

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!





The Wicked Servant

Matthew 6:14-15
Matthew 18:21-35
Mark 11:26

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

Teach the lesson from Matthew 18. The other scriptures are given for reference as Jesus briefly stated in those passages.

This lesson starts off with a question from Peter to Jesus. In the previous verses, Jesus has been teaching about offenses, and how to make reconciliation.

After this sermon, Peter comes to Jesus and asks him how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him. Seven times? Some translations even say, How many times do I *have to* forgive him.

Jesus' response was not what they expected. He said, "Not seven times: but until seventy times seven." If you look at the word that Jesus actually used here, it not only meant this, but it actually meant "countless times."

Jesus was not telling Peter to count up to 490 times and then he no longer needed to forgive. What he was saying was basically, do not keep count. Forgive so many times that you are not keeping records anymore.

Then Jesus tells a story, a parable.

He begins the parable as he begins so many others, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." He is showing a contrast between what we expect as normal and the way that God sees things. A study of the gospels quickly shows that the kingdom of heaven is upside down to the normal human way of thinking. It is a completely different way of thinking than human philosophy. Jesus taught this again and again, showing people that they were not thinking as God thinks.

He begins with "a certain king." This king wanted to settle his accounts with his servants. The interesting thing about the word that Jesus uses here for "account" is that it can also be translated as "word, what someone has said, a person's doctrine or reasoning." We often view this story in the context of money for illustrative purposes, but the word choice Jesus used is unique because it clearly can be used for so many different situations.

Discuss: The king had loaned money to his servants. Different servants had borrowed various amounts.

Discuss what they possibly did with the money. Discuss the ability to pay it back living on a servant salary.

This king brought in a man who had borrowed "ten thousand talents." Some Bibles translate this as ten thousand bags of gold. A look at the words in the original Greek that the New Testament was written in reveal that a talent of gold weighed approximately 200 pounds, or 100 kilograms. This would be approximately 2 million pounds, or just less than 1 million kilograms of gold. This is an extremely large amount of money, an outrageous amount of debt that this man owed to the king.

The man could not pay. There was probably no way that he could pay back a debt of this incredibly large sum.

Because he could not pay, the king commanded this man to be sold, along with his wife, and his children. He made the order to sell everything the man owned to repay his debt.

Discuss: This was a very serious situation. Picture it like it would have been if you were there. This man is in shock, the king is speaking to the guards, the officials, telling them to take this man away. Gather his whole family and bring them to the place where people are purchased as slaves. The king is telling the guards to confiscate his home and all his belongings and sell them, to liquidate them to pay this man's debt.

The servant is desperate. He pleads for his life. He falls down at the king's feet, **begging** for mercy. He worships the king, in complete humility he recognizes the king's power over his own life and the lives of everyone dear to him. He begs the king for patience, telling him he will pay everything back.

Discuss: It is very doubtful that the servant has the ability to pay back this debt. The king is very wealthy, and he is a *servant*.

The king is "moved with compassion." The king is incredibly kind. He is powerful, but full of compassion for this servant, and the king can obviously see that this servant cannot possibly ever repay the debt. Not only does he withdraw the command for judgment on the servant and his family, he takes away all obligations, and completely *forgave him of the debt*. It was erased. The servant owed nothing.





The Wicked Servant

But, did the servant appreciate the grace and mercy that had been given to him?

That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him money. That means that this would have been one of his equals, someone who he worked with. This servant owed the man "one hundred pence," which is equal to about three or four months worth of wages. This was minuscule in comparison to ten thousand talents that this servant had owed the king.

When the man who had his debt forgiven found the servant who owed him money, it says he "laid hands on him, and took him by the throat," and said, pay me everything.

Discuss: This is harsh! This man has just been forgiven a HUGE debt for an enormous amount of money. But then he finds someone who owes him money and laid hands on him?

What does that look like? He must have grabbed the man and put him in a throat chokehold and threatened him.

This is nothing like the compassion and the kindness that the king showed to this man. And all for a small amount of money compared to what he originally owed. His own offense was much greater than the amount for which he was holding this man accountable.

Then the second servant fell down at the first servant's feet and begged him for forgiveness. He said the same thing, begging him to have patience and promising to pay back all of it.

But the first servant *would not*. He put the man in prison until he could pay the debt.

Discuss: How can he pay back the debt if he is in prison? Is he able to work and earn money in prison? Will he ever get out?

The other servants that worked with these two men saw what went on, and they were very upset. They went and told their lord the king everything that had happened.

Then the lord, the king, called the first servant to come meet with him. The king said, You wicked servant! I forgave you all of the debt because you begged me. Shouldn't you have had compassion on your fellow servant just like I had pity on you?

The king was very angry, and he delivered him to the tormentors, until he paid everything that he owed.

Discuss: The word used here means "torturer." These were the jailers who were assigned to torture prisoners. How can he repay when he is being tormented? How can he pay such a large amount? This seems like unending torture; this is unimaginable punishment.

Then Jesus simply ends the parable with a statement. This is what our heavenly Father will do to us if we do not forgive *from our hearts* those who trespass against us.

