

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!

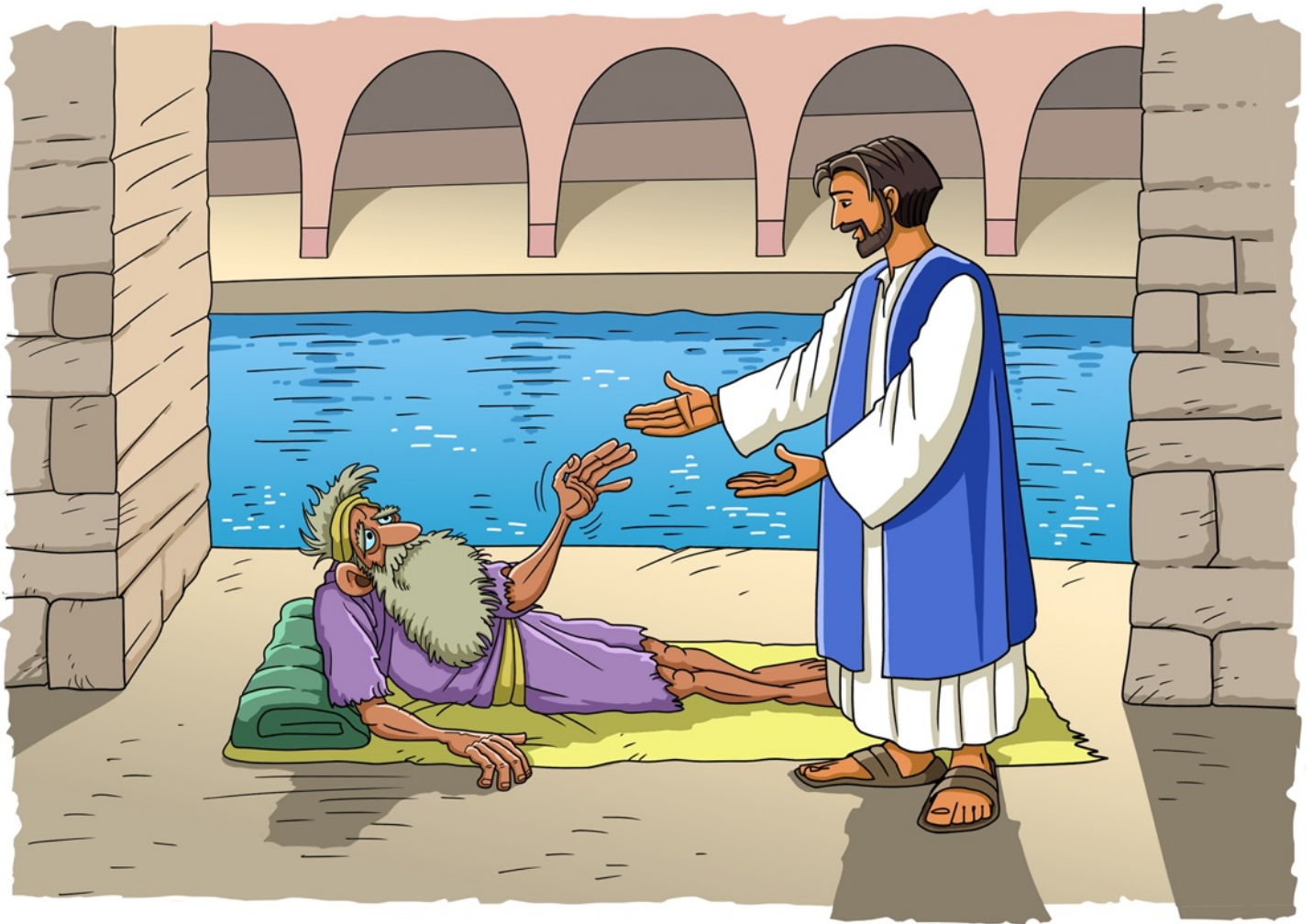
So many of the stories in the Bible can be acted out. Many of the Psalms can be acted out.

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!





MEMORY VERSE

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23



Waiting for the Water

John 5:1-18

Miracles of Jesus

The lesson opens with a feast of the Jews. Where do you think this feast would have been?

It was in Jerusalem, and Jesus went there for the feast.

The story takes place in Jerusalem, near the sheep market. This market was where sheep were sold, some historians believe this was where the sheep were purchased for the sacrifice, but this is not clear from the biblical text. Some markets could have been a place where you purchased a live sheep, and the animal is slaughtered for you to take home to cook for dinner.

