

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 Fills Your Heart?

Matthew 12:34-37
Luke 6:45

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

The passages are short, but slightly different. You may choose to teach from Matthew as it contains slightly more information.

Jesus so often taught about the condition of the heart, and continuously went back to this theme. He was speaking to people, primarily the Pharisees and religious leaders and rulers of the day. They knew the laws given Moses in the Old Testament, and their primary focus was to obey these laws. But what Jesus pointed out over and over was that their hearts were not pure, and they were doing things with the wrong motives. They were doing it all for selfish gain.

The gospel of Matthew shows us that in this particular instance Jesus was responding to the Pharisees. This sermon started after the Pharisees accused Jesus of being a prince of the devils because he had cast out devils. They did not say these things to him directly, but he knew their thoughts and he began addressing examples of things that seemingly contradict. Jesus gives examples of how a kingdom that fights itself cannot stand, it will self-destruct or fall apart.

He then speaks of trees, and how good trees have good fruit. Bad fruit does not come from a good tree, and good fruit does not come of a bad tree. Jesus is speaking with double meaning; he is not merely speaking about trees. He sums it up by speaking directly about your words, and how they reveal your heart.

Discuss: For example, if a tree such as an apple tree, has bad fruit, and all of the apples are rotten and taste poorly, what would you think? Would you try to treat the apples themselves, or would you try to find out what was wrong with the tree? If you studied plants, you would realize the problem was with the tree, not the fruit. Does it need better soil? Is it attacked by insects? What would be some solutions?

Jesus says, How can you speak good things if you are evil? *Out of the abundance of heart the mouth speaks.*

Another translation says, *For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.*

What is in your heart comes out when you speak. The things that come out of you are your fruit, just like a tree has fruit. What is in your heart naturally comes out, it spills out.

Discuss: If you have a cup completely full of milk, and you spill it, what comes out? If you have a cup full of tea, what comes out? Whatever is in the cup is what is going to come out. And it is the same with your words. Whatever is in your heart is what is going to "spill" out when you speak.

How do you know what is in a person's heart? How do you know what they are really thinking? A person can try to hide their true feelings for a time, but eventually what they are thinking in their heart will come out in their words. A person's words will give them away. If their heart is full of evil, they will not speak good things. A person's true emotions come out in their words. Your words are what come out of you, and they are what defile you - what corrupts a person, or pollutes them (Matthew 15:11, 16-20).

Then Jesus says, A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil things (Matthew 12:35; Luke 6:45).

Discuss: What is your heart? It is the part of your mind with your thoughts, your passions, and your character.

The original word in the Greek in Matthew 12:34 for heart is "kardia." This is where we get medical terms relating to the heart such as cardiac and cardiovascular. It means the organ in the body which circulates blood, but it also means the center of all physical and spiritual life. It is the soul or mind, the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, and purposes. It is the understanding, will and character, the seat of all affections, emotions, whether bad or good. It is the central or innermost part of anything. This is the inner YOU.

The heart is the source of the words you speak.

Then Jesus says that we will give account for every idle word we speak in the day of judgment.





What Fills Your Heart?

Discuss: What does this mean? What is an idle word?

Some translations say "careless." The meaning of the original word that Jesus used was *inactive, lazy, to shun the labor ought to perform, unprofitable*. It would be a word that does not accomplish what it was supposed to do.

Words are very important to God. He used words to create the world, and they have creative power. Our words are meant to create, not to destroy. They are meant to accomplish something. What Jesus is speaking of here is just "talk."

Discuss: What could be some examples of idle conversations?

Useless talk, destructive talk, gossip, speaking negatively, speaking of anything that goes against what God has said.

Then Jesus closes by saying, *By your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*

One day we will have to explain to God all the useless words we have spoken. That is a sobering thought! (Matthew 12:36) It is so important to watch our words and watch what we say. We think it's just a conversation, but God takes it much more seriously! We have to guard our thoughts, to guard what goes in our hearts, to control our tongue and our words (Proverbs 4:23-24).

We have to guard our hearts. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) says "Guard your heart above all else because it determines the course of your life." Wow. This is incredibly important! Many people will say that the things that happened to them determined the outcome of their life; other people caused them to be like they are, and do the things they've done. But God says YOU determine what your life looks like by what you allow in your heart. No matter what your life looks like, you can determine how you respond and how you react. Will you give it to God and let him take care of it, or will you allow bitterness to grow in your heart. What is in our hearts comes out when we speak and reveals a lot about what is on the inside. Our words will either create life or death for us (Proverbs 18:21). Your words are like creative seeds that grow when you speak them.

Discuss: Do you want to have a good heart? How do we have a good heart? Look at what the Bible says about this:

We should listen to God's words, and keep them in the center of our hearts. They are life and health to our flesh .
Proverbs 4:20-22

A righteous man will study his answer before he speaks. Proverbs 15:28

The heart of a wise person will teach his mouth...Proverbs 16:23

Understand the importance of your words:

You are snared with the words of your mouth, you are taken with the words of your mouth (Proverbs 6:2)

Jesus in the Story



Jesus always addressed the issues of the heart. The Jews were focused on *doing* the right thing and obeying all of the laws, but they did not consider the motives.

