

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!





An Empty Tomb

Matthew 28
Mark 16
Luke 24
John 20:1-23

Resurrection

Teaching the Lesson:

Tell the story from the book of John, but bring in information from the other gospels.

Note: The story of the death and resurrection of Jesus is expansive and covers a lot of information. The events of Jesus meeting the men on the road to Emmaus, and his appearance to Thomas will be covered in another lesson.

The story of the resurrection can be challenging to reconcile all of the gospel accounts. The Word of God is inerrant, and the gospels are not inconsistent. Multiple commentaries have been written on the subject, and the writer of this curriculum has chosen the following commentary as the most likely explanation.

"John recorded Mary Magdalene as coming to the tomb in a manner that would make the reader think that she was alone. Yet Matthew and Mark mentioned Mary Magdalene by name as being with the other women at the tomb. One possible explanation of this is that the women were meeting at the tomb, and Mary Magdalene arrived before the others. She then could have run to tell the apostles what had happened while there other women who are mentioned were still arriving. They would have entered into the empty tomb to see for themselves while Mary Magdalene was still in transit. It would then have been these other women who saw the two angels that Luke recorded in Luke 24:4-7. Close to the time that these other women left the tomb to go back to the others, Mary Magdalene arrived back at the tomb with Peter and John (John 20:3-10). Then as Mary Magdalene lingered in the area of the tomb, she was the first one to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18). Later as the other women were going back to tell the apostles of what they had seen, Jesus appeared to them also (Matthew 28:9-10). With these events being so intertwined and the time frame being only a matter of minutes, it certainly would have not been incorrect for Matthew, Mark, and Luke, who did not go into as much detail as John, to include Mary Magdalene in the group of women at the tomb. John's account simply adds more detail and this is not a contradiction." ©Andrew Wommack Ministries

This story follows the death and crucifixion of Jesus. It is now Sunday, the first day of the week. The Sabbath is now over, and people can move freely. Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb *when it is still dark* (John 20:1) and sees that the stone has been removed from the tomb. If we go with the conclusion in the commentary, it seems that Mary saw that the stone was gone, and ran back to tell the Peter and John that the tomb was empty, and that she did not know where they put Jesus' body.

Women were coming to the tomb bringing sweet spices to put on Jesus' body, and they got there as the sun was rising (Mark 16:2). Mary Magdalene and the "other Mary" are mentioned by name, but Luke 24:10 also mentions Joanna and "other women" so we do not know for sure how many. Luke tells us that on the way there, they were discussing how they were going to remove the stone. But when they got there, they saw that the huge stone had been rolled away.

Matthew tells us that there had been a great earthquake, and it seems that this had happened before anyone arrived.

Discuss this. Do you think people felt this? Surely they must have. Do you think people wondered what was happening? Was there any other damage?

The angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled the stone away, and was sitting on the stone. His face was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. Luke's account says there were two angels, and their clothes were shining.

Discuss this: The chief priests had asked the Romans to set guards around the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66). They told Pilate, the Roman leader, that Jesus had said that he was going to rise again after three days. They were concerned that the disciples were going to steal the body and tell everyone that Jesus had risen. To them this would be worse than when he was alive.





An Empty Tomb

Picture and discuss: There was an earthquake, and an angel with a face like lightning (that might be scary!) and very shiny WHITE clothes comes and sits on the huge stone after rolling it away. Matthew 28:4 says the guards were so scared that they shook and fell like dead men. (They went later to give messages to the priest so we can assume they fainted.)

The angel told the women (Matthew 28:5-7) that Jesus was risen, and told them to come see. They went inside the tomb (Mark 16:5-6) and were afraid when they saw a young man dressed in long white clothes. He told them not to be afraid, to look where Jesus had been laid, and to go tell the disciples *and Peter* that they would see him in Galilee.

It is interesting that the Peter is the only name that the angel specifically mentions. Peter impulsively cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest in Jesus' defense, yet a short time later he denied him three times just as Jesus had predicted. Peter was very ashamed, and possibly the angel specifically mentioned Peter to reassure him after this denial.

Luke mentions two angels; it seems as if they appeared suddenly while the women were there. The women saw the angels, were afraid, and bowed down to the earth. The angels asked, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" The angels told them women that Jesus was not there, but reminded them how he had told them that he would be crucified and rise again on the third day.

The women went back to tell the disciples. They were afraid, and they did not tell anyone but ran straight to tell the disciples.

Discuss: Why were they afraid?

This was incredulous. They were amazed and in shock; they saw an angel that told them Jesus was alive. But they were also afraid because of the authorities. If they would have had television, the crucifixion of Jesus would have been headline news. The disciples and followers of Jesus were afraid because they thought they might also be arrested, which is why Peter denied Jesus. After the crucifixion, the disciples did not know if the authorities would be coming after them too. If people found out that the body was gone, they were afraid of what the consequences might be for the followers of Jesus.