By the market there was a pool with five porches, and the name of the pool was called Bethesda.

Picture the scene: There is a large pool of water, and there are a large number of people around the pool.
What do you think is wrong with the people around the pool?
All around this pool there were many sick people who are blind, lame, and paralyzed.
All of them needed healing, and they are waiting for the "moving of the water."

The next verse is very unusual, and this verse has been debated for years. Many modern Bible translations do not include John 5:4. But if you remove this verse, then John 5:7 does not make sense. This lesson will assume that the teacher has a translation that includes John 5:4.

John 5:4 says that at a certain time, an angel went down and stirred up the water. The angel would make the water bubble, or move, and the first person who got in the water after this would get healed.

It is difficult to find anything similar to this anywhere else in the Bible, so some scholars believe that this could have been a legend. Others say there may have been a spring connected to the pool, or it was connected to the water system in Jerusalem and air would bubble into the pool. Often people try to make the Word of God of less effect by explaining things away in a natural sense, but this can also detract from the power of God. The apostle John writes this very matter-of-factly, and does not give any reason for the reader to believe that it was anything other than an angel; therefore this lesson will assume the literal translation of John 5:4.

We can imagine the scene. When the water is stirred, there would be a mad rush for everyone to try to be the first one in the water.

Discuss: What would this look like? There were a lot of sick people around this pool.
Some people might have been watching the water all the time waiting for it to move.
What do you think happened when the water started moving, or bubbling?
This could be a very crazy scene.
Do you think people would be rushing down to the water trying to get in first?
What would you do if you saw the water bubbling? Would you yell out that the water is moving?
Would you be quiet, not say anything and try to get in before anyone else noticed? Either way, people might be shoving other people out of the way, pushing to be the first one into the water.





Waiting for the Water

There was a certain man there who was waiting around the pool, and he had been sick for thirty-eight years.

We do not know how old he is, or how long he has been waiting by the pool.

There is one other time in the Bible where the number thirty-eight is mentioned. Deuteronomy 2:14 says that that Israelites wandered from Kadeshbarnea (where they sent the spies into the promised land) to the brook of Zered for thirty-eight years.

This specific time period was part of the forty years that they were in the desert. Deuteronomy 2:14-15 and tell the reader that this was the time that the all the men of war died in the desert.

The possible parallel is that this time of thirty-eight years in this man's life was a time of wandering, a time where he was completely aimless, and waiting to die. But when given the opportunity to go into the promised land, he made a different choice.

For some reason, Jesus seems to have singled this man out. We don't know why he chose this man, or if he was the only person he healed at Bethesda.

Jesus saw this man lying there near the pool, and he knew that he had been that way for a long time.

Discuss: How could Jesus have known that this man had been sick for a long time?

He seems to have known this just by looking at him.

Is it possible that the man's legs were skinny - small and shriveled? Sometimes when people are not able to walk for long periods of time their legs completely lose all muscle and strength; the legs become thin and frail.

Could that be what Jesus saw when he looked at man this man?

Jesus came to him and asked him a question. What do you think he asked this man?

Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Discuss: What kind of a question is this?

What would you say?

If you had been sick for thirty-eight years what would you say?

Do you think the man wanted to be healed?

Was that why he was there at the pool waiting for what may have been a very long time?

Do you think this man said yes?



Waiting for the Water

He did not actually answer the question. He basically offers an excuse, or an explanation of why he is not well. He blamed things on other people.

He told Jesus that he did not have anyone to put him into the water when it is stirred up. And when he tries to get in the water, someone else always gets there first, and he can never get there in time.

We aren't sure why he offers this vague explanation; he seems to be trying to make excuses of why he is not healed.

Jesus does not respond to any of this.

He just says, "Get up! Pick up your bed, and walk." What do you think the man did?

What is interesting and unusual is that the reader finds out later that he does not even know who Jesus is. It is not like he heard about the healings that Jesus had performed, or knew the reputation that Jesus had. So as far as this man knows, this random man told him to get up and walk.

The man gets up. Immediately. He picked up his bed, and walked. He was healed and made whole!

But, what day of the week was it?

It was the sabbath.

Discuss: What always happens when Jesus help someone on the sabbath? Who is going to be angry?

The Jewish leaders always got upset. Why?

