

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 Door

John 10:1-18

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

A parable is a story used to illustrate a moral or a lesson. Jesus often spoke in parables, and many times we are told that they people did not understand the parables.

Jesus opens the parable by saying that anyone who tries to get into the sheepfold without going through the door is a thief or a robber; the shepherds come in by the door.

A sheepfold was sometimes called a "sheep cote", and was a place where sheep would come to spend the night. It was usually a permanent structure with walls made of stone, and would often be topped with branches or thorn bushes to keep out intruders. Often, several flocks of sheep would spend the night here, and a doorkeeper, or porter, would guard the door.

In the morning, the gatekeeper would open the door for the shepherds when they came to get their flock. The sheep would recognize the voice of their shepherd and they would follow him.

Often shepherds will meet together in a field during the day, bringing more than one flock together. The sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd, and each will follow their own shepherd when they lead their flock out.

The sheep will not follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

Jesus was speaking this parable to the Pharisees, but they did not understand.

Jesus begins to explain. He tells them that He is the door of the sheep.

Everyone who came before him claiming to be the Messiah, or anyone claiming there is another way to God, is a thief and a robber. The ones who were the sheep - the believers - did not follow the thieves and robbers.

He says again, that He IS the door. If you come in through Jesus, you will be saved, you will go in and out, and you will find pasture.

This is interesting. This can be linked with the provision that is promised by our shepherd in Psalm 23. Because we came through Jesus, we will find pasture - He leads us into green pastures beside the waters, He leads us in paths of righteousness, and protects us as we go through danger.

He then talks about the thief. Who is the thief? The thief would be Satan, the devil. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came to give us life, and not just life, but a full, satisfying life.

Jesus explains that He is the shepherd, and speaks of his crucifixion here in veiled terms as He tells them that a good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. A hired hand does not own the sheep. If he sees a wolf coming, he will leave the sheep and run away, and then the wolf will attack the sheep. The hired hand runs away because he is hired, and does not really care about the sheep.

Jesus is the good shepherd. He knows his sheep - He knows YOU! And His sheep know him.

Jesus tells us that he knows the Father, and the Father knows Him; and that He gave His life to save us. He also has other sheep that are in a different fold; he was speaking about the Gentiles. Up until this point, Jesus was ministering to the Jews, but after His resurrection, all believers would be Christians, without a difference between Jews and Gentiles.

The Father loves Jesus because he sacrificially gave His life so that He may take it again. Jesus goes on to say that no one forced Him make this sacrifice. He decided to lay down His life, and the power to take it back again; it was a voluntary decision that Jesus made.



Jesus in the Story



There are a lot of truths in this parable.

In John 10:2, it could also mean that pastors and leaders could also be shepherds of the sheep. Leaders who entered through Jesus, would be shepherds of the sheep. If a leader does not lead you to Jesus, Jesus called them thieves and robbers, and they do not lead to the truth. We must every one who teaches, and make sure they always lead to Jesus - He is the **ONLY** way.

