

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!







Two Kinds of Yeast

Matthew 13:33; 16:5-12

Mark 8:15

Luke 12:1; 13:20-21

Parables of Jesus

Teach the lesson from Matthew 13, or Luke 13; the verses are almost identical. This is a very short parable of Jesus, and we can contrast it with the comments Jesus makes about the leaven, or yeast, of the Pharisees.

The Jewish people had expectations of a Messiah, but Jesus did not meet those expectations.

The scriptures had prophesied that a Messiah was coming to rescue the Jews who would rule his people as king. The Jews were waiting for a savior, but one that looked very different from Jesus. They expected a strong, military leader, who would rise up against the current Roman government, and elevate Israel as a world superpower. Even the comments the disciples make let us know that they were waiting for a day when Jesus would tell them it was time to rise up and come into power.

Jesus arrives as a prophet, one who is not searching for power but humbles himself and serves the sick, the poor, and the outcasts. He reaches out to those who everyone rejects, and heals those who are in need; he eats with sinners.

He does the opposite of what the people expected of a leader.

Jesus is constantly trying to tell the people that his kingdom is different. Jesus tells them that the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of heaven, is arriving on earth as it is in heaven. He tells them parables to show them that the things he is doing is the arrival of God's kingdom on earth. God's kingdom involves elevating others above yourself, and putting the needs of others above your own. The kingdom of heaven is treating others with kindness, and loving the unlovable. The people that the world shuns as the least are actually the most important in the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of heaven is backwards to everything that the world expects.

This story is no different, he is telling several comparisons to show them what the kingdom of heaven is like.

In Matthew 13, Jesus has been sitting by the seaside giving many different parables to illustrate the kingdom of heaven. He gives a short illustration about a woman making bread. He tells them that the kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, or flour, until the whole thing was leavened, or until it worked through all of the dough.

What is leaven? It is yeast. Yeast is a living organism, it is a living cell. It is what makes our bread rise. Without yeast we have different types of flat breads, but yeast is what makes the bread grow larger. When yeast is added to a dough it changes the whole composition of the dough, not just a part of it. (Galatians 5:9)

Discuss:

Have you ever made bread? Have you kneaded yeast into the dough?

Can you have a half of a loaf of bread that rises? Once the yeast is added to a mixture, the whole loaf will be leavened. All of the bread will rise.

It is also not possible to take the yeast out of the bread once it has been added. You would have to start all over again if you do not want the bread to rise, or a leavened dough.





Two Kinds of Yeast

So what is Jesus talking about?

The yeast of the kingdom of heaven changes people's hearts and changes the world. It is hidden in a lump of dough. You cannot see it, but it changes *everything*.

Once the kingdom of heaven came into the world, it is unstoppable. (Acts 5:38-39) It is completely different, it is something new.

Many times that leaven is mentioned in the Bible it represents evil; several times leaven is used to represent sin. Many of the Old Testament feasts and holidays called upon the children of Israel, the Jewish people, to remove the yeast from their homes and not offer any sacrifices with yeast or leaven.

But as we read this kingdom parable told by Jesus, it seems that there are two different ways of looking at leaven, or yeast in the Bible.

Jesus tells the disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, Saducees (another religious group: Matthew 16:11), and the leaven of Herod. (Mark 8:15) Their leaven is their doctrine (Matthew 16:12), which is hypocrisy. (Luke 12:1)

The Pharisees did everything "right." Their actions looked good on the outside to others, but on the inside their hearts were not pure. (Matthew 23:25,27)

They had other motives; they wanted to be seen and praised by all the people. Their heart was not right with God and their actions did not match their intentions.

Jesus called the Pharisees out - even on their thoughts. On many occasions we are told that he knew their thoughts, and his comments addressed what they were thinking in their hearts. (Matthew 9:4; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22) Jesus called the Pharisees "hypocrites", which meant they were just acting. They acted one way to look good to the people around them, and they said the right things, but their hearts were "far" from Jesus. (Matthew 15:18; Mark 7:6; Isaiah 29:13) Jesus told the people not to be like the Pharisees, who prayed loudly out in public just so that people would see them. (Matthew 6:5-6)

The Pharisees made a lot of extra rules and followed them so that everyone would think they were extra holy. They would tell everyone they should obey these rules, but they would find ways around the rules to not obey them the way that God intended. An example of this is the way they treated Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were very self-righteous and proud. Jesus was telling his disciples that this way that "seems right to a man" (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25) were ways of death and they should beware of them.

This sin of pride, or self-righteousness is also a leaven that grows in the heart and changes a person, and this is the leaven he warned against.

Again, he turns everything around to the opposite of what people are thinking. What was previously used to symbolize something evil can also be used to symbolize a method that shows the way the kingdom spreads into the world. And once it is in the world, it cannot be removed.



Jesus in the Story



Parables allowed Jesus to make very bold statements to those who were open minded, to those who “had ears to hear.”

Jesus tells stories in parables to make people think, not to clearly illustrate his point. Those who searched for the kingdom would study and ponder, and go deeper. But these parables also allowed Jesus to conceal his true message from those who were against him.

He spoke in mysteries to give him the time he needed to completely bring the kingdom into the world.

The parables are still packed with truths that we can ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us through our understanding.

MEMORY VERSE

“...For if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it - lest you even be found to fight against God.”

Acts 5:38-39







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

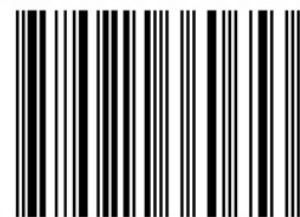
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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