The Jews saw this man carrying his bed. Maybe he had it thrown over his shoulder. But the Jews saw him carrying his bed and said, Hey! What are you doing? It's against the law to carry your bed on the sabbath day! This is considered work.

The man told them, the man that made me well told me to pick up my bed, and walk. Then the Jews said, Who? Who did this? What man told you to pick up your bed and walk?

They could have said, this is amazing! They probably knew this man. If he was a beggar, and he had been sick for so long, people probably knew who he was. He most likely had been sitting out there every day for days and people would have recognized him.

It is likely that many people in the city knew who he was.

The Jews could have been happy for the man. This man is excited, this is the best day he has had in thirty-eight years!

This is where we see that this man did not even know who Jesus was; he did not know who had healed him. There were so many people there that Jesus had left unnoticed.

Jesus found the man in the temple. If he found him, he must have been looking for him.

Jesus went up to the man and says something to this man that makes the reader wonder what was going on in this man's life, or what caused his condition in the first place?

Jesus said, You are well now; stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.

Why did Jesus say this? What does this mean?

Does this mean that God made him sick? No. God does not put sickness on us because of our sins.

First of all, does God forgive us when we sin? Yes.



Waiting for the Water

Look at Romans 6 to find out what happens when we sin.

We are not under the law anymore, we now live under grace (Romans 6:1, 14,15).

What is grace? It is God's favor, loving-kindness, pleasure. When we accept Jesus, God gives the gift of righteousness and in God's eyes he does not see our sin (Romans 5:17). Our old self died with Jesus, and we are made new just like Jesus was when he was raised from the dead (Romans 5:15-21; 6:6). God sees us as dead to sin, and alive to God through Christ Jesus. He looks at us the way he looks at Jesus.

What does it mean when we say "the law"? What is it talking about?

It means the Ten Commandments, and the other 613 laws in the books that Moses wrote in the Bible. The Jews lived by these laws for thousands of years.

If we are not under the law anymore and God forgives us, then can we just go and do whatever we want to because we know he will forgive us? No.

Sin is a trap. It is dangerous; it opens the door for the devil to come into our lives.

The apostle Paul wrote that **if you sin, you make yourself a slave (Romans 6:16)**. Do you want to be a slave?

Paul said if you obey God, it is like you are a servant to God, but if you sin, you will be a servant to the devil. If we sin, it is like opening the door for the devil to come into our lives.

Discuss: Do you think that's why Jesus told this man to stop sinning?

Was he trying to protect him?

Jesus is warning him: if you keep sinning, it will let something worse in your life than you had before.

Just because God's grace covers our sin, it doesn't make it okay to sin.

If we continue to sin because we know that God's grace covers our sin, it is very dangerous. Yielding to sin makes us servants of sin, makes more sin, and ultimately sin will kill you. Satan will be your master, and he will pay you what you earned, which is death.

After this, the man left, and he told the Jews that Jesus was the one who made him well. That made the Jews want to kill Jesus even more, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

Then Jesus told the Jews, My Father is always working, and I am working.

This made the Jews even more angry, and they wanted even more to kill him. Not only had he broken the sabbath, but now he was saying that God was his Father, and he was making himself equal with God.

Jesus continued speaking about himself and his relationship to the Father.

Jesus explains who he is, and his relationship with the Father. He tells them many things, but his underlying theme is that you cannot separate Jesus from God. You cannot say you believe in one and not the other. You cannot say that you honor one and not the other.



Jesus in the Story



Jesus told them that he does not do anything of himself, but only what he sees the Father doing. (John 5:19)

To honor God the Father, you must also honor the Son. (John 5:23)

If you hear his word, and believe on him, you will have everlasting life. (John 5:24)

If you search the scriptures, you will see that they speak of Jesus. (John 5:39)

If you do not receive Jesus, you do not have the love of God in you. (John 5:42)

Jesus said that He and the Father are one. (John 10:30)

