

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!





If It Is You

Matthew 14:22-33

Mark 6:45-52

John 6:15-21

Life of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

Before the lesson, study the story in the three gospels.

This story happened the same day of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Jesus told his disciples to get into the ship and go to other side while he sent all the people away.

Jesus went up on the mountain to pray. Jesus knew that the people were going to try to take him by force and make him their king, so he went to mountain by himself alone (John 6:15). Some scholars believe that the disciples might have also gotten caught up in this plan, which is why Jesus sent them away so quickly.

Think about this. The people have seen him do miracles, and on this day they saw him multiply the loaves and fishes. They want Jesus to be their leader, and it seems they had a plan to take him and try to make him be their king.

Jesus would have known this was not God's will, or God's plan. So he went off to be alone; he went to pray.

Meanwhile the disciples had gone down to the sea. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to meet them. They were in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. This sea was not very wide where they were, so it should have taken them about two hours to get across. But the wind was so strong that they must have been rowing for a long time. By the time Jesus caught up with them, they were in the middle of the sea, and the ship was being tossed by the waves because it was so windy.

It was between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., and Jesus was alone on the land. He saw the disciples struggling in rowing, and the wind blowing hard against them. They were very tired.

Jesus came to them walking on the sea.

The disciples saw him walking on the sea and they were very afraid. We are told they "cried out." They thought Jesus was a spirit, a ghost.

What does this mean to "cry out?" Did they yell? Did they scream? It must have been very obvious that they were afraid.

What if you were there? What might you think? They had never seen anyone walking on the water before. It is dark, the wind is blowing very strong, the waves are probably high from the wind. And then there's a person walking on the water?!?

Jesus was going to walk right past them (Mark 6:48). But it also says he was going to them (Matthew 14:25). So what does this mean?

It seems that Jesus was going that way not only to meet them, but to help them. He saw them struggling, and he walks on top of the very thing with which they are struggling. He was going to walk right past them; but they saw him, he heard them cry out.

He said, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

Matthew is the only one gospel that records what Peter did. When Jesus says, "It is I. Do not be afraid," Peter responds, "Lord, if it is you, then command me to come to you on the water."

Discuss this:

Think about what Peter said. He did not really give Jesus much of an option. He said "if it's you"....was it Jesus? Yes.

If it's you, then "command" me to come.

Was it Jesus? Yes.

Could Jesus respond any other way? Possibly. But this was not a temptation to do something out of character. The last time we saw these words, "if you are the Son of God," it was at the temptation in the wilderness by Satan. It seems that Jesus walked on the water in order to demonstrate his deity.





If It Is You

How did Jesus respond to Peter?

He said, "Come."

Peter came down out of the ship, and walked on the water to Jesus.

Discuss this. Can you imagine? He got out of the boat, and took a step, knowing that he would walk on TOP of the water.

The other disciples must have been watching in wonder, amazement. What would it be like if you were there? What if you were Peter? What if you were in the boat watching?

Peter is walking on water.

It took faith for him to step out of the boat and know that he would walk on TOP of the water.

Have you ever tried to walk on water? Did you get very far? It only takes a split second to realize that it is not going to work, and you are completely submerged in the water.

Peter walked on the water to go to Jesus. We do not know how far he walked, but he did it. Then Peter looked around. He looked at how strong the wind was blowing. He took his eyes off of Jesus, and began to look at his circumstances. He was not caught up in sin; he simply looked at what was natural. He looked at the things around him instead of keeping his eyes on Jesus.

He was already doing something that no one (other than Jesus) had ever done before.

But when he looked at the wind, he began to sink, and he cried, "Lord, save me!"

This in itself is incredible. People don't begin to sink in the water. They just do. There is nothing in between, the minute you touch the water you go down. But this must have been spectacular to witness: to see someone suspended between the top and bottom of the water but not completely succumbed to it must have been astonishing.

As soon as Jesus saw that Peter began to sink, what did he do? He immediately reached out his hand and caught Peter.

Then he said, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

This shows us several things.

Did Jesus let Peter sink and tell him to swim back to the boat on his own? No. He immediately caught Peter.

