

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!





My Beloved Son

Matthew 3
Mark 1:1-11
Luke 3:2-22
John 1

Life of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

Very little is known about the first thirty years of the life of Jesus. The Bible speaks about his birth, his dedication at the temple, the visit of the wisemen, and that the family went to Egypt to escape Herod. There is one story of Jesus at age twelve learning from the leaders and asking questions in the temple.

The next time Jesus is mentioned is alongside John the Baptist. From the stories of the birth of Christ, it is known that John the Baptist was born to Zacharias and Elizabeth, and that Elizabeth and Mary were cousins. That would make John the Baptist a relative of Jesus and it is possible that they knew who each other was prior to this time.

John the Baptist is introduced as a prophet. There is no doubt as to his identity, and that he is the one prophesied by Isaiah who is "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord." (Isaiah 40:3). It was prophesied that John would come before Jesus and prepare the way for the Messiah, and make "the paths straight."

John was an interesting man.. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a leather girdle (type of belt or band) around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He stayed out in the wilderness; and people came from all over to be baptized and confess their sins. He calls the people to repent and warns of coming wrath. He tells them they need to have personal repentance, and they are not God's people merely because they are descendants of Abraham (Luke 3:8).

People then ask John, what should we do? And he tells them give to others, not to take more from others than they owe. He tells the soldiers not to do violence or make false accusations. He tells the people to be content with their wages. (Luke 3:10-14). Then the people begin wondering, Is this the Messiah? Is he the Christ?

The Jews sent messengers to John. Priests and Levites came to him, and asked him, Who are you?

John said, I am not the Christ.

Then they asked him, Are you Elijah? It had been prophesied that Elijah would come before the Messiah (Malachi 4:5-6) but this was prophetically speaking comparing Elijah to John the Baptist and it was speaking of John coming before Christ (Luke 1:17).

John replied that he was not Elijah. Perhaps he was speaking literally that he was not "Elijah," because Jesus himself said that John was the symbolic fulfillment of the prophecy about Elijah (Matthew 11:12-14). There were distinct similarities between Elijah and John the Baptist. Elijah was a hairy man who also wore a leather girdle around his waist (2 Kings 1:8).

Then they asked John if he was "that prophet," referring to Deuteronomy 18:15-18 which foreshadowed Jesus, and he said, No.

Then John said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3).

John is humble. He immediately refers to Jesus. He says, I baptize you with water, but one is coming that is mightier than me, and I am not even worthy to tie his shoes. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.

For centuries, the Jews had been expecting a Messiah. When John came and began preaching about repenting from your sins, they thought that he might be the Messiah. We can look back now it seems very clear who John was. But it was not that obvious to those who were watching it happen and living it.

Discuss: Get the picture of what is happening. There's a strange man who wears camel hair clothing. He eats grasshoppers and honey from bees in the wilderness.

He's preaching a message telling everyone to repent. The people have been living in sin, and they thought it didn't matter what they did because they were descendants of Abraham. John is telling them it does matter what they do, and they need to change their ways. He is preparing their hearts for Jesus.

News spreads about this strange event, and the strange man who is preaching. People are coming from all over and traveling to see what is happening. People are realizing they are wrong, and are changing their ways and getting baptized.





My Beloved Son

What is baptism?

Baptism is symbolic of a pattern we see throughout the Old Testament.

The first hint we see is at creation, with God's spirit hovering over the water. God divides the water, and creates the land.

Noah and his family are saved in an ark through the water (1 Peter 3:20). A dove is sent out when it is time to return to the land.

Moses, as an infant, is taken through the waters of death in an ark (basket) and rescued.

Moses leads the people of Israel out of Egypt through the Red Sea *on dry land*. (1 Corinthians 10:2)

Joshua leads the people out of the wilderness, through the Jordan River *on dry land*.

In the incidents with Noah, Moses and the Red Sea, and Joshua, the people had broken covenant with God, and they were starting anew by renewing their commitment to the God of Israel. And in each scenario God tells the people of his faithfulness.

When John baptizes the crowds, the people repent for being unfaithful to God, and renew their hearts to to prepare for the Messiah.

Jesus shows up while John is baptizing people in the Jordan river.

What is the significance of the Jordan River?

The Jordan has been very important all throughout the Old Testament. The Jordan river was the border between the wilderness and the promised land. After forty years in the desert, Moses dies in the wilderness. Then just as God parted the Red Sea for Moses, God parted the waters of the Jordan so that his successor, Joshua, could lead the people across the river Jordan into the promised land on dry ground (Joshua 3-4).

