

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

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the assembly of the people, and praise him in the company of the elders.

Psalms 107:31-32



Who is This?

Matthew 8:23-27
Mark 4:35-41
Luke 8:22-25
Psalm 107

Life of Jesus

Mark's account seems to indicate that Jesus had been teaching to a crowd from a ship. Other stories in the Gospels mention that Jesus taught from a boat.

Discuss: Sound experiments have been done in recent years in the areas where Jesus taught; the land was shaped around a cove.

If Jesus was speaking from a boat pushed slightly off of the shore, he would have been heard for quite a distance because of the way the sound carried over the water and land.

There were other little ships with him, and possibly people were listening from these ships.

Evening has come, and the crowd has been sent home. The disciples get into the ship with Jesus. He says, "Let us go to the other side," and they launch off the boats. This is pretty clear, Jesus said, "*Let us go to the other side,*" He is expecting to get to the other side.

As they sail, Jesus falls asleep in the back part of the boat on a pillow.

A great storm comes up on the sea; it was a really big storm. The wind was very strong and it made huge waves. The waves hit the ship, and filled the boat with water.

Discuss: Talk about storms.

Have you been caught in a storm?

This was a really big storm. The wind came in on the lake and made huge waves.

What happens when a boat is full of water? It is eventually going to sink.

What do you do when a boat fills with water?

You try as quickly as you can to get all of the water out of the boat.

The disciples were in a panic. They woke Jesus up, and told him they were going to drown. The disciples actually accused Jesus of not caring that they were going to die. This was not a large boat, and it is pretty amazing that Jesus was able to sleep through the storm. This shows that Jesus had total peace; so much so that he was able to rest calmly while the wind storm violently rocked the boat and water washed over him. When the disciples asked him, "Don't you care that we are going to die?", it shows how much they did not know about Jesus. Just because Jesus was not panicking, that doesn't mean he did not care; he was simply confident that they were going to make it safely to the other side.

Do we do this? Do we sometimes try to bring other people into our fear and doubt? When we are worried about a situation, and other people are trusting the Lord and not completely panicked, can we sometimes think they don't care? Maybe they have more trust and have placed more value in what the Lord said, "Let's go to the other side." God has this; he will bring us through to the other side.





Who Is This?

Jesus got up, and rebuked the winds and the sea.

The words he uses in Mark, **"Peace, be still,"** are interesting. The Greek word used for **peace** is actually a verb (siōpaō) and means to hush, inability to speak, involuntary stillness, muteness, be silent. This is essentially saying, "Be QUIET!" The Greek word for **be still** is also a verb (phimoō) and means to close the mouth with a muzzle, stop the mouth, make speechless. Jesus is in control here and is harnessing the powers of the storm.

As soon as Jesus spoke, the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. This was not a gradual process, it seems to have happened instantly. If it were gradual, the people could have attributed it to natural forces. But it happened suddenly.

Jesus then speaks to the disciples, **"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**

Matthew says "little faith" and Luke simply says, "Where is your faith?" Just before this, Jesus had healed a leper, the centurion's servant, and healed 'many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick.'

The disciples are absolutely amazed. It says they were actually very afraid. They still do not have a full understanding of *who* Jesus really is. They said to each other, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!" In other words, who is this guy? No one can control the weather - but the wind and the sea obey him.

Then they arrive at their destination, which is the country of the Gadarenes in the Gentile region.

Jesus in the Story



This story has parallel references throughout the Bible.

This event involving the Messiah is prophesied in Psalm 107:23-31. Psalm 107 speaks of fishermen, men who do business in great waters, who see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep. Verse 25 says that the Lord raises the stormy wind, and lifts up the waves. Their souls melted, or they lost their courage. Then they cry to the Lord, he saves them and makes the storm calm and stills the waves. They are glad and praise him for his goodness.

Does the story of Jesus calming the storm remind you of an Old Testament story? There are many parallels between this story and the book of Jonah. Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees several times that

"This evil generation seeks after a sign, and there would be no sign given, but the sign of the prophet Jonah." (Matthew 12:38-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32)

Both stories involve going to the Gentiles. Jonah was told by the Lord to go to the Gentile city of Nineveh, but Jonah ran from the Lord and was on a boat going the opposite direction to Tarshish. Jonah did not want to see God's mercy on the Gentiles. Jesus was on his way to the Gadarenes, to willingly bring freedom to the people in the Gentile region. In both accounts, the Lord caused the storm. In Jonah we are told that the Lord sent a great wind, and we read in Psalm 107 that the Lord raised a stormy wind.

In both boats, the sailors and the disciples are terrified. The sailors in Jonah's boat are crying out to their gods, and the disciples are fearful and ask Jesus to do something.

Jesus in the Story



Jonah slept through a storm on the side of the ship; Jesus was asleep at the back part of the ship near the rudder. The reader is uncertain as to why Jonah sleeps through the storm. The reader may assume that Jesus sleeps because he has perfect peace and confidence that they will safely make it to the other side.

The sailors wake Jonah up, and tell him to call on his God. But notice, Jonah does not pray to God about the storm. After lots are cast, Jonah admits that the storm came because of him and suggests they throw him overboard. The sailors row very hard to get to land, but are not able. They cry to the Lord, Jonah's God, begging not to die for Jonah's sake, and that they are not blamed for throwing Jonah overboard. Reluctantly they throw Jonah into the raging sea and it is immediately calm.

In a similar fashion, the disciples wake Jesus up, telling him they are about to die. But in contrast to Jonah, Jesus takes authority over the storm and commands the wind to stop and the waves to be still.

Men in both boats are very afraid. The sailors offer sacrifices and make vows to the Lord. What began as an a life threatening situation because of Jonah results in their being saved and serving the Lord.

