

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!





MEMORY VERSE

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17



So You May Know

Matthew 9:1-8
Mark 2:1-12
Luke 5:18-26

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Jesus has come into the town of Capernaum. Matthew's gospel says that this was his "own city," which seems to imply that this was Jesus' home town. After several days, people heard that Jesus was in town, and many people came to see him.

Discuss: Jesus was a celebrity.

What does that mean? It means he was famous.

What do people do to celebrities? They follow them, find out where they are, and see what they are doing.

Jesus had no privacy; people followed him everywhere he went.

What would this be like? Would you like to be famous like this?

Would you want people following you everywhere?

It could be difficult; people were always around asking questions, or wanting to be healed.

Jesus often had to get away to rest or pray because there were always crowds of people around him.

After a few days, people found out Jesus was in town.

Discuss: They may have told their friends, "I heard Jesus is here! I heard he's staying at..." or, "

My friend's friend thinks they saw him over at somebody's house."

He may have come into town, and then somebody saw him, and told other people.

Maybe they would walk by, hoping to get a glimpse of him or find out where he was.

As soon as people found out where he was, so many people came to see him that there was no room, not even around the door, and Jesus was preaching the word to them.

Luke's account says that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by. These men were studied in the laws of Moses, and they knew all the laws of the Bible. When they heard that Jesus was in town, they came from surrounding towns to come see Jesus.

Notice Luke 5:17: "The power of the Lord was present to heal them." The power of God was in the room!

Just because power was there, it doesn't mean that everyone could receive. When we harden our hearts to the things of the Lord like the Pharisees did, the power of God can be right in front of us and we don't even see it. The Word says when our hearts are hardened, then our ears become hard of hearing. When we are unable to see and hear, we cannot understand, and the Lord is not able to heal us because we are not open to receive from Him. (Isaiah 44:18; Matthew 13:15; John 12:37-40; Acts 28:27)

Some historians believe this may have been Jesus' own house, as it seems his home was in Capernaum. Others believe it may have been Peter's house, because some scriptures seem to indicate that Peter may have made his home in Capernaum; we do not know for sure.





So You May Know

Discuss: Have you ever been anywhere this crowded?

All the seats would have been taken, and people were standing all around.

The doorways were blocked.

There were so many people that no-one could squeeze into the place where he was.

Five men came to see Jesus. Four of them were carrying a bed with a paralyzed man lying on it. What does it mean to be paralyzed? He couldn't move part of his body; we don't know if it was just his legs or his whole body. These four men brought him because he could not get there on his own. Maybe they were his relatives, maybe they were his friends; but they believed if they could get him to Jesus, he would be healed. They tried to figure out a way to bring the bed and the man in to see Jesus, but there were so many people they could not get inside. Luke says that they tried to get into the house: they probably asked people to let them in, but it was just too crowded.

So these men came up with a different plan. They decided to go up on top of the roof. The roof was made of pieces of tile; they took the tiles off of the roof and lowered the man down on his bed right in front of Jesus.

Discuss: This was quite an event. Rather than be discouraged, they climbed up on the roof, and they had to carry the man on the bed up on top of the roof. Then they took the roof apart. They did not seem concerned that anyone might be upset that they tore up the roof; they were determined to get this man to Jesus.

This was their friend; they would do whatever it took to get him to Jesus. This shows that they were confident - they had faith - that if they could just get the man to see Jesus, he would be healed.

What would it be like if you were in the room listening to Jesus?

All of the sudden, the roof is lifted and some pieces of the roof probably fell into the room on the people below. Then a man on a bed comes down through the hole right in front of Jesus. The friends are probably still on the roof; they are lowering the man down, probably with some kind of rope.

All three gospels say that Jesus could see something. What do you think Jesus could see? Jesus saw their faith.

Can you see faith? Their faith was seen because of what they *did*. (James 2:18, 22) Faith without works is dead. What does this mean? If you say you believe something, but you don't act like you believe it, do you really believe it? Did they believe that if they could get this man to Jesus he would be healed? Yes, they did. They did whatever they could to get this man to Jesus because they believed he was going to be healed.

Now, notice what Jesus says. He doesn't tell him he is healed. **Jesus says, "Your sins are forgiven."**

It seems like the forgiveness of sins that Jesus mentioned did not anger the crowd. Is the man healed? Nothing has happened yet.

But there was one group of people that were very upset by this. All three gospels tell the reader what the scribes and Pharisees were *thinking*. The gospels say they reasoned in their hearts, but Jesus knew their thoughts. The scribes and the Pharisees were thinking, "How can he say their sins are forgiven? Only God can forgive sins. He is speaking blasphemies (evil)." But they did not say these things out loud. Jesus knew their thoughts.





So You May Know

Can Jesus forgive sins? Yes, he is fully God and fully man.

He asked them, it is easier to say "Get up and walk," or is it easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven?" In the flesh it looks like it would be easier to say, your sins are forgiven. There would be no outward sign of whether or not it had actually taken place. To tell someone to get up and walk, you would see whether or not it actually happened. But Jesus was trying to show them that the two are connected.

So then Jesus says, "So that you know the Son of Man (Jesus) has the power on earth to forgive sins;" he's basically saying, I'll prove it to you: I can forgive sins. Then he looks at the man and says, "Get up, take up your bed, and go to your house." The man immediately gets up, rolls up his bed, and walks out in front of everyone. The people said, "We've never seen anything like this!" And other people said, "We have seen strange things today."

Jesus in the Story



Why was he able to walk after his sins were forgiven? Sin was the problem.

Who was the first man to sin? Adam. That made every person born in the world a sinner. When you have sin in your life, one of the things it can do is make you sick. Sin is like opening a door for Satan to come into your life.

