

Finding Jesus

Gospels



...these are the very scriptures that testify about me." John 5:39

Victorious Light

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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!





Set Free!

Matthew 8:28-34

Mark 5:1-20

Luke 8:26-39

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Teaching the Lesson:

Jesus was on the way to a Gentile region when he calmed the storm. After the storm they came to the shore they were in the Gadarenes, or Gerasenes, which were part of a group of primarily Greek Gentile towns. Decapolis was the name given to these ten Greek cities that were located in what is now modern day Jordan, Israel and Syria.

When Jesus and his disciples got off of the boat, a demon possessed man with an unclean spirit met him. The book of Matthew says there were two men, but the stories in Mark and Luke focus on one man. We have been given details about one particular man.

The man lived in the graveyard. He was naked; he wore no clothes, and he was very fierce. He had been possessed with devils for a long time, and he did not live in a house, but in the tombs.

Discuss this. Help the kids imagine what this was like.

This man was probably well known. He was known in this area as the crazy guy who lived in the cemetery or graveyard (tombs). He was scary and people avoided this area completely. He wouldn't let anyone go this way; you could not travel in this area or you would be stopped by this fierce man. People had tried to tie him up and put chains on him, but he broke the chains off. They had put shackles on him (metal ankle bindings with heavy metal ball and chains) and he smashed them. He was very fierce and very strong, and no one could tame him. He broke free of these chains and then the devil drove him into the wilderness.

This man was always in the tombs or mountains and he cried all night and day. He was tormented and miserable, and he cut himself with stones, so he would have had bleeding cuts and scars. This man was a prisoner in his own body. He was controlled by demons, and was crying out for help.

When he saw Jesus, the man came and fell down at Jesus' feet and worshipped him. Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man, then the devils spoke through the man. He cried out with a loud voice and said, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I beg you not to torment me." It was the man's voice; but the demons spoke through him.

Matthew's account says the demons asked Jesus if he came to torment them before the time. The devils know that time here is limited. The Bible has already said that the devil and his angels (demons) will spend eternity in the lake of fire. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10, 14.)

And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" and he answered "Legion," because he was filled with many demons. A legion was a Roman military term that meant between 3000-6000 men in a regiment. There were a lot of demons in this man.

The demons begged Jesus not to send them out of the region: into the abyss, or bottomless pit.

In the distance there was a large herd of about 2000 pigs feeding on the mountain.

Discuss pigs with the children. The Jews viewed pigs as a dirty and vile animals. According to the law of Moses, Jews were not allowed to eat pigs because they were unclean animals. The fact that there were so many pigs here shows that it was a gentile region. Historical sources say that this was a very pagan area and the pigs were likely used for sacrifices to Greek gods, and used for food.





Set Free!

The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the herd of pigs (swine). Jesus told them to "Go." The demons came out of the man, and went into the herd of pigs, and the whole herd ran violently - stampeded- down a steep hill into the sea.

Since this event, researchers have gone to this area and found where they believe is the exact place that this happened. Videos have been made showing the area where this is believed to have taken place. It is interesting to see that the pigs did not just plunge off of the edge of a cliff. They deliberately ran down a steep hill, and then across a flat plains area directly into the water. Because of the landscape of the area, it would not have been mistaken as an accidental fall from a cliff, it was evident they were deliberately driven into the sea where they drowned.

The men who were keeping the pigs saw what happened and ran away. They went and told everyone in the city and in the country about what happened to the pigs, and what happened to the crazy man (men).

Discuss this. What if these were your pigs? Did you buy these pigs? What did you do with these pigs? You might have been a man who sold them in the market for pagan sacrifices. You might have sold them for meat in the market. That is a LOT of pigs. Would you be upset if all your pigs died? How would this affect you financially? You wouldn't be able to sell them because they are all dead. This would have cost the owners a lot of money.

The people in the city were afraid. They came and found Jesus, and found the man who used to be possessed now sitting at Jesus feet. The famous crazy man is now sitting with clothes on, acting normal, in his right mind, sitting and talking to Jesus.

News spread quickly, and everyone in the city and surrounding area heard about this. They knew the crazy man is now normal, and all the pigs ran to their death. The whole city came and asked Jesus to leave; not only did they ask, they *begged* Jesus to leave.

Except the man who had been possessed by the devils. He begged Jesus to let him come with him. But Jesus told the man to go home, and go back to his friends. This man must have had a family and friends before he went crazy. Jesus told him to go tell all about the great things the Lord did for him.

Then Jesus and his disciples got back in the boat and left. The man went on his way and went all over Decapolis telling everyone the great things that Jesus had done for him. People were surprised and amazed; the man probably had a reputation of being the crazy guy, and everyone could now see that his life was **totally** changed. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 61:1)

Things were different when Jesus returned to this area over a year later. He came to the city of Gennesaret; which was one of the cities in the Decapolis region. The man who was no longer crazy must have been a great witness for Jesus, because on his second visit the people met him as soon as he got off the ship. But this time they welcomed him, bringing him all the sick and diseased people to be healed. Jesus traveled through the villages, cities and throughout the country and when people heard where he was, they brought sick people in their beds to meet Jesus. When he came through the cities, they laid sick people in the streets and begged just to touch the edges of his clothes, and everyone who touched him was healed. (Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56)



Jesus in the Story



When Jesus was on his way to this area, he calmed the storm on the sea. In that lesson, similarities were shown between the story of the calming of the sea with Jonah. Jonah was headed to Nineveh, and Jesus was headed to this gentile region. Jesus said the only sign that would be given is the sign of the prophet Jonah.

This is the first time that anyone had seen authority taken over the devil. Before Jesus came into the world in the flesh, there were no accounts of anyone ever taking authority over the devil. Until the Son of God was present in the world, the authority was not present to command the demons (devils, spirits) to leave.

Luke 4:36 (BSB)

All the people were overcome with amazement and asked one another, "What is this message? With authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!"

Notice in every account of this story with the demon possessed man, the demons say to Jesus, "What have we to do with you, Jesus, Son of the most high God?" The demons recognized Jesus, and knew the authority that he had over them. (Luke 4:41)

Jesus also gave this power *in His name* to the disciples:

Matthew 10:1 (BLB)

And having summoned His twelve disciples. He gave to them authority over unclean spirits, so as to cast them out and to heal every disease and every sickness.

Mark 3:14-15 (NKJV)

Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and cast out demons.

Luke 9:1-2 (NKVJ)

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

All power in heaven and in earth has been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18).

As Christians and followers of Jesus, we have the same power and authority that Jesus gave to his disciples. This authority is available to us through the power that is *in Jesus' name*.

Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV)

"...And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."





Set Free!



Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

MEMORY VERSE

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...

Isaiah 61:1

Answer the Questions

Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56

Jesus returned to this area later and the people had a different response:

1. Where did the people meet Jesus?
2. What did they bring to Jesus?
3. Who was 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

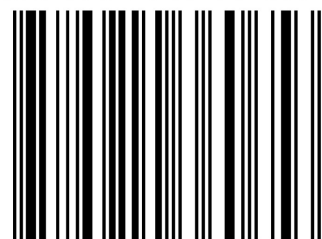
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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