The disciples are also very afraid. They asked Jesus to "Save us," but when he does they seem surprised and amazed. Jesus does not make it easy on the disciples; he is frustrated. He asks them, "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith, "and "Where is your faith?"

The disciples ask, "Who is this man that the wind and sea obey him?"

They are his disciples, but do not seem to understand exactly *who* he is, and the authority that he holds.

Jesus told the Jews that the sign of Jonah is the only sign they would receive. This is one of several instances in the Bible where we see that Jesus and Jonah intersect

When we face fear and storms in our lives, it reveals what is in our hearts. The condition of your heart is a recurring theme that runs throughout the whole Bible, and one which Jesus continually emphasizes. When we are faced with adversity, do we become fearful, or do we stand confident in our faith knowing WHO our Savior is, and what He is capable of?

Look again at Psalm 107. Look at verses 6, 14, 19 and 28.

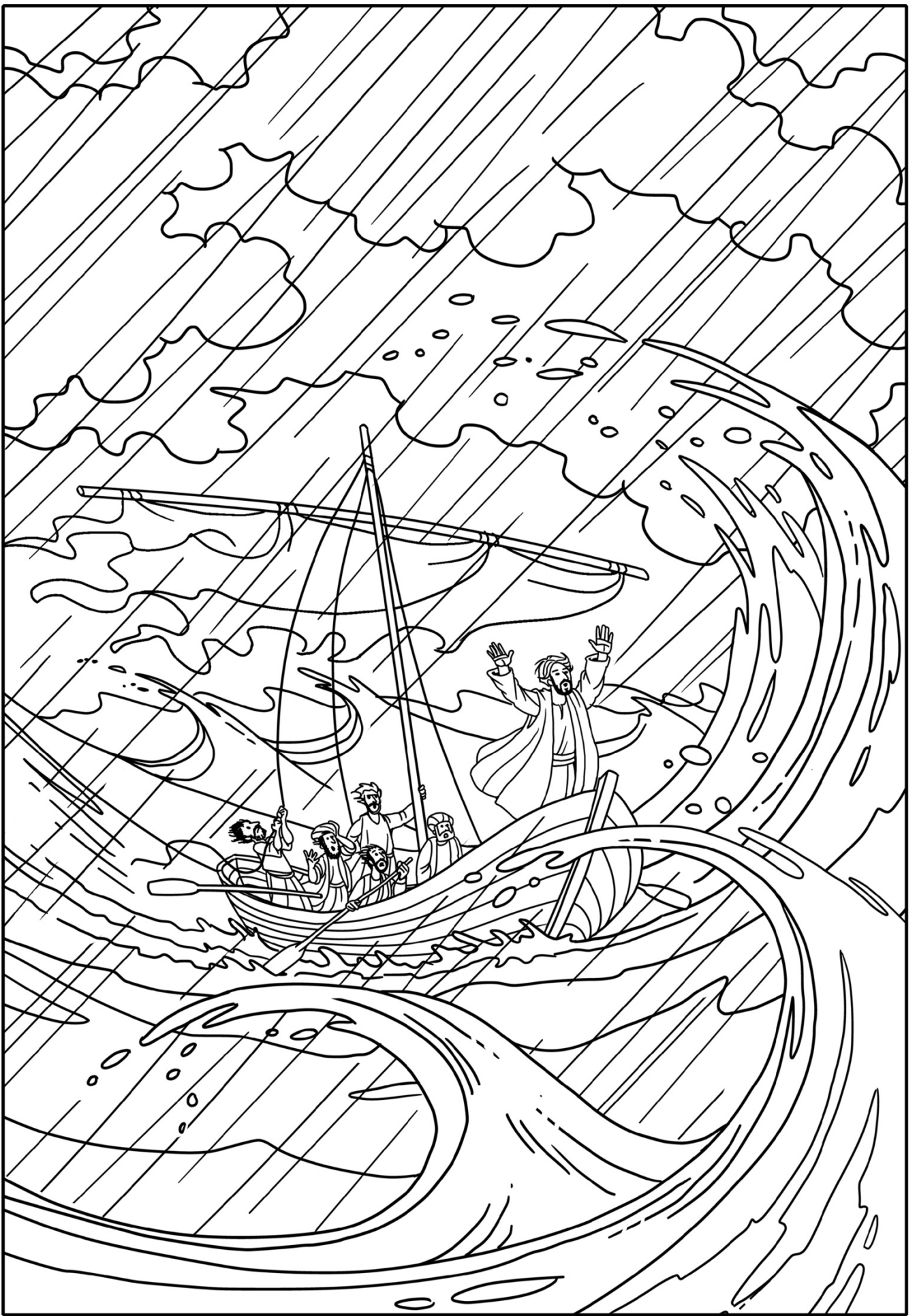
What are the people doing? Crying to the Lord. What is his response? He delivered them and saved them from their distress. Verses 7, 14, 20, and 29 tell in what way he delivered them. Now look at verses 8, 15, 21, and 31. What does the Lord want us to do in response to him delivering us out of trouble and distress? He wants us to "Praise him for his goodness, and for his wonderful works...!"

When we praise Him for how good He is, and we we tell everyone about the wonderful things He has done, we learn to know Him. When we know Him, we aren't afraid of storms because we know that He always saves us.

Do the students have fears or storms that they are facing? Do they know that Jesus's love casts out all fear?

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18





Who Is This?



Finding Jesus: Gospels



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

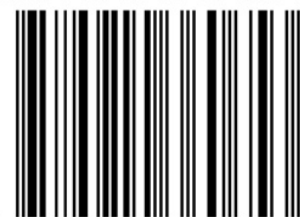
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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