

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!





Kingdom Business

Luke 19:11-27

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

This parable is similar to another parable that Jesus taught in Matthew 25:14-30. But they were told by Jesus at different times and places in his ministry. This lesson will focus on the parable in Luke as it has a slightly different focal point.

This parable is told after Jesus met with Zacchaeus, and Jesus spoke this parable specifically to the people because he was near Jerusalem. The followers of Jesus were expecting a Messiah to reinstate a physical kingdom here on the earth. They thought he would rise militarily and politically and at this particular point in time his followers thought that this was imminent.

Jesus told this parable specifically to convey to the people that he would leave for a long period before his return and and before the fulfillment of a physical kingdom on earth.

The parable begins with a "certain" nobleman who goes into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and then to return.

He called ten of his servants together, and gave them ten pounds, or minas. One mina, or one pound was equal to approximately three to four months of wages. He divided this among the servants and each servant received one (Luke 19:16).

Then the nobleman said,

Occupy until I come.

This translates, do business until I come, or invest this for me. Use it to conduct business until I come back.

He is basically giving them a stipend to spend while he is gone. It is not their money, it is his. He is asking them to make wise investments with this while he is away.

But his citizens hated him, and said, we will not have this man to reign over us. Note, these are different people than his servants. This would be the citizens of his country; his future subjects.

When the nobleman returned, having received the kingdom, he commanded his servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him so he would know how much they had gained by trading, by their investments.

The first servant came and said, Lord, your pound has gained ten pounds.

Discuss: This servant seems to be a wise investor. What do you think he might have done with his money?

Maybe he bought a building and rented it out. Maybe he opened a store and sold goods. Maybe he started a bank and loaned money to others. Maybe he started a new business.

We do not know, except that his investment had a very good profit.

Then the nobleman said to that servant,

You have done well. Because you have been faithful in a very little I will give you authority over ten cities.

Notice that the master calls this **very little**. This must have been a very wealthy man. He gave each several months worth of salary to invest, and he calls it "very little."

But this man has multiplied this, and received a reward for his work; he is the ruler over ten cities.

Then the second servant came in and said, Lord, your pound has gained five pounds.

And the man said the same thing to that servant that he did to the first, and gave him authority over five cities.

Then another servant came. He said, Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a napkin, or handkerchief. He did not lose it, he did not make a bad investment that did not yield a return. He basically did not do anything with it except it set it aside and keep it safe.

Then that servant said, I was afraid of you because you are a harsh (strict, stern) man. You take what is not yours and harvest what you did not plant.





Kingdom Business

This servant seems to have a different view of the nobleman than the others. From what we saw of this nobleman, he seems to be very generous; giving a significant sum to the men to invest as they saw fit. Then he rewarded them for using money that was not even theirs in the first place.

The man is upset; he seems to be strict and harsh now.

He says, *out of your own mouth I will judge you*, you wicked servant. You knew I was harsh, taking what is not mine and harvesting what I did not plant, so why didn't you put the money in the bank? Then when I came back I could have at least had the interest?

Discuss: "Out of your own mouth I will judge you." What does that mean?

Could it mean that because he saw the man as harsh and strict, that he will judge him the way that he assumed?

The man is basically saying, you said it, so you will get exactly what you expected.

Then he said to the others that were standing nearby, take the money from him, and give it to the man who has ten.

Discuss: It seems that everyone there is waiting their turn and they can all see what everyone else has accomplished.

But the ones standing nearby said, Lord, he has ten pounds.

The other servants were basically saying, that man already has ten pounds. Why are we taking it from this guy who has hardly anything and giving it to the one who already has plenty?

But this man did not see it that way. He said,

To everyone one that has, he will be given more. From him that has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away from him.

Then the man said, Bring the enemies here, the ones who did not want me to rule over them, and kill them.

Jesus in the Story



The nobleman represents Jesus.

Jesus constantly preached that the kingdom of heaven is “at hand.” That means it is approaching, coming near; joining one thing to another. His crucifixion was basically his coronation, as he received the crown of thorns and the robe. He has gone away to receive his kingdom, and through the Holy Ghost, believers reign in the kingdom with him. (Romans 5:17; Ephesians 2:6)

But there will come a time when he will return to earth and establish a physical kingdom.

The servants represent us.

We have been given assignments and resources to carry out God’s kingdom here on earth.. Just as the servants received money to invest in business, we are to be building the kingdom until Jesus returns. We are not meant to sit idly and just wait for Jesus to return. He never intended for us to only have hope in the life to come. We are living in the kingdom now; we have things to do. We cannot afford to waste what he has given us, or disregard his assignments for each of us. We will be held accountable.

Discuss: What are these things that God has given us?

This looks different for every person. We are all part of the body of Christ, but we all have a different part in the kingdom. And the Bible talks about the different gifts that we have been given (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).