When the women told the disciples, they did not believe them. But two disciples wanted to see if it was true. Peter and John got up and ran to the tomb. John refers to himself in his gospel as "the other disciple," or "the disciple who Jesus loved." John tells the reader that John ran faster than Peter, and he was the first one to arrive at the tomb. Mary Magdalene must have followed them back to the tomb.

John bent down and looked into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. When Peter got there, he went into the tomb. He saw the linen clothes, and the cloth that was wrapped around his head was wrapped separately by itself. Then John went into the tomb and when he saw, he believed.

There is something to this. For some reason, seeing these linen cloths lying there made John believe.

Different commentaries have been written on this. On the day of the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus brought Jesus to the tomb. Nicodemus brought a 100 pound mixture of spices and ointments, and they wrapped Jesus' body in the linen cloths. These would have been strips of cloth used to wrap the corpse, in the same way that Lazarus was wrapped when Jesus told the people to unwrap him. Joseph and Nicodemus would have put the spices and ointments on the linen. Some commentaries believe that the spices and ointment would have hardened when they dried, leaving a hard shell. When they looked in and saw the cloths, lying there, they would have been hardened and untouched in the shape of a body. If someone would have stolen the body and removed the cloths, they would have had to have been unwrapped or cut. But if the linen was still *in the shape of a body* that could explain why John saw, and believed. He would have seen what appeared to be an empty mummy. The head wrap would have been separate from the body, and it is not clear whether it was a hardened shell, or simply wrapped separately.

After they saw the linen and believed, Peter and John left, but Mary Magdalene stayed behind (John 20:11). Mary was weeping, and she looked inside the tomb. When she looked in, there were two angels in white sitting there: one at the head, and the other at the feet of where Jesus had been. They asked her why she was crying, and she told them it was because someone took Jesus, and she did not know where they laid his body.





An Empty Tomb

After Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. He asked her why she was weeping, and who she was looking for. She thought Jesus was the gardener, and told him that if they had taken him somewhere, to tell her where he was, and she would get him and take him away.

Then Jesus said, "Mary."

When he called her by name, she recognized him. She turned around and said, "Rabboni," which means, Master.

Then Jesus tells her not to touch him, because he has not yet ascended to the Father. This is interesting; he appeared to Mary before he went to the Father. He told her to go to the disciples, and tell him that he would ascend to the Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.

Mark 16:9 tells us that Mary Magdalene was the first person that Jesus appeared to after he was risen. After this, Mary Magdalene went back and told the disciples that she had seen Jesus and what he said to her. But Mark 16:11 tells us that they did not believe her.

Soon after, Jesus appeared to some of the other women as they were going back to tell the disciples. It isn't completely clear if he had ascended to the Father before this, but the other women held him by the feet and worshipped him (Matthew 28:9).

Meanwhile, the guards who had seen the angel and the earthquake went back to tell the chief priests what happened.

Discuss this. What would you do if you were a guard?

The priests and elders held a meeting, and then gave large amounts of money to pay off the soldiers. They told the soldiers to tell everyone that Jesus' disciples had come and stolen the body while the guards were asleep. And then they told the guards that if the Roman governor heard about it, they would calm him down and keep the guards out of trouble. The guards took the money and did what they were told and the Jews believed the story (Matthew 28:11-15).

Discuss this. The chief priests knew what had really happened and still did not believe on Jesus.

Jesus appeared a few other times to his disciples, and it seems it was that day. He appeared to see people who were walking and talking about the events of the week. They did not recognize him until they had been with him most of the day and they ate bread with him.

After that he appeared to the eleven disciples while they were eating (Mark 16:14). But Jesus reprimanded them for their unbelief and hardness of heart that they did not believe the people who told them he was alive.

Discuss this. According to Jesus, his own disciples had hardened hearts. They had been with him all the time, and yet they still had hardened hearts that manifested in unbelief.

He appeared to the disciples the same night he was risen (this could have been the same instance recorded in Mark 16:14 but is recorded in John 20:19). This time John specifies that the doors were shut. The disciples were all together and they were hiding because they were afraid of the Jews.

Discuss this. What were they afraid of?

Jesus came and stood in the room with them. They did not open the door, he just appeared. Jesus is able to do things in his resurrected body that he was not able to do before. He appears and says, "Peace be to you." Then he showed the disciples his (nail-pierced) hands and his (pierced) side.

He sent his disciples as the Father has sent him. He breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Ghost. .