Jesus in the Story



This is a hard story; we have all been tempted with unforgiveness, feeling as if we are "owed" something by someone. But as followers of Christ, we know that God's love abounds, and his love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). 1 Corinthians 13 outlines what love looks like, and the way that we should love; it shows us perfect love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). This perfect love illustrates perfectly the love of Christ toward us.

There is one sin that is unforgivable to God, and that is the blasphemy of the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31). But this story and the statements of Jesus in Matthew 6:14-15 and Mark 11:26 seem to clearly say that if we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven. Unforgiveness is dangerous.



Jesus in the Story



As Christians, it is our responsibility to bear the image of Christ. Christ is seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20) and in order to further the kingdom on the earth he has to work through the members of his body, us as Christians. We are the representatives of Christ on this earth to others. It is our responsibility to show forgiveness to others in the same way that the Father has shown forgiveness to us.

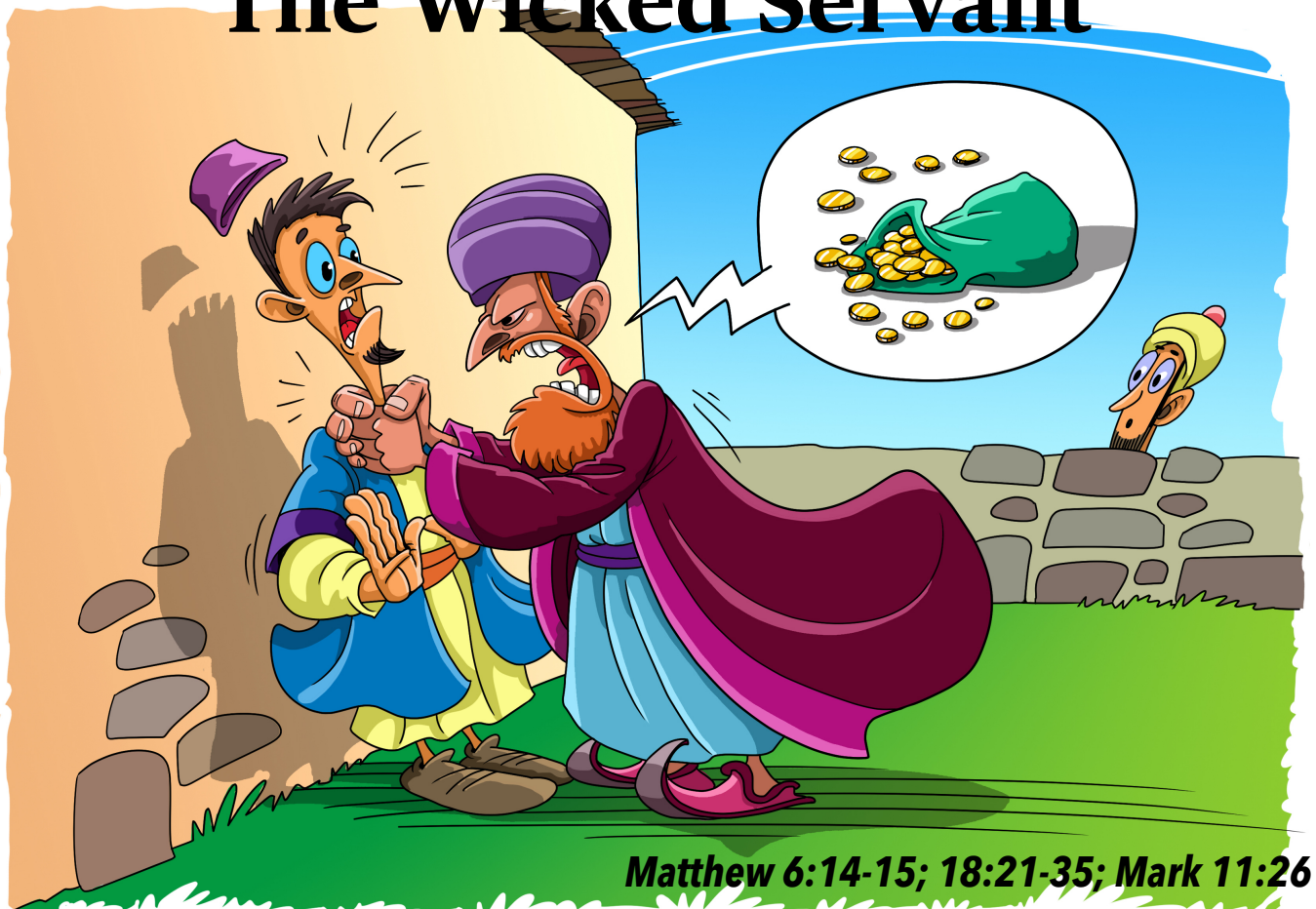
God the Father gave us his most prized possession, his Son, as an offering for our sin. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins and forgave us of an amount so large that we could never repay. It is not possible by our own actions to ever pay back the debt that we owed to the Father. But he had compassion on us and graciously forgave us.

