

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

*I desire therefore that the men pray
everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without
wrath and doubting.*

1 Timothy 2:8



When You Pray

Matthew 6:5-13
Luke 18:9-14

Parables of Jesus

Begin the lesson by looking at the passage in Luke. Jesus is telling this parable specifically to certain people who "trusted in themselves." They believed they were righteous, but they despised others.

Discuss: How does God feel about those who "trust in themselves?"

Proverbs 28:26 says that he who trusts in his own heart is a fool.

Jeremiah 17:5 says that the man who trusts in man is cursed...and his heart departs from the Lord.

But...Psalm 40:4 says that blessed is the one who makes the Lord his trust.

Jesus is speaking to people that think that they are righteous; they think they are holy but they are only trusting in themselves. It tells us that these people despise other people. They are proud.

What does "despise" mean? It means to feel contempt. It is to look down on someone as beneath you so that you believe they are completely worthless and have no value.

Jesus begins his story. **Two men went to the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.**

The tax collectors were hated by the Jewish people. The Roman Empire ruled Israel at that time, and they hired Jews to collect taxes for Rome. These Jewish tax collectors were seen as traitors by the other Jews. The tax collectors would take money above the amount of the taxes and keep the difference. Most tax collectors had become rich from being corrupt.

The Pharisee stood in the temple and prayed with himself. Notice: he prayed with himself. Is he speaking to God?

He may have very well prayed out loud so that the tax collector and others could hear him. He prayed, "God, I thank you that I am not like other men are. I thank you that I'm not a cheater, sinner, or adulterer - or like this tax collector."

The Pharisee continued, "I fast twice a week and give tithes of everything I have."

This is a very proud prayer. His whole prayer is a conversation telling God all the good things that he has done. Do you think he needs to tell God what he did? Does God know he fasts and tithes?

Of course God knows about his fasting and tithing. But God also knows his heart. The Pharisee is proud, and wants to make sure that everyone knows how good he is and that he follows all the rules. But just because someone follows all the rules doesn't mean they did it for the right reasons.

Then the tax-collector prays. He prays standing far away; he is not trying to be heard by everyone. He realizes he is a sinner, and is ashamed to even lift his eyes toward heaven.

He prays asking God to be merciful to him because he is a sinner.

Which of these prayers do you think God will give attention to?

God hates pride. He distances himself from proud people and opposes them.

(Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:13; 16:5; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)





When You Pray

Jesus gives his commentary on these men and their different approaches to God. He tells us that the tax-collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified before God. Everyone that exalts himself will be humbled, or put down. But the person who humbles himself will be exalted, or honored.

The tax-collector knew he was a sinner and humbled himself asking for God's mercy. The irony is that the Pharisee believed he was fully justified by his own actions. We are not able to be justified by our own actions.

We are justified by our faith in Christ, in the blood of Jesus, and by his grace. No one can ever be made right with God by obeying the law. (Acts 13:39; Romans 3:24, 28; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16)

Transition over to Matthew 6.

Jesus speaks of the Pharisees who pray just as this Pharisee in the parable.

They love to pray. They stand in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets where everyone can see them praying. They want people to see them and think that they are righteous and holy. Jesus tells us that this IS their reward: the honor that men give them.

Jesus contradicts this by telling you where you should pray. Instead of praying to be seen, go into your closet and close the door. **Pray where God is the only one who can see; He will see what you do in secret and reward you openly.**

Jesus also says not to pray using a lot of meaningless words. Some people think that God will hear them if they use more words and pray longer; Jesus says this what the unbelievers do. He says not to be like them because our Father knows what we need before we even ask.

Then Jesus tells them how to pray.

We call this "The Lord's Prayer." It is often recited from memory. Stop to think about what it is actually saying.

Our Father in heaven...

What is this saying?

Who is God? He is our Father. A good Father loves his children and cares for them.

Where is God? He is in the heavens. He is above us; we are beneath Him.

May Your name be kept holy.

What does this mean?

It means that He is to be honored. He is worthy of our praise and honor.

All of these things in this phrase bring us to the acknowledgement that God is above us in every sense. We are his children, we appeal to him as a Father. He is holy and we are to honor Him and His name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

We want your kingdom to come to this earth: we want you to reign here.

We want your will to be done on the earth, *just as it is* in heaven.

Would God's will always be accomplished in the heavenly realm?

Yes, and that is what we are saying we want to happen here on earth.



When You Pray

Give us this day our daily bread.

Give us today the food we need. God the Father wants us to come to Him on a daily basis. He wants to walk with us each day and provide everything we need for that day. He wants to be our source.

This doesn't necessarily just mean food. This means, give us what we need to get through this day.

Meet our needs TODAY.

We want you to be present in our lives, walking with us, and providing us everything we need for life.

Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

We are asking for forgiveness, but this prayer is setting a condition. Forgive us AS we have forgiven others.

Wow. We don't always realize how important it is to forgive others. But we are asking him to forgive us in the same way we have forgiven those who sin against us. (Matthew 6:14-15)

Do not let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

This is a plea for help. We know we have an enemy who is always trying to tempt us to fail; to tempt us to sin. We are pleading for mercy for our Father to rescue us from this evil enemy.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. (This is only in some translations.)

