The parents did not want to risk this and seemed more concerned about what the Pharisees think than the miraculous healing of their son's eyes.

Being "put out of the synagogue" did not just mean you could not come to synagogue (church).

This was a big deal. It would be saying that you were a heretic, or a pagan. You would be shunned and banned.

Discuss: Talk about this. What would this look like? What would this mean?

You would be hated. You would be cut off from your family. You could lose your job.

If you had a business, people would stop shopping at your store, or stop doing business with you. This would affect you financially and socially.

And in some cases there could be extreme persecution or even death.

The Jews went back to the man who had been healed. It almost appears to be like a court trial; he is being called back again and asking to give witness.

The Jews told the man he needed to give God the praise, because they said they knew that Jesus was a sinner. But the man responded,

"Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I know is that I was blind, and now I see."

They continued with their questioning, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" The man now seems to be exasperated with them. He says, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to be his disciples?"

This made them very angry. They began cursing the blind man and insulting him. They said, "You are his disciple! But we are disciples of Moses." They said, We **know** that God spoke to Moses, but as for this guy, we do not know where he came from.

The man begins defending Jesus. He said, "This is an amazing thing. You don't know where he is from, but he opened my eyes." He tells them if any man is a worshipper of God, then God hears him.

"Since the world began it is not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind."

Discuss: Discuss what this would have been like.

This man has just had the biggest thing in his life happen to him, and people are angry at him.

He seems to have some knowledge of the scriptures.

He knows that there has not been a documented case like this before.





One Thing I Know

Then he says, "If this man were not of God, he could do nothing."

This man, who was blind, can now see spiritually, as well as physically. He is no longer blind to the self-righteous doctrines of the Pharisees, and he sees how they are trying to make this about whether or not the law was obeyed by their interpretation and are failing to see the greater miracle here. The eyes of the Pharisees are blinded to the compassion of Jesus, and the heart of the law which includes doing good on the Sabbath. (Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9)

Now, the Pharisees are very angry. They tell the man that he was born in sins; they believe he sinned greatly since he was born blind. They are insulted that he is correcting them and challenging their theology; then they cast him out of the synagogue.

Discuss: What would his life be like as a blind man?

It might have been that being cast out of the synagogue was not a significant change in his life.

According to the culture of the day, he had been living as an outcast.

As a blind man, he was a beggar, and would have been living outside of the city.

Jesus heard that they cast the man out of the synagogue and he went and found him. He asked the man if he believed on the Son of God. The man asked who he was, so that he might believe on him.

Jesus told the man he had seen Him, and he had been talking with Him. The man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped Jesus.

Then Jesus said,

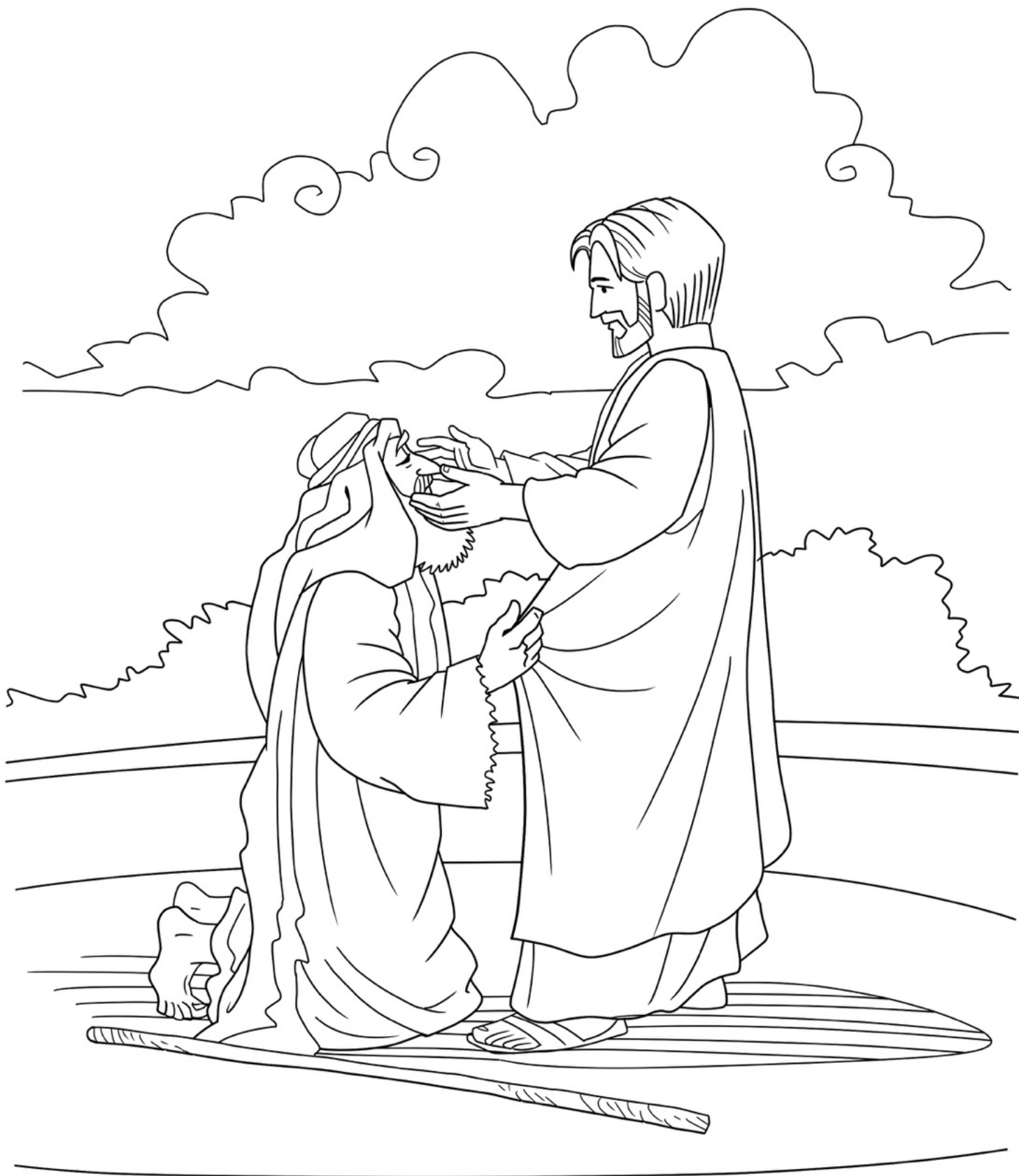
"I came into this world for judgment; that those which do not see might see, and those who see might be made blind."

Some of the Pharisees were with him, and they heard him say this. They asked him, "Are we blind also?"

Jesus responds by telling the Pharisees that if they were blind, they would have no sin. They would have been oblivious and therefore not held accountable. (Romans 5:13) But since they said they could see, their sin remains.

"Therefore to him that knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin." James 4:17







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

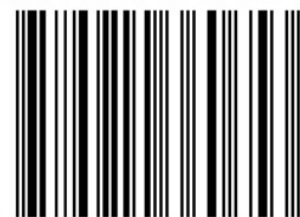
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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