When you sin, you are a slave to sin (Romans 5:14-21; Romans 6:11-16, 23)

Under the law of Moses, God listed all the things that blessings for you if you obeyed all the laws. Then he listed the curses and bad things that would happen if you did not obey all the laws. Can we obey all of God's commands? No. But Jesus can, and he did. He came down here as a man and he did not do anything wrong. He was the perfect person and never sinned.

Under grace, our sins are forgiven.

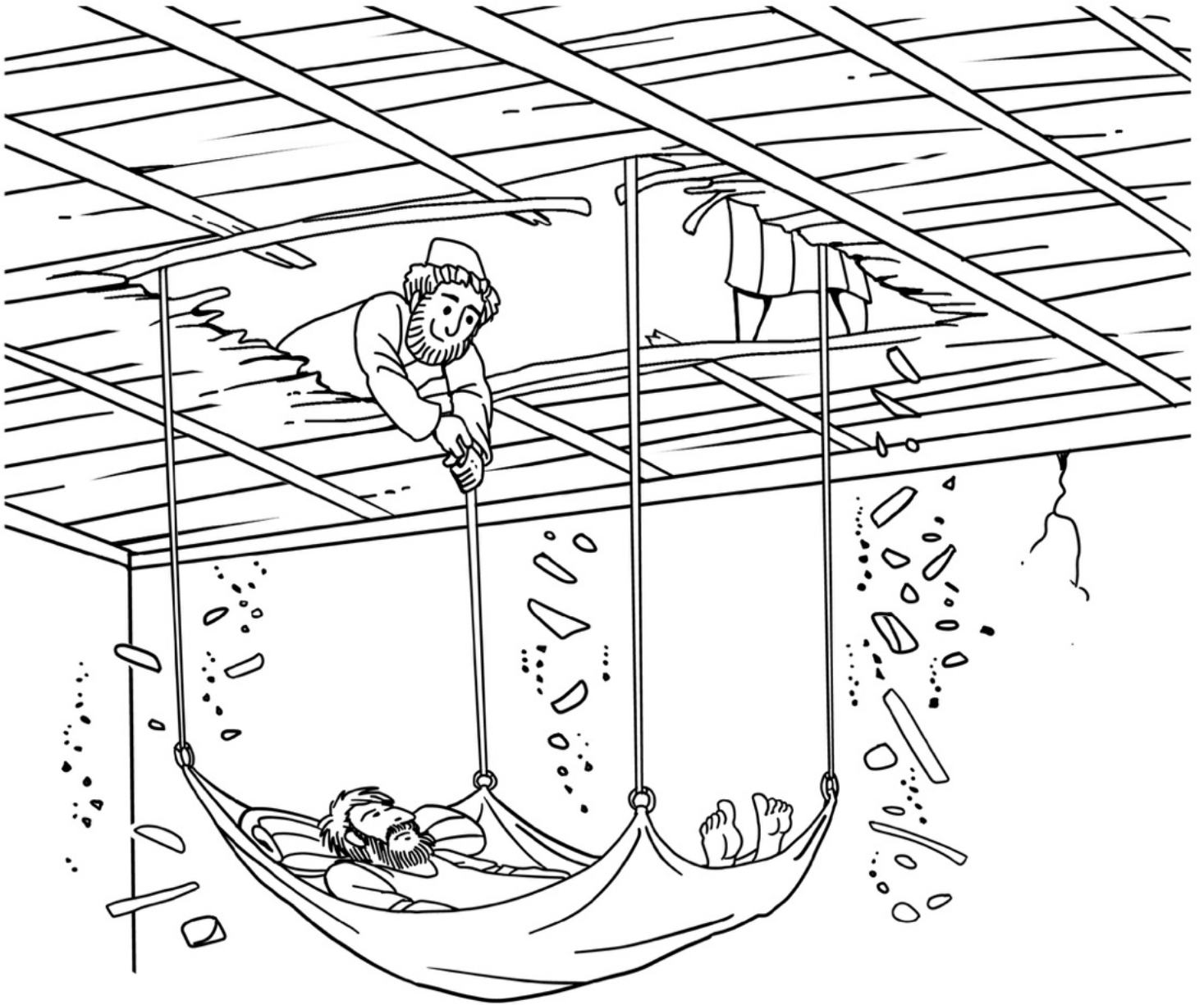
We are made righteous, and sin no longer has power over us. We are freed from the effects of sin, and this includes sickness. This is why Jesus was saying, let me show you, let me prove it to you. Once the man was forgiven, he was free from the power of sin on his life, and he was healed.

This is also why many times Jesus told people, "Go and sin no more." We do not see that in this story, but we do see that throughout Jesus' ministry. After you receive grace and forgiveness, and even healing, if you continue to sin, you will open up the door for the devil to come back into your life and become sick again. (Romans 6:16)

When we receive the gift of Jesus' righteousness, we inherit all the blessings that come through Christ, which includes healing. Jesus took away the curses of the law of Moses and only left us with the blessings. (Galatians 3:13-14) Because of Jesus, we have been redeemed (excluded) from the curses listed in the law of Moses (Deuteronomy 28) and they have no power over us anymore.

People glorified God because he had given such power to men. Through Jesus' name, we can pray for people and see them healed. God sent us the Holy Spirit to give us power. Jesus gave us the same authority he used on earth and we can use his name to command the devil to leave, and see people healed.







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

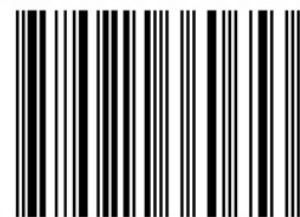
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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