

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!





Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

If your audience enjoys a drama presentation, this would also be a good story to act out.

The story begins with a lawyer who comes to Jesus and tries to tempt him. People were always trying to catch Jesus doing something wrong. The Pharisees and scribes were scholars of the law, and they judged Jesus by their interpretation of the law. When his views did not line up with theirs, they became outraged and eventually their accusations resulted in his death.

The lawyer asked Jesus, "What should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responded by answering a question with a question, causing the person to reflect back on their own thoughts and motives. Jesus asked him what is written in the law, and asked the lawyer how he interpreted it.

Discuss this. What do you think is the answer to this question?

The lawyer knows the law of Moses, and quickly responds with a quote from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength and and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Is this lawyer right? Did he correctly answer the question?

Yes. Another time in the gospel a Pharisee that was a lawyer asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment. Jesus responded exactly the same (Matthew 22:36-40.)

A person can have all the answers right, but it does not matter if the motive in their heart is not pure. God knows our thoughts and He looks at the intents of our hearts, not only our outward actions.

Discuss this: What does it mean to be righteous? Righteousness can be interpreted in more than one way.

A person can be self-righteous. This would be someone who prides themselves on how good they are, whether genuine, or simply an act that they put on for others to see.

True righteousness means to be in right-standing with God. It means that you are innocent, faultless, guiltless and blameless before God. Righteousness is not something that can be earned through our deeds or something that can be achieved. The only way that we can be righteous is by faith. We must accept our righteousness as a gift from God that we can only receive by our faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22; 4:5; 4:13; 5:17; 9:30; Ephesians 2:9.)

Our gift of righteousness comes with the responsibility of being a representative of Christ and his kingdom. In Christ's kingdom, loving the Lord your God and loving others comes as first priority, and the leaders of His kingdom are those who serve others.

Jesus was content with the man's answer and responded, "You have answered right; do this and you will live." But the lawyer was trying to justify himself. He was trying to prove himself, and show that he was righteous in his own right. So he pressed for more information and asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"





Who Is My Neighbor?

Jesus responds with a story:

"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho..."

Historically, Jesus was speaking of an actual road, and the story speaks of a very real possibility. There was one main road to get from Jerusalem to Jericho. This road was somewhat remote, and had many caves and hiding places along the path. There was not often a lot of traffic on this road, and thieves and robbers would hide in the caves and behind the rocks and then steal from travelers.

This certain man was attacked by thieves. They stole his clothing, probably everything else he had, beat him up, and left him half-dead on the side of the road.

Discuss this. What would this be like? This would be scary. Thieves jump out from behind the cliff, take everything from you including your clothes, and not only that, they beat you up and you are not able to go get help. Without your clothes you are embarrassed and humiliated. You are so badly hurt, that the thieves have left you for dead. You have no money, and have no way of asking for help, or even offering to pay someone to help you. You are completely helpless and at the mercy of strangers.

A priest comes walking down the road. In the religious society of the day, this would be like a pastor or a bishop today. People would have thought this man to be a good and holy man. Of course he would do the right thing and help this man.

But, what did the priest do? Did he see the injured man? Yes, he did, but the priest did not stop to help. Not only did he not stop, he pretended like he didn't even see him and he walked by on the *other* side of the road.

Discuss this: What do you think this priest was thinking in his heart?

It seems hopeless, but, there's someone else coming!

Next, a Levite comes walking by. This would be like a church leader today; someone who works or teaches in the church. This is someone who should know what is right, and someone who is thought of as a "good person."

The Levite walked by, *looked* at the man, and then passed by on the other side. We do not know if the injured man saw him, or if he was unconscious, or moaned in pain and asked for help. All we know is the Levite offered no assistance and walked by on the other side.

Discuss this: What would you do? What do you think about someone who behaves as the priest and the Levite did?

