

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!





What Do You Have?

Matthew 14:13-21
Mark 6:30-44
Luke 9:10-17
John 6:1-14

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Teaching the Lesson:

You may choose to teach from any of the gospels, but you may prefer to teach from the gospel of John and combine the information from the other gospels as you tell the story to get the complete story.

***It is to the discretion of the teacher to discuss details of the death of John the Baptist, or ask the students if they know the story and guide them through it.**

Jesus has just received the news of the death of John the Baptist. Jesus and John the Baptist were cousins, and John had been an important part of Jesus' ministry. He was the one who spoke about Christ's coming and prepared the way for Jesus.

This news obviously had an impact on Jesus, and he took a boat across the sea of Galilee to a private place in the desert near Bethsaida to be alone.

Discuss this. Have you ever just wanted to be by yourself? Jesus tried to get to a quiet place to be alone, but thousands of people followed him. You probably did not have thousands of people following you, but maybe your family or friends would not give you privacy.

Jesus was not able to be alone. People recognized him (Mark 6:33) and news probably spread quickly that he was near. People followed him everywhere he went hoping to be healed; they walked from all the cities around to see him. But instead of getting irritated or frustrated, Jesus was moved with compassion for the people; he felt sorry for them. He saw them as "sheep without a shepherd," (Mark 6:34) and he taught them about the kingdom of God and healed them.

We read in Mark 6:31 that they had been so busy that Jesus and his disciples did not have time to eat. So they were also hungry.

The gospel of John tells us that Jesus looked up and saw all the people coming, and he asked Philip, "Where can we buy bread so that all of these people can eat?" He was testing Philip by asking him this; Jesus knew what he was going to do, but he wanted to see what Philip would say.

Philip's answer is very specific. He says, "Two hundred pennyworth (some versions say 200 Denarii) is not enough for each of them to have a little." Two hundred denarii was actually quite a bit of money; it was equal to about eight months of wages. But it would not have been enough to feed that many people. Because he answered with a particular amount, it seems very possible that this is the amount of money they had. Philip is thinking in terms of lack; this is not enough. If this is what they had available, he is looking at it and saying it is not enough to give them even "just a little."

Matthew, Mark and Luke all say that the disciples suggested that Jesus send the people home; to let them get food on the way home in the different villages. But Jesus responded to them by telling them, **"They don't need to leave; you give them something to eat."** The disciples also respond the same as Philip, and mention the same amount of money, and ask about buying bread. They are not considering that there are other any other options. They looked at what they needed, and then at what they had, and they saw a lack. They all ask Jesus, "Do you want us to go buy bread?"

Jesus doesn't even respond to this question. He says, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see."





What Do You Have?

Discuss this. They probably walked around asking if anyone brought any food. Does anyone have anything to eat? Everybody's looking around, trying to see if anyone has anything. Finally, they find someone: a little boy brought five barley loaves and two small fish. Barley was looked down upon; it was a poor man's food. This little boy was probably poor but he was willing to share what he had. Do you think the little boy was the only person who brought food to this event? Were there other people there who had food but did not want to share?

The disciples said to Jesus, "We *only have* five loaves and two fish." Matthew 14:17

"We *only have* five loaves of bread and two fish." Luke 9:13

"There is a lad here, who has five barley loaves, and two small fish: but *what are they among so many?*" (John 6:9)

What do all of these comments have in common? What are they saying?

It isn't enough. We can't do this; there's not enough. They were not giving value to what they had. We **ONLY** have.

Did Jesus look at it and say, oh, yes, you are right...too bad; this just is not enough?

Absolutely not! The kingdom of heaven is opposite of the "normal" way of thinking. Jesus placed value on what they had. He did not consider it insignificant or small. What they considered small and useless, he considered priceless. They had **SOMETHING**. He could do a miracle with this.