Hundreds of years later, Elijah parted the waters of the Jordan with his cloak, and both Elijah and Elisha crossed over on dry ground (2 Kings 2:8). At this time they were leaving the promised land and going out into the wilderness where Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.

There are similarities in the lives of Moses and Elijah and the spiritual roles that they played. They both were in the wilderness at the time of their death, and in Elijah's situation, his exit from the earth. This wilderness repeats in the life of John the Baptist.

Joshua took over leadership of the Israelites after Moses; Elisha took Elijah's place as prophet and received a double portion.

Both Joshua and Elisha represent the coming Jesus. Joshua means "Jehovah is salvation," and Elisha means "God is salvation." Joshua led his people into the promised land, and Elisha returned across the Jordan into the promised land after Elijah departed.

Elisha the prophet led Naaman the Syrian to dip in the Jordan where he received healing, and worshiped the God of Israel.

(These brief story references will help students understand how the whole Bible uniquely ties and is intertwined together.)

When John saw Jesus coming, he said, Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

John told the people that Jesus is the one who is greater than John, because he existed before John.

Jesus came to John to be baptized.

But John said, No. I need you to baptize me, and you're coming to me to baptize you?

Jesus told John, Allow it for now, because this is the way we fulfill all righteousness. (Matthew 3:15)

John baptized Jesus, and as soon as he came out of the water, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him in bodily shape like a dove, and resting on Jesus. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

What is this all about?

This goes back to what has been said in prophecy. Psalm 2:7 says this is my Son. Isaiah 42:1 speaks that the coming king, the Messiah, will be a servant *in whom my soul delights*. Some translations say, *in whom my soul is well-pleased*. This is an announcement. The servant king has arrived.





My Beloved Son

As soon as Jesus came out of the water the heavens were opened.

This refers back to the days of Noah when the heavens were opened with God's judgment and poured out flood waters. Now God opens the heavens with grace and truth to mankind through Jesus Christ. This is the moment we have all been waiting for. Jesus, the prophesied Messiah is here. He is bringing the kingdom of God to his people.

The Spirit of God descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Jesus. This refers back to the dove that Noah sent out from the ark seeking a place to rest. This Spirit of God descended and remained on Jesus (John 1:33).

In John 1:32-34, John the Baptist says that this is how he knew who Jesus was. He said that the same one that sent him to baptize with water told him that to whom he saw the Spirit descend on and remain, this is the same one who would baptize with the Holy Ghost. When John saw it, he knew that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus in the Story



This is the coming Kingdom of Heaven. John was the one who was prophesied to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. He had to prepare the hearts of the people for the New Covenant.

John's message of baptism is symbolic. It is a way for Israel to start over again. The Israelites crossed the Jordan into the promised land before, but they were unfaithful to God. Now through baptism they are symbolically crossing through the waters again, but this time not on dry land. Baptism symbolizes the death to the old way of life and repentance, a turning away from what was behind, and a readiness to accept the salvation that is coming - Jesus. This baptism was to prepare their hearts to receive Christ.

Jesus had no sin; he had no need of repentance. But he went through baptism to "fulfill all righteousness." God opened the heavens and announced who Jesus is. This was a type of earthy unveiling, a statement that showed his obedience to God, and marked the beginning of his ministry. Everything we know about the life of Jesus as an adult begins at this point in time.

This was the announcement that everything was about to change. The Messiah has arrived; a new way is here. Your hearts have been prepared; you have a new beginning. Listen to Him.

Jesus was baptized to represent our need for cleansing from sin. He would complete and perfect what was represented by Joshua and Elisha. He would deliver God's people from their sins, and bring them into the eternal promised land.