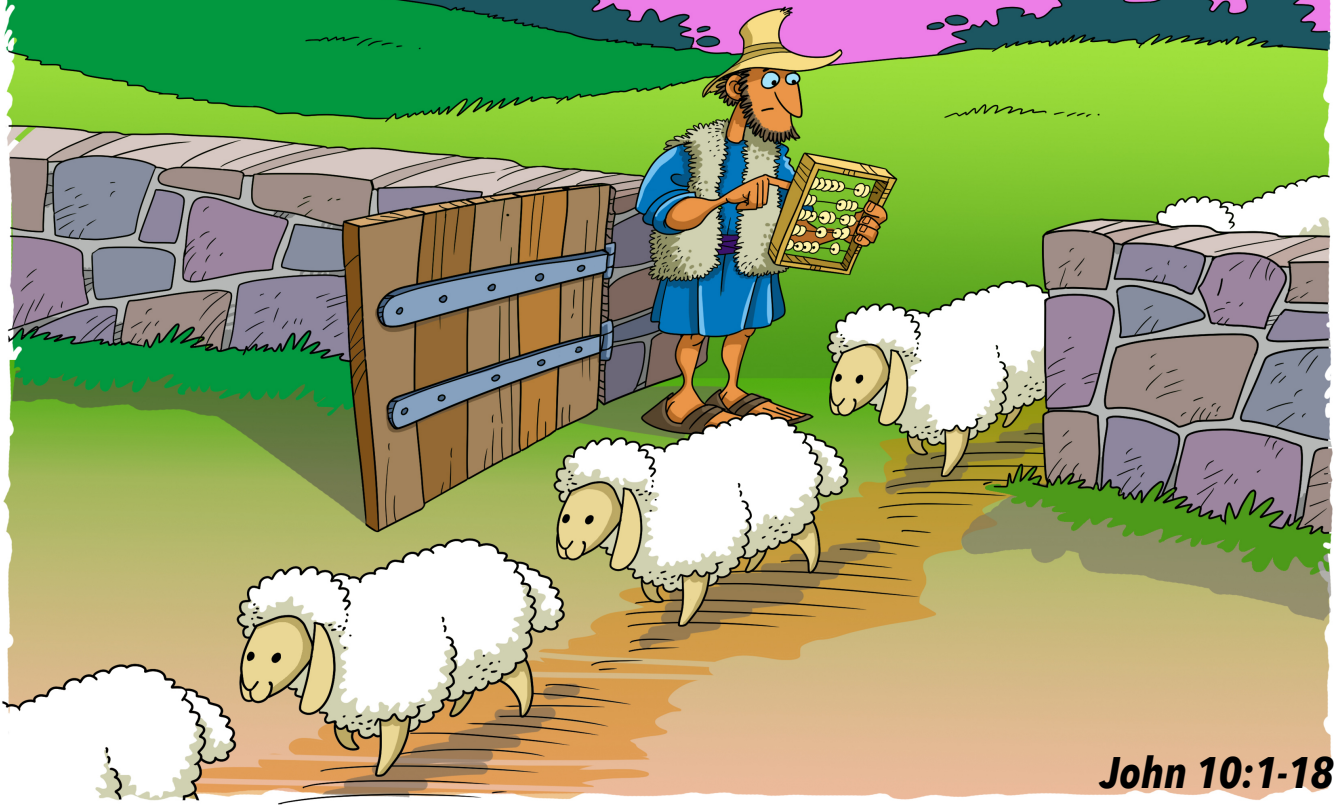
John 10:3-4 says He calls His own sheep by name. He knows **YOU** personally! He **LEADS** you. He goes before you, and you follow Him because you know His voice.

Jesus' sheep **DO HEAR** his voice. Sometimes people do not think they are hearing Jesus. He is always speaking to us, but we have to be quiet and listen. We have to turn our ear and listen to Him. Imagine you are somewhere where there is a lot of loud noise, and your friend is talking to you. You lean towards them, you try to listen very hard to hear what they are saying. This is how we should listen to Jesus; His voice is the most important thing you can hear.

John 10:10 tell us that the thief is the one that steals, kills, and destroys. Sometimes people blame God for doing bad things and causing hardships in our life. But Jesus is clear; those things are from the devil. Satan wants to take from us and wants to destroy us. Jesus came to save us and to give us life to the fullest! The word here for life in the original Greek is "**ZOE**" life, and it means the absolute fulness of life, real, genuine, active, vigorous, and blessed!

There are many religions who claim that they have the way to God, but only those who teach that Jesus is the only way have the truth. There is only way to God, and that is through his son, Jesus Christ. He is the door, and the **ONLY WAY** to the Father.

