

# 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

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## ***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

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***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:

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### 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:

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### 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!





# Giving Thanks

Luke 17:11-19

*Life of Jesus: Miracles*

## **Teaching the Lesson:**

At the beginning of verse 11 we read that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, but he went through the middle of Samaria and Galilee where the Samaritans lived. The Samaritans and the Jews did not like each other. Samaritans were primarily half Jew and half Gentile. During the time of the Babylonian captivity of Israel, the Jews that were left in the land intermarried with the Gentiles and this resulted in the Samaritan people. To the Jews, the Samaritans were not pure. They had similar yet different religious beliefs and disagreed on the location of the temple. There had been a bitter rivalry between these two groups since the time of Nehemiah.

Discuss with the children what a Gentile is - someone who is not Jewish. What is a Jewish person? The Israelites in the Bible were called Jews. Discuss possible rivalries between different people groups. Does God like some ethnicities of people better than others? No. Did Jesus tell the Gentiles or Samaritans that he would not heal them because they were not Jewish? No. Jesus did say he was sent to Israel (Matthew 15:24) but Gentiles and others stepped into receiving from Jesus by faith.

Jesus is now in Samaria. Ten men that were lepers met Jesus as he entered a village. However, they did not come up to him; they stood far off and spoke loudly to him, asking him to have mercy on them.

Talk to the children about leprosy. Leprosy was a contagious skin disease. It not only affects your skin, it also affects your nerves, and your eyes and can make it difficult to breathe. Because the nerve damage can make it where you don't feel pain, many lepers would lose parts of their limbs (arms or legs) because of infection or injuries; and eventually it can even cause blindness. Ask the children what contagious means - a disease or sickness that spreads that you can catch from another person. When Moses wrote the law, there were rules about how to leprosy. According to Leviticus 13:45-46, a leper had to live outside of the city. He would have to rip his clothes, not cover his head, but wear a covering over his upper lip and call out, "unclean, unclean!" everywhere he went. Even though it was a skin disease it was actually transmitted by coughing or discharge from the nose. The Lord knew this, which is why the Old Testament law specified the covering over the mouth.

Talk to the kids about what kind of life this would be. You wouldn't get to see your family, you couldn't touch anyone, you would be living outside in dirty conditions with other people who were sick just like you. Most people did not recover, but there was a plan in place for recovery. If you got well, you would go to the priest and he was the person who decided if you were really well, and if you could return to the town or village with everyone else.

Discuss some similarities this could have to Covid; except that this leprosy would be a permanent situation not temporary like a shorter illness. The face covering would have been similar to a Covid type mask.

These lepers saw Jesus, and called out to him. "Lord, have mercy on us!" After Jesus saw the lepers, he told them to go show themselves to the priests. According to Old Testament law, in the day of the leper's cleansing he must go to the priest. The priest determines if the plague is healed, and a sacrifice is made. The leper must go through a purification process, and after a week he must shave all his hair, wash his body, and offer another sacrifice before his purification and cleansing is complete. In a similar story, Jesus healed a leper and told the man to go show himself to the priest for his cleansing, and for a testimony. in Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45 and Luke 5:12-15 This could also have been a testimony to the priest of the power of Jesus.

The story tells us that as the lepers went on their way to the priest, they were cleansed. It appears that their healing was not immediately obvious, but as they acted on their faith (James 2:17) their healing came as they were on their way to the priests.

The Bible says that faith without works is dead. What does this mean? Discuss this - if you believe something but you act like you don't, do you really believe it? If you truly believe, your actions will show it.

They weren't healed at first, but as they started going, they were being healed. Talk about this. What would this be like? Maybe they looked down and saw that their skin wasn't damaged anymore, etc

One of the lepers, after he saw he was healed, turned around and went back to where Jesus was. He yelled with excitement and glorified God with a loud voice.





## Giving Thanks

Talk about this; ask the kids what they would do if they were really excited. Talk about the man, his family, what if he had a wife and children. Could he work to provide for them? If they had to live far away from everyone for a long time and all the sudden you knew you were well, wouldn't you be excited? His whole life has just dramatically changed. He has a new life!

This guy yelled loudly and ran over to Jesus. He ran and fell down at Jesus' feet, thanking him. Talk about what this would look like.

This man, the one that went back to thank Jesus, was a Samaritan. Remember who the Samaritans were? Did Jesus seem to dislike the Samaritans? No. Jesus showed everyone the same love and compassion.

Many of the miracles of Jesus involved Gentiles. Many Gentiles were more willing to receive Jesus than many of the Jews.

Jesus says to the Samaritan, weren't there ten lepers that were healed? Where are the others? None of them came back to *give glory to God*, except for this stranger.

Notice what Jesus says here, "give glory to God." What was this man doing? He was *thanking* Jesus. When we thank God, we are giving him glory. We are thanking him for something that only He can do, and acknowledging it is not something we could have done ourselves.

Jesus then says to the Samaritan, "Get up, go your way, your faith has made you whole."

There is a different Greek word used for the other lepers that were cleansed (*katharizō*) than this Samaritan who was made whole or healed (*sōzō*). It seems that this Samaritan received something more than the other lepers. He was made whole, or preserved. Some theories suggest that he could have been missing fingers, an arm or something else and he was completely restored, where the other nine lepers were cleansed but not made whole.

When we give thanks and glory to the Lord, we are opening up the door for him to move in our lives. There are stories in the Old Testament where they sent out the singers and the choir before the armies. *When they began to praise and give glory to the Lord, He would set up against their enemies* (2 Chronicles 20:22.)