Jesus in the Story



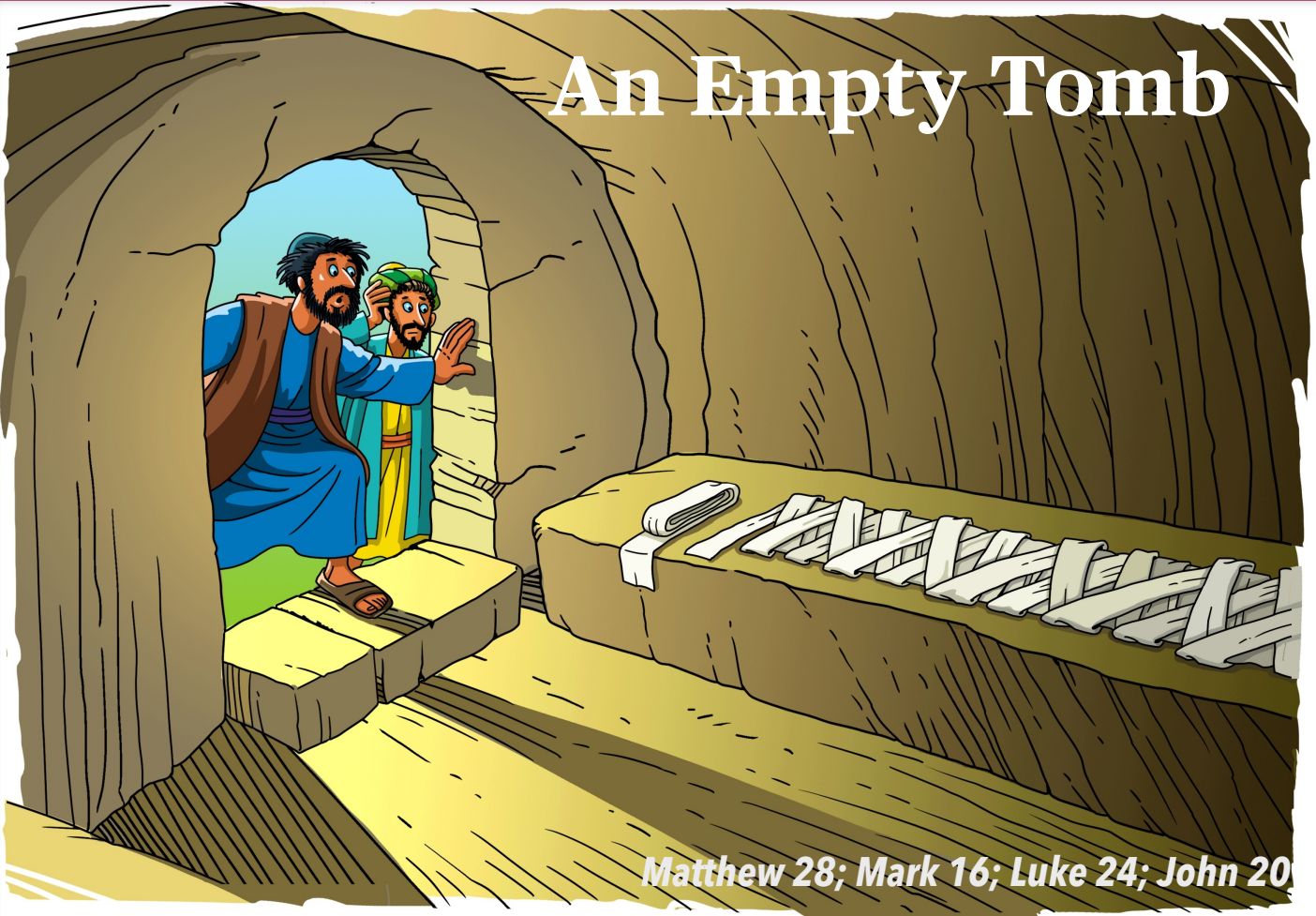
Jesus had to die to save us from our sins. Because of Adam's sin, every man is born into sin. But in Christ, all who believe are made alive. Jesus had to be raised from the dead. If he died and was not resurrected, we would still be in our sins, and, "most miserable." If Jesus would have stayed in the grave, then our faith would be in vain, and we would still be responsible for our sins. But through his grace and resurrection, those who believe on Him are saved by faith.

There were many things in the Old Testament that have New Testament counterparts. Sin began in a garden, and Jesus had to be arrested in a garden after submitting to the will of the Father. After the resurrection Mary Magdalene mistakes Jesus for the gardener.

Because Jesus triumphed over death, it brought us victory and allowed believers to walk in a new life. Our old sinful man is crucified with Christ, and we are no longer slaves to sin but free from sin (Romans 6:3-7).