The Door



John 10:1-18

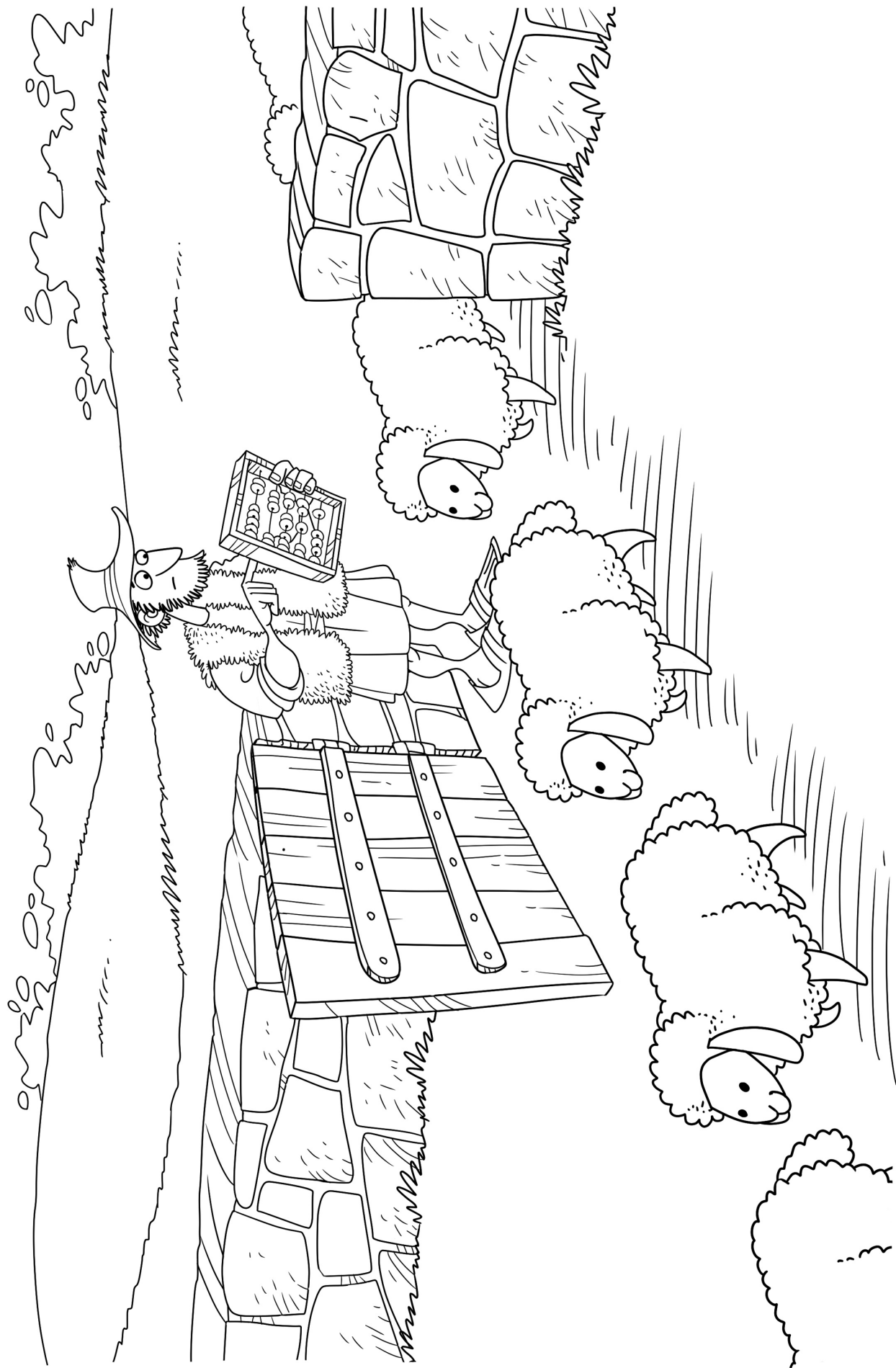
MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus said to him,
I am the way, the
truth, and the life.
No one comes to
the Father except
through me.*

John 14:6

Answer the Questions

1. Who comes in the door?
2. Who do the sheep follow?
3. Will the sheep follow a stranger? Why or why not?
4. What does it say we will recognize if we know Jesus?





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

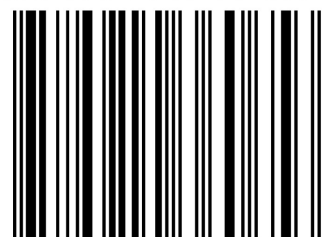
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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