This can be about any gift that you have. You may be good with people, you may be really good at making things, or at math, or with computers, or maybe you can sing beautifully. You might be a wonderful cook, or maybe you love to grow plants. Maybe you’re good with animals, or maybe you love teaching children or discuss all types of talents and gifts with the children. You might even help them find their personal gifts and talents and talk about possible ways to use those for the kingdom of God. Everything points to Jesus,, and we do it for him.

But, whatever you do, do it for the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31)

The citizens represent the people who do not accept Jesus as Lord and King.

These people were not allowed to enter the kingdom and suffered death.



Kingdom Business



Luke 19:11-27

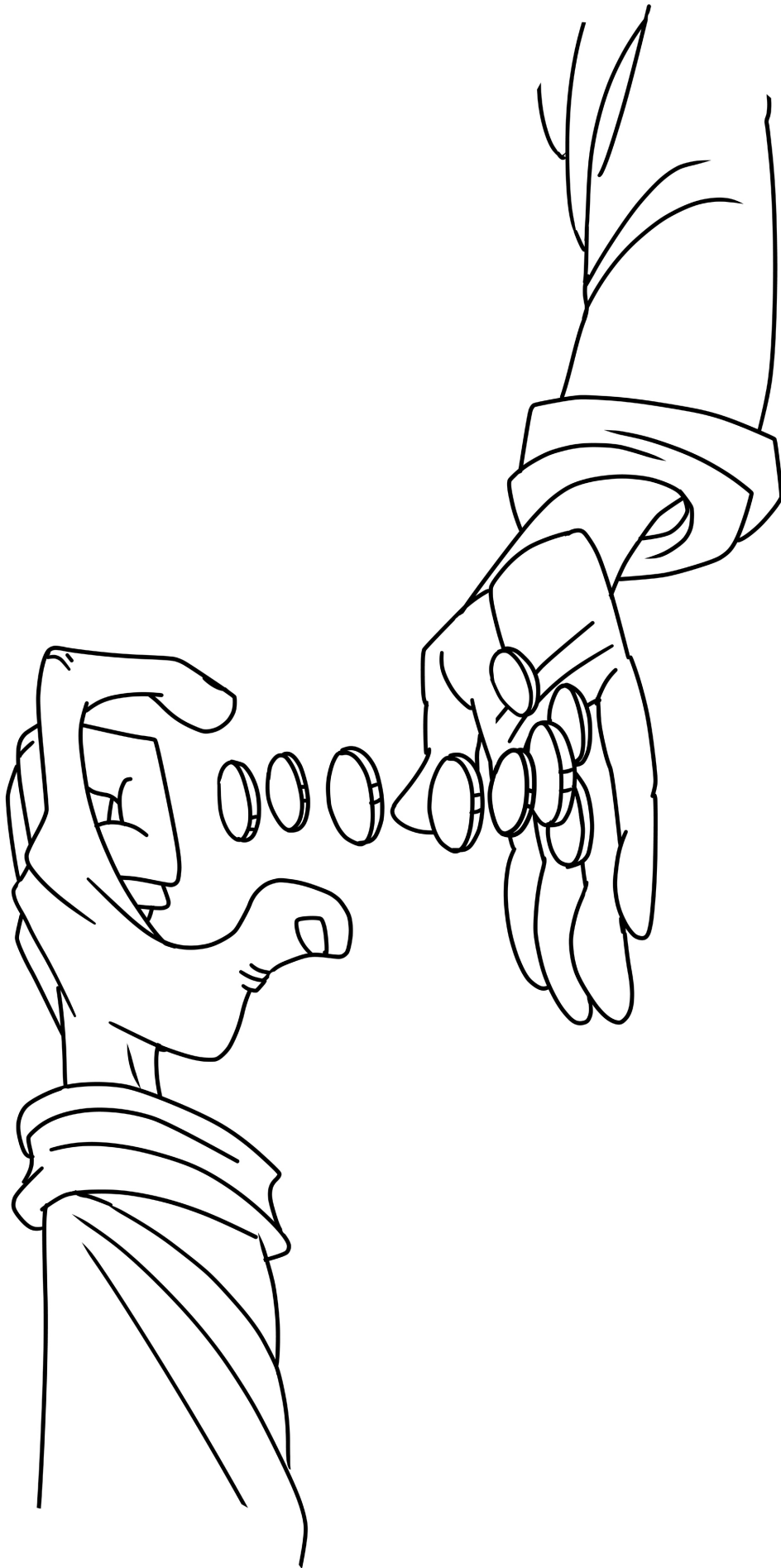
MEMORY VERSE

For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Luke 19:26

Answer the Questions

1. What did the first servant do with the money?
2. Where did the last servant put the money?
3. What did the king do with the last servant's money?





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

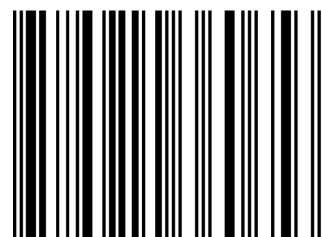
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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