For believers, baptism marks a change. It represents God's deliverance through water, by not being consumed by the waters. It is a new beginning, and the passage through the waters symbolizes death to what lies behind. In baptism a person signifies that his old self was crucified with Christ (the waters of death) and he is now risen with Christ in newness of life. Baptism shows personal repentance by dying to a life of sin and following Jesus out the other side into the new creation. It symbolizes that our old man died with Christ, and we now through the Spirit walk in a new life. (Romans 6:3-11; Colossians 2:12)





My Beloved Son



Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11 Luke 3:2-22; John 1

MEMORY VERSE

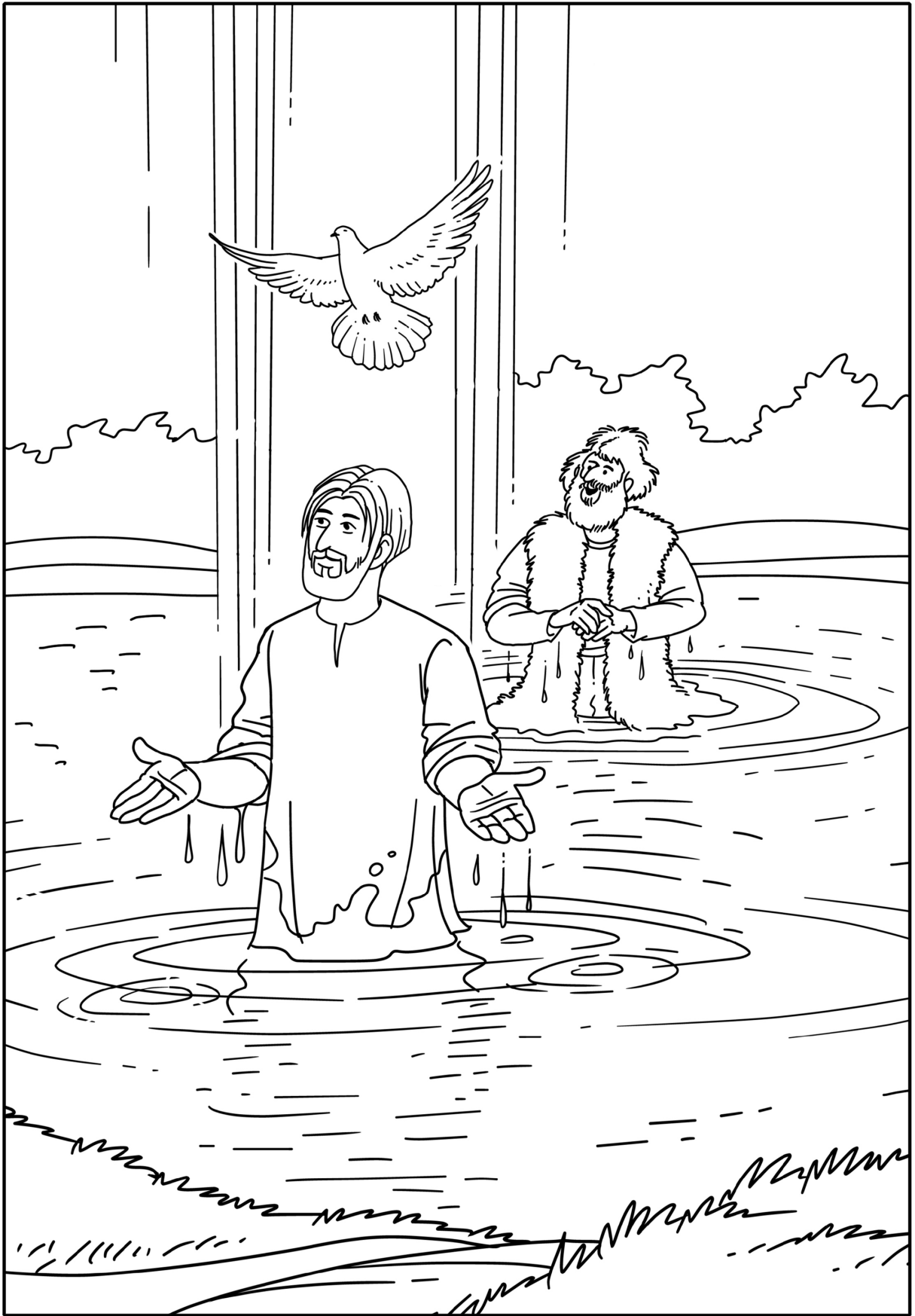
When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting upon him.

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

Answer the Questions

1. What opened when Jesus was baptized?
2. What did God send to Jesus, and how did it appear?
3. Where did the voice come from?
4. What did the voice say?





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

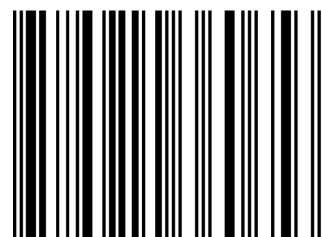
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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