This simply acknowledges who God is. Everything is His. This is His kingdom. He is the ultimate power, and glory only belongs to Him. This puts everything in it's proper perspective and us in our proper place.

Jesus in the Story

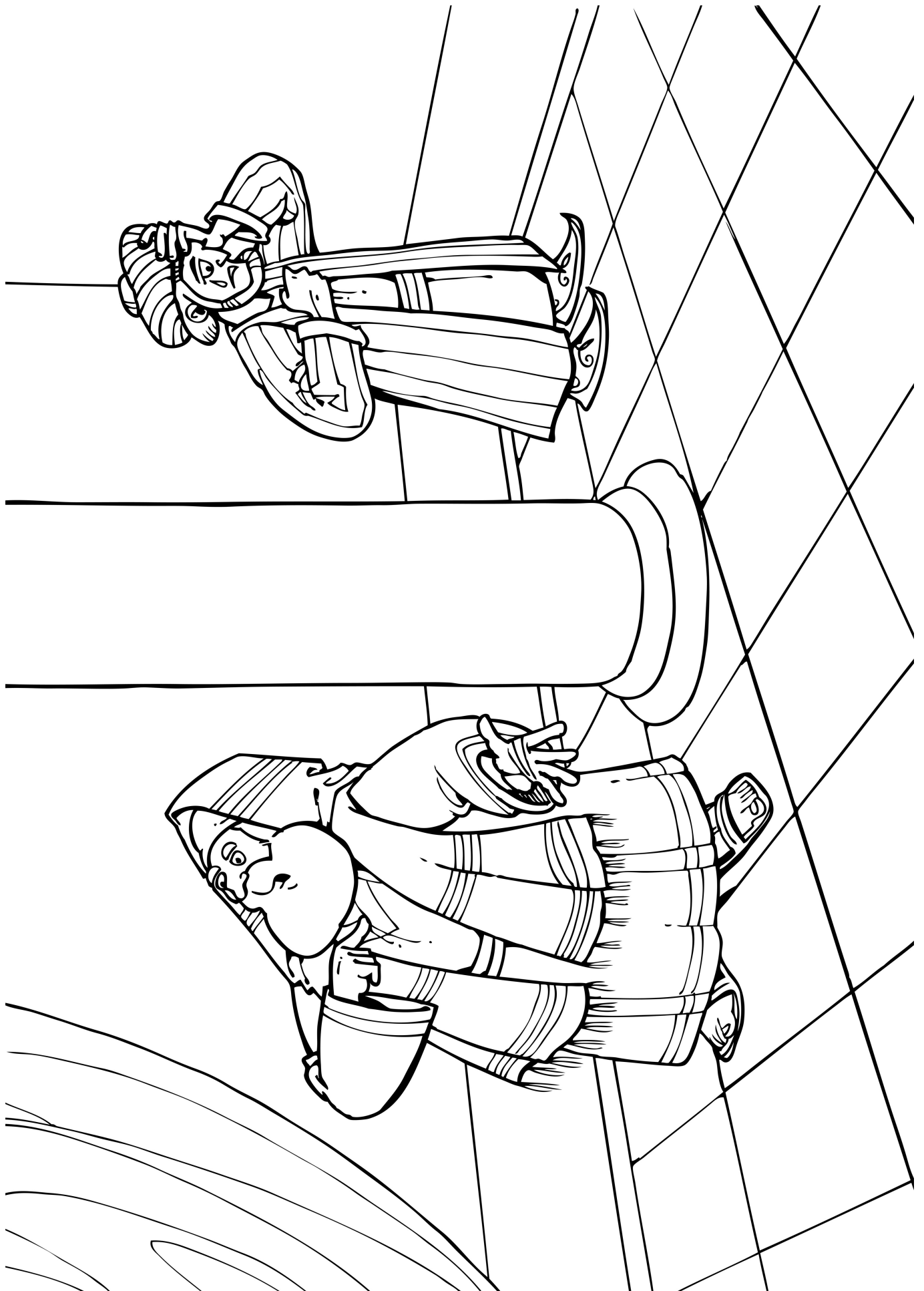


Prayer is not about you. It is not about what other people think about you, or what you've done, or how good you look when you pray.

Jesus is telling the people that all God wants is a relationship with his people. Prayer is simply a relationship between you and God. It is acknowledging that you are completely at His mercy. You accept what He has done for you, and are thankful for it. You know this is not about you, it is about his goodness and all that He has done. When you exalt and honor yourself, the only direction to go is down. But if you humble yourself and put yourself in your proper place, He now has the opportunity to exalt and honor you.

Luke began by telling the reader who Jesus is speaking to: certain people who "trusted in themselves." They believed they were righteous, but they despised others. But anyone who is truly righteous would understand that to be in right relationship with God would never result in looking at another person in contempt.

They would understand that the righteousness they received was a gift, and there is no room for condemnation in it.





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

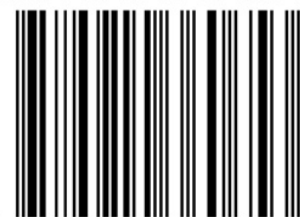
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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