

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!





Have Mercy

Matthew 20:29-34

Mark 10:46-52

Luke 18:35-43

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Teaching the Lesson:

It is not completely clear if these accounts are all the same story, but there are many similarities so they are often taught together. There are some differences, as Matthew's account mentions two men and Mark and Luke mention one. Matthew says that Jesus is leaving Jericho, and Mark and Luke say that he is coming to Jericho. There were two parts of the ancient city of Jericho; Jesus may have been leaving one area and coming to another. All the men in the stories ask Jesus for mercy; this lesson will address the passages in all three gospels.

Jesus has been telling his disciples about what is going to happen to him, and the things that are going to take place. He told them that in order to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, you must be a servant. Jesus did not come to be ministered to, but to give his life.

Jesus is with his disciples, and huge crowds of people follow him everywhere he goes. There is a blind man, or men, sitting on the side of the road begging. Why would they be sitting by the side of the road? Talk about this.

When a person is blind or missing one of the senses, often the other senses become heightened, or stronger. If someone is not able to see, they might have more acute hearing because their ears have been trained to hear the things they cannot see.

The gospel of Mark is specific, it tells us the man's name: Bartimaeus. He heard the crowds passing by, and asked the people around him what was going on. Discuss this. If you couldn't see, how would you know what was happening? How would you know there were crowds passing by? What would it sound like? What are some of the things you might hear?

So, Bartimaeus asked what was going on, and the people told him that Jesus of Nazareth was walking by.

It is very likely this man had heard about Jesus. Jesus was famous. What does that mean at this time? He was a celebrity. What does it mean to be a celebrity? They did not have television or the internet like we do today, but Jesus was popular for the things he had done. People talked about Jesus; he was very well known. Sometimes rumors circulate about celebrities or famous people and some of the information is true, and some is not.

Because of Bartimaeus' response, we can assume he had heard about Jesus and knew who he was. Talk about this. What do you think he had heard about Jesus? He may have heard about his miracles. He may have heard about the other people he healed. He may have heard that he healed blind people. The Bible tells us that there are so many things that Jesus did that it would not be possible to write them all down (John 21:25.)

It is likely that Bartimaeus was well known himself. Luke tells us he was a "certain" blind man. He asked the people what was going on, and they answered him. He was probably known as the blind beggar on the side of the road.

So, if you are blind and there is a famous person in town, what can you do to meet them? People do not usually respect blind beggars. A beggar is looked down upon by many people. Throughout the Bible Jesus helped those people who were desperate, those who were not able to take care of themselves, those who had no other options. They had to rely on Jesus because he was their only hope.

So this man, this beggar, would not have had the influence or reputation to get someone to bring him to Jesus. So he starts yelling - loudly. "Jesus, son of David, HAVE MERCY ON ME!"





Have Mercy

First, notice what he called Jesus. He called him the "son of David." Why? What does this mean? It means that he had already formed an opinion of who he believed that Jesus was. He believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah, coming to save God's people.

There were many prophecies about the Messiah being of the house of David (1 Kings 2:45; 1 Kings 9:5; 1 Kings 11:36; 2 Kings 8:19; Psalm 18:50; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 16:5; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; 33:17; Ezekiel 37:24-25.)

He keeps shouting, "Jesus, son of David, HAVE MERCY ON ME!" All the people around him tell him to stop. They tell him to "Be quiet!!" But the more the people rebuke him, the more he repeats it, and cries out more and more, and only gets louder. He continues to call out, "Jesus! Son of David! HAVE MERCY ON ME!!!"

Talk about this. Imagine what this would have been like. Imagine if you were blind, and you heard that there was hope. For the first time in your life, there is someone nearby who can possibly help you. This person might be able to change your situation, or change your circumstances. If you were completely dependent on others who can change your life, would you yell? Would you cry out? Would you be quieted by those around you who told you to stop? Bartimaeus was not quieted. He only yelled louder. This could be his only chance; his only hope - he knew Jesus was the ONLY one who could help him.