Jesus said it was about the attitude, not about obeying the letter of the law. They were doing the right things and missing the whole point. Jesus said whole law could be summed up in these two commandments:

Matthew 22:37-40:

...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.



What Fills Your Heart?



Matthew 12:34-37; Luke 6:45

MEMORY VERSE

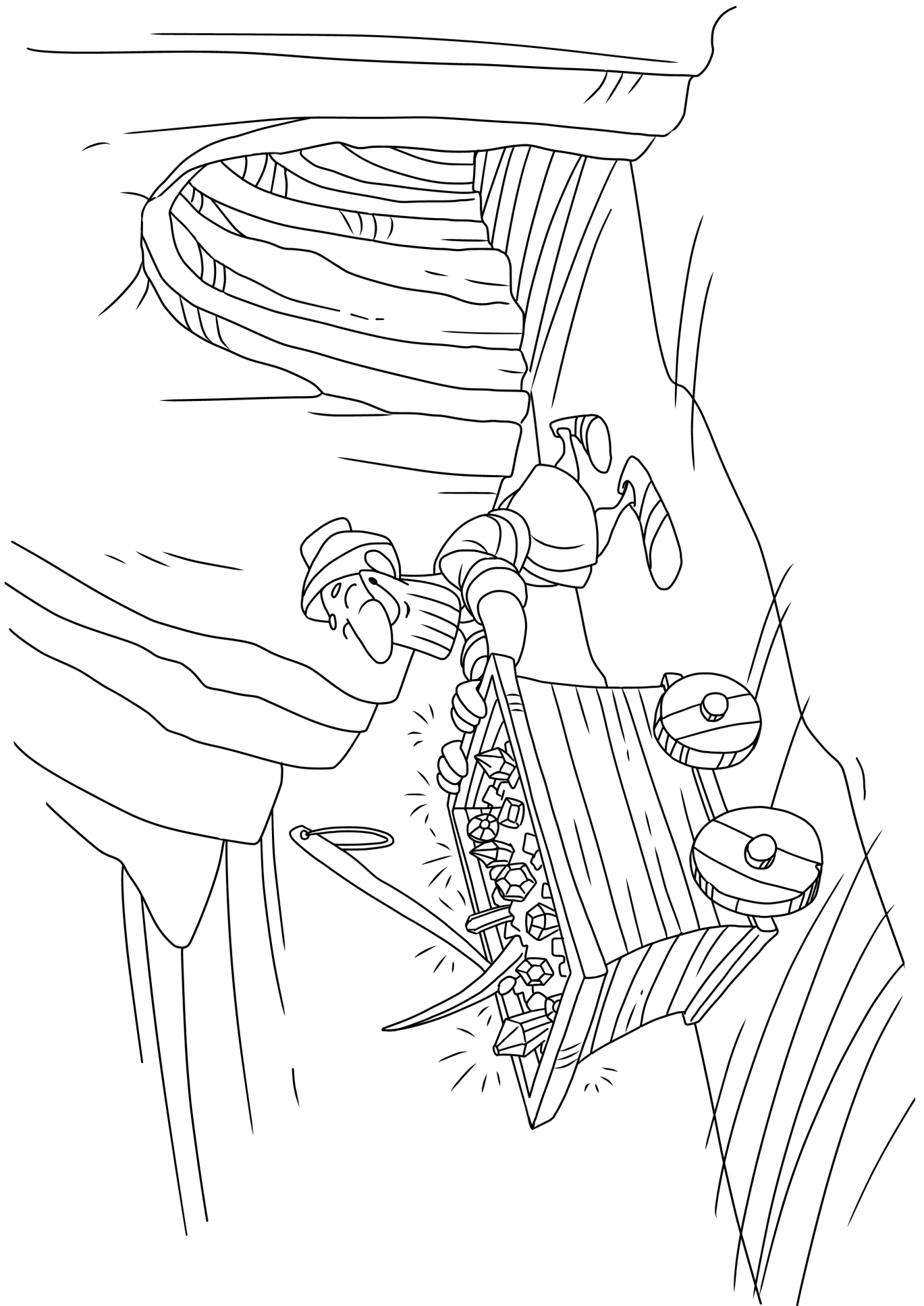
A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:45

Answer the Questions

1. Where do our words come from?
2. What comes out of the heart of a good man?
3. What comes out of the heart of an evil man?
4. What will we give account for to God?







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

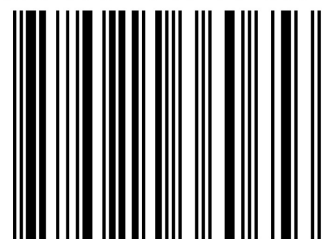
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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