Jesus was not saying, tell me what you do not have. He was saying, tell me what you **DO** have. He cannot work with what you lack, but he *can* work with what you *have*. Size and amount do not determine value. Value is determined by the person who has it, and how it is viewed.

Jesus said, "**Bring them to me.**"

When we give whatever we have to Him, even if it does not seem like much, it is our offering to Him. In our own power we are not capable of doing anything, but He can do the impossible. We have to release it, to give it to him, and that gives him permission to do something with it. The disciples could have passed this food out on their own and it would not have gone very far. But when they gave it to Jesus, he was able to transform it into more than they ever imagined (Jeremiah 33:) Ephesians 3:20).

Discuss this. What if you were the boy? The disciples are taking your lunch to Jesus....this is exciting. The man that everyone came to see is taking **YOUR** lunch! Maybe this boy got to meet Jesus personally!

After Jesus told them to bring him the bread and fish, he *commanded* (Matthew 14:19; Mark 6:39) all the people to sit down on the green grass (Mark 6:39). The other gospels say that he told the disciples to *make* them sit down (John 6:10) in groups of fifty," (Luke 9:14).

If you look up the Greek word for "sit" in this verse it actually means, "to lean upon, lay down, or recline." In this culture the accepted way to eat was to lean back and eat almost lying down.

Does this sound familiar? Can you think of another place in the Bible where it says that the Lord makes people to lay down in the green grass?

Look at Psalm 23:

"The Lord is my shepherd,"

Jesus was on his way to a private place, but he saw all the people coming to him and he gave them the rest that he needed. He taught them and healed them because they were like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). Jesus says "I am the good shepherd," (John 10:11; 10:14).



What Do You Have?

"I shall not want." Some versions say, "I have all that I need, or "I will not lack."

Did the people need food? Did the Lord hesitate to provide it for them? Did they even ask? We have no evidence that they asked. John said it was Jesus' suggestion when he saw them coming.

"He makes me lie down in green pastures,"

What did Jesus do? He *commanded* them; he told the disciples to *make* them sit (or lay) down.

Jesus came to fulfill prophecy. He is fulfilling the prophecy of the Messiah from Psalm 23 in this story.

But there's more.

He told them to sit down in groups of fifty, and this is a parallel between Jesus and Moses. When Moses was presiding as a judge and leader over the people *in the desert*, he was overwhelmed by the needs of the people. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, told him to distribute the work by dividing the people into groups and putting leaders over them (Exodus 18:13-23).

Jesus is not judging the people, but in contrast he is feeding them and meeting their needs. He is also making the disciples participate and spread out the task that needs to be done. There are a LOT of people that need to be fed - at least 5,000. Jesus brings the disciples into the process and instructs them to pass out food.

On further comparison, this parallels with the manna that God provided for the Israelites in the desert. They were hungry, and God rained down manna from heaven; Jesus himself is that manna, that "food" for the people (John 6:48-58).

Everyone is sitting down, anticipating, eagerly waiting. Do you think that everyone there knows that there are five loaves and two fish? What do you think the crowd knew?

Jesus took the five loaves, and the two fish and he **looked up** to heaven.

If you do a word study on "looked up" or "lifted eyes and looked," often when this word combination is seen in Scripture in the Old Testament, there is a connection with someone or something in heaven and either a provision, a message, or a vision for the people (Joshua 5:13; Daniel 10:5; Zechariah 2:1, 5:1).

Then Jesus **blessed** it.

Discuss what this means. What is a blessing? What happens when you bless something? Will it produce? Will it be fruitful? Will it do even more than what it is intended to do?

Then Jesus **broke** the bread.

This is parallel to the future where Jesus' body is broken for his people. He breaks the bread and begins handing off pieces of it, and they're all breaking the bread. He then gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples gave it to the people. Then he also divided the fish, and they gave fish to everyone.