So who are we to behave as the wicked servant? Who are we to judge others and hold them accountable for their debts when we have been forgiven so much? And we should not think of ourselves more highly than we should (Romans 12:3) to think that we are an exception, and our sin was any less than anyone else. All have sinned (Romans 3:23) and regardless of our individual sins, we all fall short of God's standard of perfection. There are not some sinners that are worse than others; we are all sinners and unless we repent we will all perish (Luke 13:1-5).





The Wicked Servant



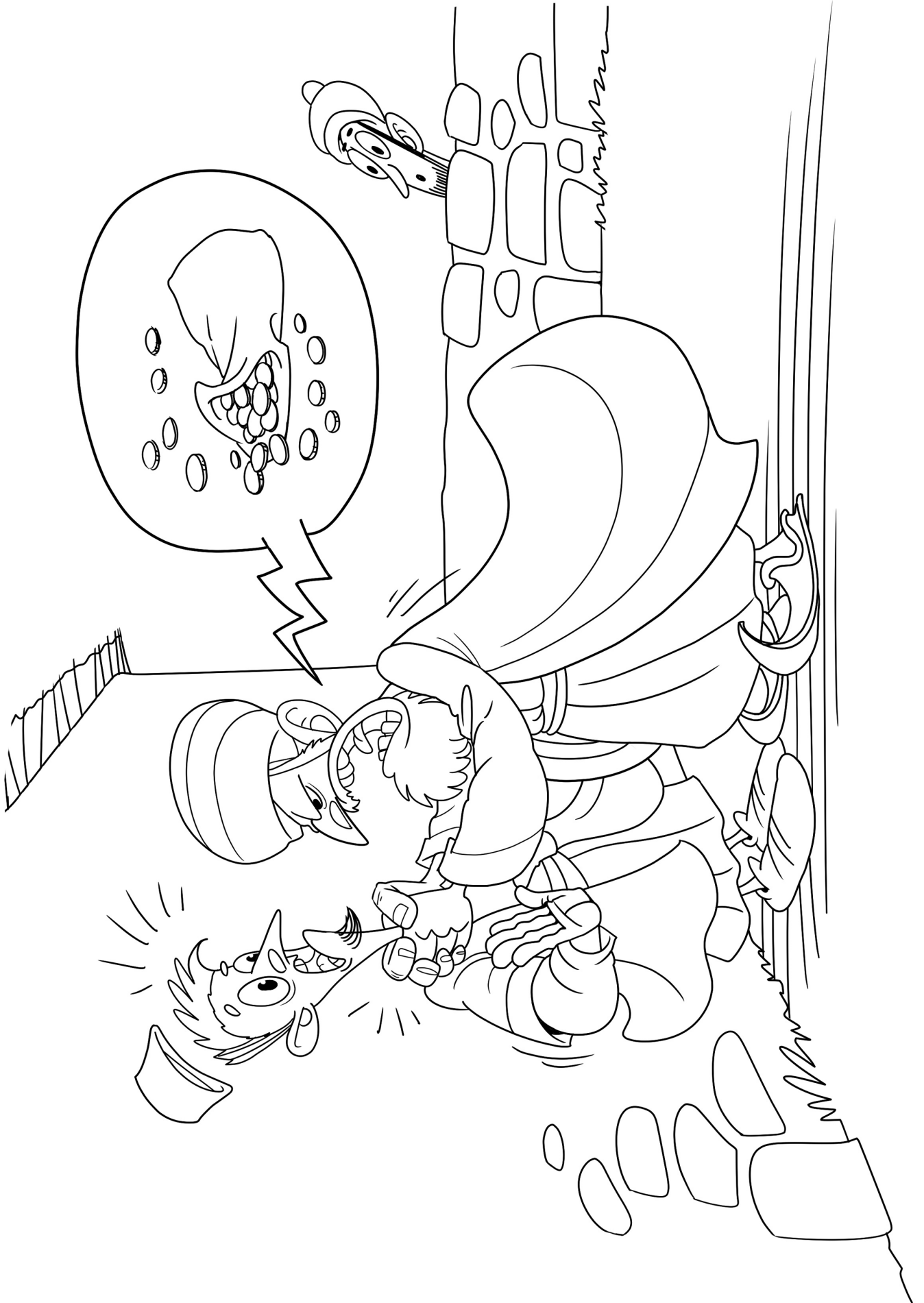
MEMORY VERSE

*But if you do not
forgive, neither will
your Father in
heaven forgive
your trespasses.*

Mark 11:26

Answer the Questions

1. How many times did Jesus say we need to forgive? Explain.
2. What did the master give to the man who owed a very large amount of money?
3. What did that man do when his worker owed him a little bit of money?
4. What does God say he will do if we do not forgive others?





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

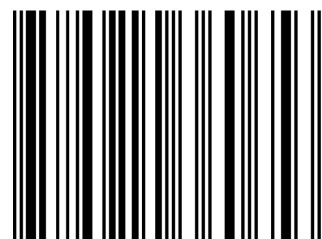
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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