When you praise you are giving the Lord the ability to do something for you. It takes you out of the situation and gives Him the opportunity move. It's not that He does not have the power to do it, but your praise gives him place in your life. It is you, yielding to him through faith, to do a work in your life. When we give thanks, it takes the focus off of ourselves, and acknowledges God and gives glory to Him.

We should give thanks always, and in everything. (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18.)

## Jesus in the Story



Jesus came as the Messiah for the Jewish people of Israel (Matthew 15:24). However, his ultimate plan was to bring salvation to the whole world through his death and resurrection. But during his life ministry, other people groups such as Samaritans, Romans, and other Gentiles reached out to him and received by faith.

The words thanks and thanksgiving are in the Bible 98 times; praise and praises 242 times; sing and singing 127 times; rejoice and rejoicing 211 times; bless and blessing 181 times; and glory 371 times.

Thanks, praise, glory, blessing rejoicing, are all a big deal to God. We do not always understand the power in giving thanks and praising Him. Jesus equated giving thanks to be the same as giving glory. When we give thanks and glory to God, we are humbling ourselves and realizing that we are not capable of doing the things that he does. We are acknowledging His power and work in our lives, and that without him, we are nothing. But with him, we are everything.



# Giving Thanks



Luke 17:11-19

## MEMORY VERSE

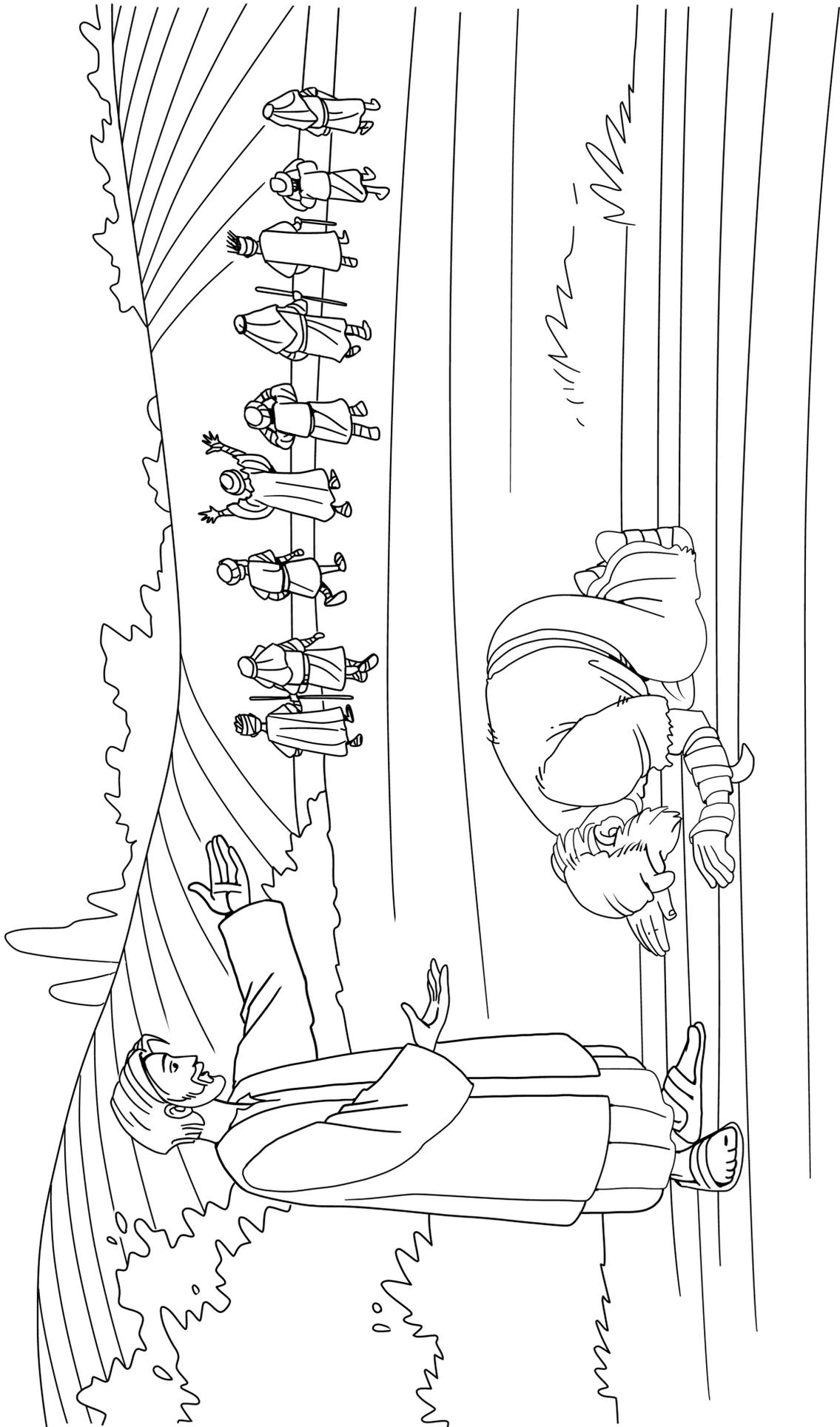
*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## Answer the Questions

1. When does Ephesians 5:20 say that we should give thanks?
2. Who should we give thanks to?
3. Colossians 3:17 says that we should do everything in the name of Jesus and then give what 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

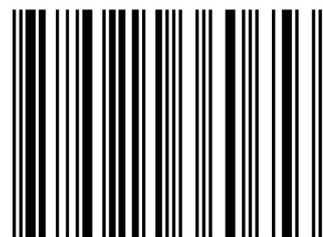
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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

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