Do you think the disciples walked around and each of them handed it to hundreds of people? If they did that, would everyone have been aware of what had happened? Maybe, maybe not. Maybe they would just think the disciples were pulling out of their reserves. But what if the disciples walked around and handed it one person in each group of fifty, and that person broke it, and the next and the next? Would people all see the glory of God that way? We do not know exactly how it was done. But we do know that the people saw the miracle and believed that Jesus was a prophet (John 6:14).

We also know that there were many people there that day. There were 5,000 men, but that does not include women and children. If many of these men had wives, and they had children there also, there could have easily been 10,000-15,000 people.

Who ate? They ALL ate (Matthew 14:20; Mark 6:42). Not just the men, but the women and children too. And did they each just get a bite? That's all Philip thought they would be able to provide. If we use what have in the physical, what we have at our own resources (in this case 200 denarii), then everyone *might* get a little. But when it is out of our control, and we give it to God, He is now the provider.





What Do You Have?

It is no longer our responsibility. When we let it go and give it to the Lord, it is His responsibility. He is now the source, not you. And He is not going to just give to some people, or make sure everyone just gets a little. When Jesus put his plan into action, they ALL ate, and were all FILLED (Luke 9:17; John 6:12). No one went away hungry. He is a God of more than enough, a God of abundance and when he does it, He does it for His glory, and he is never going to make it small.

If this little boy would have feared that he would not have enough, he might not have shared it. If he would have held on to what he had, he would have only had enough for the moment, then he would run out. Instead, when he gave it to Jesus, it became more than enough for everyone there. The boy ate as much as he wanted, and there was still an abundance left over. When you give what you have to God, He will multiply it for others, as well as multiplying it for you.

After the meal, people must have gone around to clean up. After every church event you have to have a clean up crew, and it was no different at Jesus' meetings. They did not have trash bags, but they had baskets. They gathered up all the leftover bread crust, and fish bones, and fish meat, and there were TWELVE baskets left over.

Anyone who knew that they started with five loaves and two small fish would have been astounded that not only did it feed many more than 5,000 people, but they took up enough pieces of leftover food to fill twelve baskets. The baskets were FULL (Matthew 14:20) and that they were "over and above" to those who had eaten (John 6:13).

Psalm 23:5 says "...my cup runs over." The baskets of leftovers show that there was more than enough. God is a God of abundance. He can do more than you can ever imagine. But you have to value what you HAVE and give it to Him, rather than focusing or even talking about, what you do not have. When you emphasize the lack, you limit God's ability to do something with what you do have, no matter its size.

Jesus in the Story



This is a beautiful story of the Messiah, the promised Christ, in Psalm 23 who is the shepherd who provides for his sheep. His people will never want or be in lack of anything. We can walk in the same blessings if we are thankful. We must place value on what we **do** have, no matter how small, and offer it to him. He will make it into more than we could ever imagine if we do not limit him by focusing on what we need.

In the desert, when God provided the manna, it was always enough, but it was *just enough*. But when Jesus came, God was able to bless his people in the way he always wanted to, he could be the God of abundance, the Good Shepherd who provides over and above, and beyond with generosity.

Jesus represent a new type of Moses. Not one that governs by a set of laws, but one that rules with love and compassion. He is full of grace and truth. He is a God of justice, but his primary goal is to show the love of a good God, and a good Shepherd who wants to provide for his people. But in order to receive his provision, we have to put our trust in him. Value whatever we have, entrust it to him, and completely depend on him to meet our needs.



What Do You Have?



Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

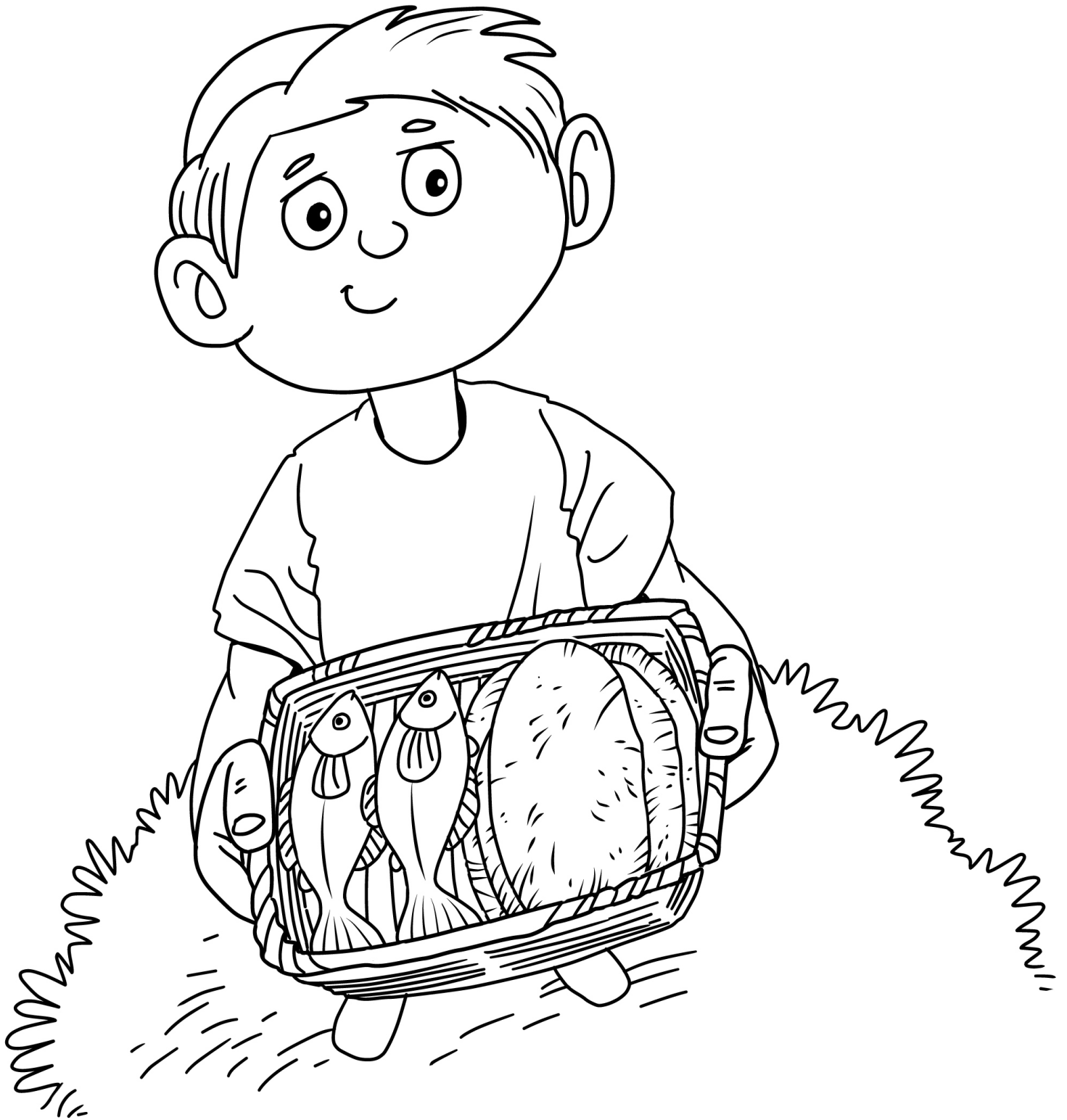
MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:1-3

Answer the Questions

1. Who doubted there would be enough?
2. What did the disciples want to tell the people?
3. What did Jesus do with the food after blessing it and giving thanks?
4. How much was left over?





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

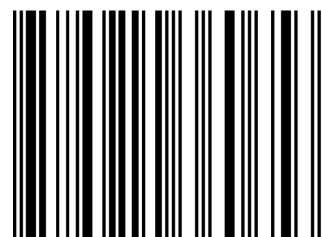
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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