Now it seems really hopeless. But, finally another person comes along. This person is a Samaritan. The Samaritans were not liked by the Jews. The Jews were the people of Israel, but most Samaritans were half-Jew and half-Gentile. The Jews had been told not to marry the Gentiles, so these people were looked down upon because they were a mixture; they were not pure. They had similar, but different religious beliefs, and there had been bitter relationships between the Samaritans and the Jews for hundreds of years. This was the last person you would expect to be "a neighbor."

This Samaritan man was on a journey, and he came across the half-dead man and had compassion on him. Compassion is described as an inner voice, to be moved from within with sympathy or pity. This type of compassion compels you to act, to do something to help. When Jesus healed people, it often says he was "moved with compassion."

The Samaritan did not just help the man. He went above and beyond. He bandaged up the man's wounds and used his own supplies. He had oil and wine with him for his journey, and he poured these on the man. Why would he do this?

Wine is alcohol, and serves as a natural disinfectant. It kills germs and cleanses. The oil would have been a salve, and would have been an agent for healing.



Who Is My Neighbor?

Next, the Samaritan put the man on his own animal, very likely a donkey; meaning the Samaritan had to walk the rest of the way leading the man and making sure he did not fall off of the animal. He then took the man to an inn, or type of hotel, and took care of him there. The Samaritan had to leave the next day, so he gave money to the people at the inn and asked them to take care of the injured man. He told them if it cost more than the money he gave them, that he would pay them back when he came back again. It seems that this Samaritan may have had a relationship with the people at this inn; maybe he traveled here frequently. They seemed to know him and trust him since he was able to leave someone in their care promising to pay extra the next time he came through.

Jesus always told the unexpected. His teachings were often the opposite from what everyone else was thinking. The people who were listening to this story most likely thought that a Pharisee would be the one named as the "good neighbor." Pharisees were respected as the "most righteous" people. But to turn this around and say that an undesirable person such as the Samaritan was the true neighbor? This was a scandalous interpretation of the definition of a neighbor.

Then Jesus ends his story with yet another question. He puts it back on the man for him to decide. He asks him, "Which of these three do you think was the neighbor to him that fell among the thieves?" And the man answered, "The one that showed mercy on him."

Jesus simply responds, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus in the Story



Jesus was always doing and saying the unexpected, which is why so many people had a hard time believing that he was the Messiah. He did not interpret the law the way they did. He healed on the Sabbath, he had relationships with the outcasts, he ate with sinners.

The people did not understand that all of the laws are summed up in two commandments: loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind; and loving your neighbor as yourself. The law in its perfect form would completely accomplish this. But people had turned the laws into paths of self-righteousness, and ways to show how good they were bringing glory to themselves rather than to God. They respected others based on their outward actions but Jesus saw their hearts and called them out on the motives behind their actions.

The lawyer questioning Jesus is trying to do right by the letter of the law. He asks, "Who is my neighbor?" He wants the legalistic answer, so that he can rightfully and lawfully measure what he is supposed to. But he misses the whole heart of the commandment. It is not about helping someone because they meet the right criteria, but about having genuine love and compassion for others. In this story Jesus told, he turned the whole thing around and gave a surprise element to the story, presenting them with the least likely individual who was actually the true loving neighbor.



Who Is My Neighbor?



MEMORY VERSE

*...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
greatest commandment.*

And the second is like it:

*You shall love your
neighbor as yourself.*

Matthew 22:37-39

Answer the Questions

Matthew 25:35-40

1. Jesus said, I was hungry and you gave me?
2. I was thirsty and you gave me?
3. I was a stranger and?
4. I was sick and you?
5. I was in prison and you?
6. When we help others, who are doing it for?





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

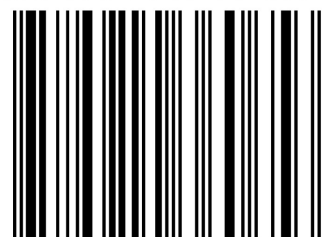
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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