

Finding Jesus

Gospels



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

Victorious Light

Finding Jesus

Gospels

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Illustrations by Alexander Skibelski

Cover art by Lesia Talbert

Printed by Victorious Light

VictoriousLight.org



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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!





How Will You Understand?

Matthew 13:3-23

Mark 4:3-20

Luke 8:4-15

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

This lesson is easy to illustrate. You can go outside and visually show the different types of ground where the seed would have fallen.

Jesus taught many parables. Ask if they know what a parable is. A parable is a simple story, used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

Jesus begins his story talking about someone who is sowing seed. This is different than someone digging up the dirt and placing the seed in the ground. This is an illustration of someone scattering seed; walking along, tossing it out by the handfuls.

When the sower, or farmer, sowed, some of the seeds fell on the side of the road. Then the birds came and ate them, or devoured them, meaning they ate them all up and did not leave any.

Discuss: The man was probably walking through the field, and some of it spilled over into the well-traveled roadway. What kind of soil would it be on the side of the road? This dirt would be very hard; it would be packed down from people and animals walking on it. Luke says that the seed was trampled on. If something is walked on, and trampled on, would it seem what people were walking on had any value? Would you pay attention to what you're walking on? No. You would be walking along, probably not even looking down, and not even thinking about what you are walking on because it seems so insignificant and worthless.

Notice that what is being trampled on as completely useless by the feet of people and animals is something that the birds see as life sustaining. To the birds it is of primary importance; this is their daily food. What people are completely disregarding, the birds are swooping down to consume, as this is their meal of the day. To the bird, it is a life source.

Some of the seed fell on stony ground. This would be dirt with a lot of rocks on the surface and just underneath the surface. The seed on this soil grew up quickly. But, the soil was not very deep, so it withered away and became scorched when the sun came up because it did not have any roots.

Some of the seed fell on ground with thorns. It almost looks like the thorns were in the soil, but they weren't growing yet. Maybe you couldn't even tell they were there. But the thorns grew up with the seed, and as they grew together, the good seed was choked and did not yield any fruit. It may have grown for a while, but it did not produce any fruit.

The other seed fell on good ground. It grew and increased, and yielded fruit. Some a hundred times, some sixty times, and some thirty times as much as was planted.

Then Jesus said, "Who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus is not talking about the ears on your head. He is talking about your heart, your spiritual hearing. If you have a good heart, you can listen and understand what this means. (1 Corinthians 2:10-14)

After the disciples were alone with Jesus, they asked him why he spoke to the people in parables, and what this parable meant.





How Will You Understand?

Jesus told them it was given to the disciples to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but they are not for everyone. The truths of the kingdom are hidden for those who put their faith in Jesus. In Jesus is where all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. But those who rejected Jesus can not understand these hidden truths and mysteries and do not have "ears to hear."

1 Corinthians 2:7; Colossians 2:2-3; 1 Peter 3:4; Isaiah 45:3

Jesus then told the disciples that whoever has (understanding) more shall be given, and it will be given in abundance. Whoever does not have, it will be taken away even what he has. If we do not use what we are given, then it will be taken away.

Jesus said he spoke to the people in parables because they would look, but not really see. They would hear, but not really listen. Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy in Isaiah 6:9-10 and Isaiah 44:18 where it speaks of the people saying they will hear, but not understand; they will see but not really perceive. Their heart is hardened, their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes so that they cannot see with their eyes or hear with their ears; because if they did, they would understand with their heart, be converted, and Jesus would heal them.

The disciples believe; they place value on Jesus. He tells them that blessed are their eyes, for they see; and their ears, for they hear. There have been many prophets and righteous men who have wanted to see the things the disciples see and have not seen them, and wanted to hear the things that the disciples hear and did not hear them. The disciples were blessed to be living in that time, and we are blessed to be living in this time where we that believe are able to see and understand the teachings of Jesus.

Then, in Mark 4:13, Jesus says something very interesting. He says, "Do you not understand this parable? How can you understand any parable?" This parable of the sower is foundational. Understanding this parable is the key to understanding all of the parables and the meanings of the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus begins his explanation

The sower sows the word. The seed IS the word of God. The seed is NOT the problem. The ground represents the hearts of the people; the word is sown, or planted in their hearts. Every person falls into one of these types of ground.