An Empty Tomb



Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

MEMORY VERSE

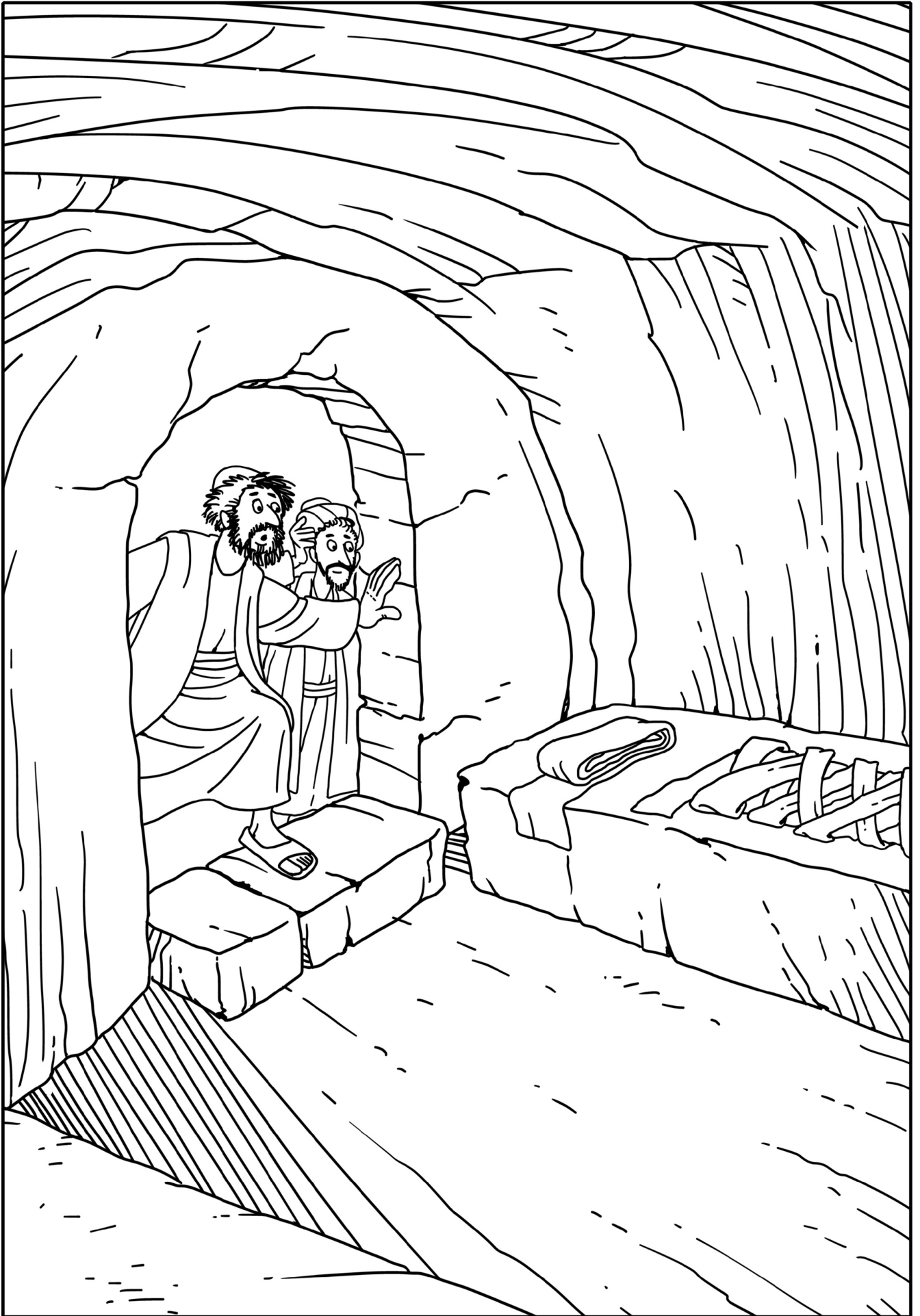
*And if Christ be not raised,
your faith is in vain; you are
yet in your sins. Then they
also which are fallen asleep
in Christ are perished. If in
this life only we have hope
in Christ, we are of all men
most miserable.*

1 Corinthians 15:17-19

Answer the Questions

John 20

1. Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was?
2. What did Mary think happened to Jesus?
3. What was in the tomb?
4. Would a thief have left the grave clothes?
5. What did Jesus tell Mary to go do?





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

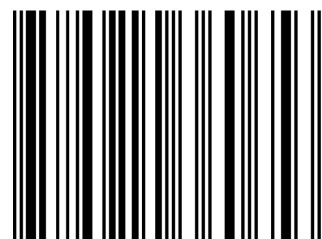
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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