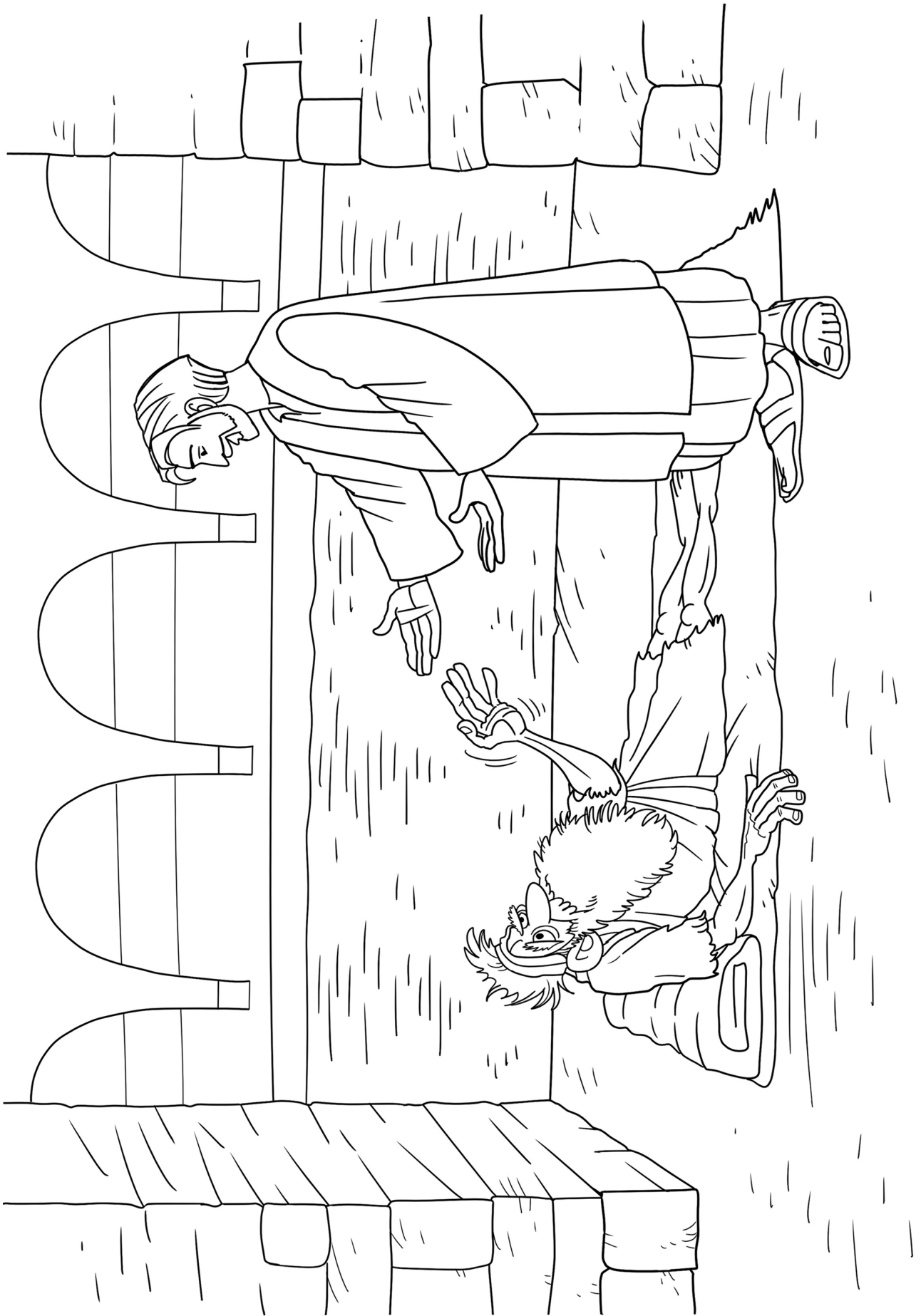
He said that if you've seen Jesus, you've seen the Father. (John 14:9)

The Pharisees were saying they honored the Father but they rejected Jesus. Jesus tells the Pharisees of the authority given to him by the Father. (John 5:27) He tells them that He can do nothing of himself, and he only does the will of the Father who sent him (John 5:30). If you honor Jesus, you honor the Father. If you do not honor Jesus the Son, then you do not honor God the Father. (John 5:23)

There are a lot of people who say they know God, and many religions say they have the way to God. But you cannot have a relationship with the Father without acknowledging that God sent Jesus into the world to save us (John 5:38,43).

Jesus IS the Word of God. The scriptures are all about Jesus (John 5:39) from the beginning to the very end. And if you do not receive Jesus, then the love of God is not in you. (John 5:42)







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

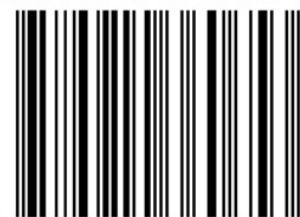
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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