The seed that is sown on the side of the road are those who hear the word of the kingdom, and do not understand it. These people did not value the word of God. The birds represent Satan, who comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts, otherwise they could have believed and been saved. Notice it says that the birds *devoured* it. What does this mean? It means they quickly ate it all up. This means that Satan doesn't leave any part of the word behind. If he did, perhaps it could settle in a crack in this hard soil and produce at a later time, but there is none left. This ground, or heart, is so hard that the seed just sits on the surface, and Satan comes and takes it ALL away.

The second type of ground is the stony ground. These people hear the word, and receive it with joy. They are excited, at first. Satan could not steal the word from them because they received it. But Satan can bring temptation, or affliction (pressure), and persecution and drive them to offense. These people have no roots, because their soil is shallow, not deep. This is the seed that grew, but it was scorched because it had no roots or water.

These people had no roots, and they lacked moisture. When the sun came up, the heat, the pressure, the persecution, it scorched the plant. The plant is not getting water, and it doesn't have any root, so when the heat came, it withered away. Talk about withered: this means it shrinks and dries up. What do dried up plants look like? They're shriveled and brittle; they break easily.

We need the word of God to be our source; seeds cannot grow without water. Shallow people look to other people to "water" them. They look to people to encourage them and give them the affirmation and love they should be receiving from the Lord. They have no roots, so all the moisture comes from the surface seeking constant compliments and affirmations from others. When this doesn't happen, or runs out, they dry up because of the "heat" from persecution, troubles, or temptations because they do not have a deep well to draw from; they have the wrong source.





How Will You Understand?

The prophet Jeremiah said that if we put our trust in man, we will be cursed. The person who puts his trust in man is like a shrub in the desert where no one lives. Seeking affirmation from people rather than the Lord is putting trust in man.

But blessed is the person who trusts in the Lord. That person is like a tree planted by the water, and spreads out roots by the river and is not affected when heat and drought comes. This tree is in the same environment; it is experiencing the same heat and pressure that the shrub is; but the tree has roots and is getting moisture somewhere else. Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1:1-3

What are the roots? We are to be rooted and grounded in God's love. We are not rooted in our love for others, that would be the fruit that we bear from being rooted in His love for us. When we know and understand how much he loves us, we can be filled with the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19; Ephesians 2:4

These people got offended. The Greek word used here for offended in Mark 4 is "skandalizō". It means to cause a person to distrust someone they should trust and obey; to see in another something to disapprove of that hinders them from acknowledging authority. Offense is dangerous; it works directly against the Lord. Offense against the word takes the word of God out of a position of authority in your life. Psalm 119:165

The third type of ground is the soil with thorns. These people heard the word, and it grew. They received the word, they were rooted and they did not get offended. But, anxiety and care of things in the world (the actual Greek word here means 'distraction'), the deceitfulness of riches, and lusts of other things entered in, choked the word, and made it unfruitful.

The word got in, but other things got in too. We have to guard our hearts. These other things entered in from a lack of understanding God's love. These people did not *know* that he is our source of provision and protection. These people had some roots, but they were not grounded, meaning they had not established a firm foundation. Luke says this seed did not bring any fruit to perfection. The seed may have begun to produce fruit, but these other things choked out the word of God, and the fruit did not mature. Ephesians 3:17-19

Discuss this; does unripe fruit taste good? What happens to fruit to make it die before it becomes mature?

The last type of ground is good ground. These are people who hear the word, and understand it. They have an honest and good heart, they hear the word, receive it, and keep it. Then they bring forth fruit. Some thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times as much as was planted.

Jesus in the Story



Most people are like the seed on the roadside. A smaller group is those that fell on stony ground. An even smaller group is those whose seed grew up with thorns, and the smallest group are those who bear fruit.

Jesus IS the Word of God. Our hearts are the ground, or the soil. When God created the world, he made the animals from the ground; he made every tree from the ground; he made man out of the ground. When a seed is planted, it pulls what is needed from the ground to grow a plant. Everything needed for that plant is in the soil; the seed determines what type of plant will grow.

In the same way, our hearts are the ground for the seed of the word of God. If we harden our heart so that we do not understand, if we do not have depth, or let the things of the world into our heart, the seed will not produce fruit in our lives. But if we value God's word, have good ground for it to grow, and do not get distracted or offended, we can take the seed of God's word and speak it, believe it, and expect to see it, KNOWING that God's word will always produce fruit. John 1:1; Genesis 2:9, 19; Isaiah 55:11





How Will You Understand?