Then, Jesus STOOD STILL.

Wow. He got Jesus' attention. He did not give in to the fear of man. He did not concern himself with what people thought of him. He was persistent. He had faith and it showed. He kept calling out again and again until he got Jesus' attention - even though everyone around him was telling him to stop.

Then Jesus commanded the people to call him. He heard someone calling him, and commanded that the person be brought to him.

Now the attitude of the people is reversed. People who had just been telling the man to "hush!" moments ago have now completely changed. They tell Bartimaeus, "Get up! He's calling you!"

The book of Mark tells us that Bartimaeus threw off his coat. Think about this: this is a dramatic move. He jumps up, and quickly pulls off his cloak, throws it on the ground, and comes to Jesus.

Why? There are different theories on why he did this. Some theories say that his coat was heavy, and kept him from being able to quickly get to Jesus. The most likely seems to be that beggars wore clothing that identified them. They often had coats or cloaks that would be recognized as the clothing of a beggar, or a handicapped person. Some scholars say that Bartimaeus was making a statement by throwing off his coat, and it was basically like saying, I am no longer a beggar, I will no longer need this. This was an act of faith that he would be healed.

When Bartimaeus reached Jesus, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He had called out for mercy, but Jesus wanted him to be specific. What do you want me to do? Bartimaeus responded, "Lord, (Rabbi) I want to receive my sight." The gospel of Matthew says they asked "that our eyes may be opened."

The gospels of Mark and Luke say that Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you," or "your faith has made you whole." The gospel of Mark says that Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes. All three gospels say that sight was received "immediately."

The gospel of Matthew speaks of the compassion of Jesus. This is the mercy for which Bartimaeus was asking. The original New Testament word for mercy translates as: to have compassion, to help one who is afflicted, wretched, or seeking aid.

After he received his sight, he followed Jesus. The gospel of Luke tells that he not only followed Him, but he glorified God. And, when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.



Jesus in the Story



Jesus has many names and titles: Son of God, Son of Man, and son of David are only a few. But what does “son of David” mean?

Matthew 1 and Luke 3 show us the lineage of Christ. The lineage of both Joseph and Mary were able to be traced back to King David (Matthew 1:6; Luke 3:31). God promised that the throne of David would be established forever (1 Kings 2:45; 1 Kings 8:25; 1 Kings 9:5; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32-33). This kingdom established through David was fulfilled by Jesus. Jesus was the “son of David” and His reign will have no end.

What is mercy? The original Hebrew word for mercy is “hesed” which means goodness, kindness, and faithfulness.

King David was a “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22.) He lived under the law, but he understood the heart of God. He understood that at the heart of the Mosaic law was a God who communicated with his people from the mercy seat (Exodus 30:6.) David understood that God is full of compassion, gracious, long-suffering, and full of mercy and truth (Psalm 86:15; 145:8) And that the base meaning of the law was the law of love; to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and to love your neighbor as yourself. This was the kingdom that was meant to be established throughout eternity; this kingdom of a loving God full of goodness and mercy.

Bartimaeus understood who Jesus actually was; he knew that he was the promised Messiah. He must have known the prophecies of the Messiah who would come from the lineage of David. Not only that, Bartimaeus knew that the Messiah would bring in the kingdom of God with mercy and compassion. He rightfully asked, “Have mercy on me!”



Have Mercy



Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

MEMORY VERSE

*The Lord takes pleasure in
those who fear him, in
those who hope in his
mercy.*

Psalms 147:11

Answer the Questions

1. Where did God meet with people?
(Exodus 25:22; 30:6)
2. When you walk with Jesus, what will follow you? (Psalm 23:6)
3. What surrounds you when you trust in the Lord? (Psalm 32:10)





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

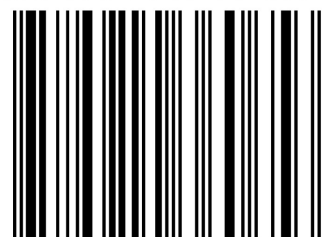
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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