It shows us the character of Christ. As humans we sometimes think, your faith wasn't strong enough, you need to swim back to learn your lesson. Peter was a fisherman; he was probably a strong swimmer. But that is not the character of Jesus.

Did it take great faith for Peter to walk on the water? Apparently not. It only took little faith.

But what can counteract our faith? Doubt. It was the doubt that caused him to begin to sink. It was because he looked at his circumstances and surroundings and took his focus off of Jesus.

The wind had nothing to do with walking on the water. It was a natural impossibility whether there was wind or not.

The reader is not told what happened next, but can wonder. If Jesus reached out to catch Peter, did Jesus and Peter walk on the water together to get back to the boat? Or do you think that he dragged Peter through the water and they had to pull Peter out of the water soaking wet into the boat?

As soon as Jesus and Peter got in the ship, the wind stopped. It is interesting that the wind did not stop before they got back to the boat. But it seemed to all happen at once. The wind stopped, and the ship was immediately at the land where they were going. (John 6:21)

Discuss: Did they have to row? Did they have to make any effort to get to shore?

Did they have to navigate their way to get to their destination? It seems that the boat was caught away and no time passed before it was at the other shore.



If It Is You

The disciples were completely and totally astonished, amazed, overwhelmed. Then they worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Their hearts were hardened (Mark 6:52). They should not have been so surprised. They were not thinking of the things they had already seen. Just earlier that day they had seen Jesus take two fish and five loaves of bread and feed 5,000 men plus women and children. But they did not consider it; that means they did not focus on it. They did not meditate on it. They did not actually think about what really happened, or consider the unbelievable miracle that had taken place, *just that day*.

Would we be surprised?

God wants us to be expecting these things. It seems like a good thing to be amazed by his goodness, but could that mean that we have a hardened heart? God wants us to glorify Him, but to know who He is, and expect great things from him and not be surprised by his goodness or amazing works.

These were the disciples of Jesus. They were with him daily, and watching him perform many amazing miracles **every day!** If their hearts could be hardened, do not think that your heart couldn't be hardened also. Mark 6:52 seems to be giving us the cure for a hardened heart, and it would seem to be that we need to do the opposite of what the disciples did. If they did not consider these miracles, then we need to consider the glorious things of God. We need to think about and ponder the great things that he has done. When we focus on Jesus and his marvelous works, it helps us to be mindful of who he is and what he is capable of. Then we will see more of his miraculous works take place in our own lives.

Jesus in the Story



Jesus says, "It is I. Do not be afraid." All three gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke use the same words.

The Greek words here are "ego eimi." These translate to "I am." These are the same words Jesus spoke when he was arrested and these are the words that God spoke many years before when Moses asked God his name. God responded, tell them I AM sent you. (Exodus 3:14). So, by Jesus responding to the disciples in this way, he is making a statement of deity.

Many things that Jesus did have a "remez", which is a hint of something that goes back to the Old Testament. Often times it was something that was being fulfilled in relation to the New Testament.

In this story, Jesus is bringing to life what is stated in Job 9:8:

"He alone spreads the heavens, and treads upon the waves of the sea."

The disciples most likely were familiar with this passage. They would have known that only God is able to walk upon the waves of the sea.

When Jesus said, "It is I," or, "I am," this would have confirmed to the disciples that HE was walking on the water, and he is "I AM." Which is why they were completely astonished and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."



If It Is You



Matthew 14:23-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

MEMORY VERSE

*He alone spreads out
the heavens, and
treads on the waves
of the sea.*

*He does great things
past finding out, Yes
wonders without
number.*

Job 9:8, 10

Answer the Questions

1. What did Peter say to Jesus?
2. What happened as soon as they stepped into the ship?
3. After seeing this, why were the disciples now convinced that Jesus was the Son of God?





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

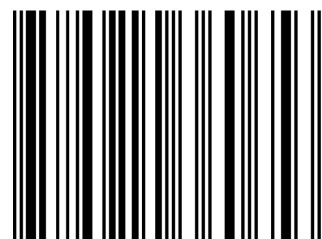
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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