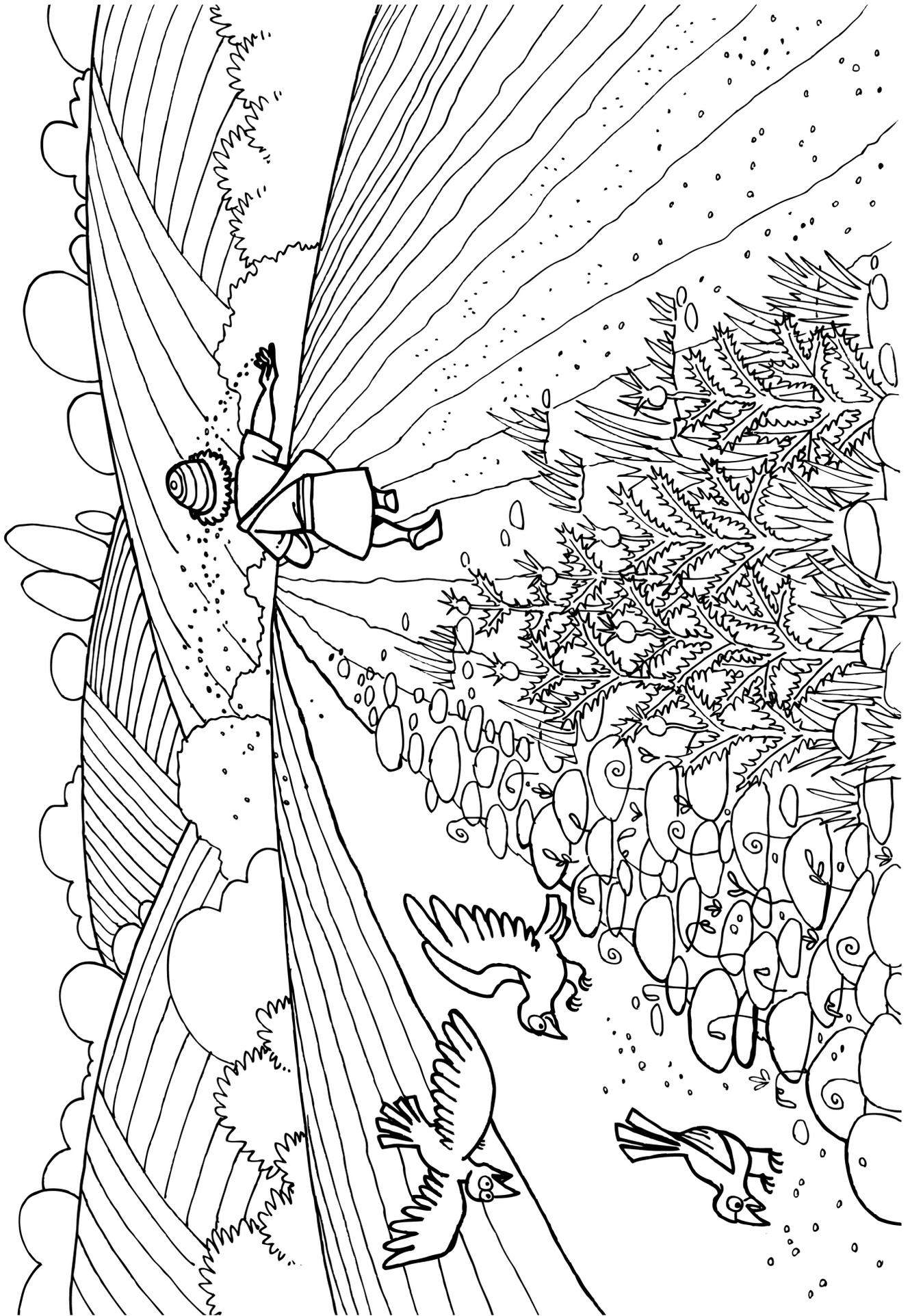
MEMORY VERSE

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

Answer the Questions

1. What happened to the seed that fell on the side of the road?
2. What happened to the seed that fell on the rocks?
3. What happened to the seed that fell on thorns?
4. What did Jesus say the birds were like?





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

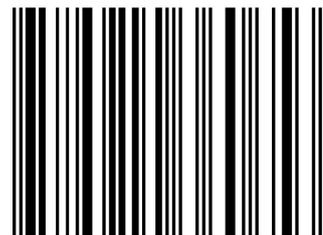
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the 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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ISBN 978-9914-36-065-3



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