

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

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

1 John 3:4-5



Falsely Accused

Matthew 26:57-68
Mark 14:53-65
Luke 22:54
John 18:13-14,19-24

Trial & Crucifixion

**The story of the arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are so expansive that this lesson only covers a small portion of the story of the redemption that Jesus provided for us on the cross. The focus of this lesson covers the trial of Jesus by the high priest and chief leaders of the synagogue. It does not cover Peter's denial or the trial by Pontius Pilate. Peter's denial, the trial of Pilate, and the crucifixion will be covered in later lessons. However, please see the note near the end of this lesson to cover an overview of the events of the trial and crucifixion of Christ. The children need to be reminded of this during the Easter season, and different details will be covered in later lessons.*

This lesson begins after the arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. They laid hold of Jesus and took him to the palace of the high priest. This is interesting; he did not commit a crime that was identifiable by a true wrong. He was being judged by the laws of the Jews, and it was the leaders of the temple that were accusing him; this would be like church leaders putting a person on trial today.

They brought Jesus to the home of high priest and all the chief priests and elders and scribes were there. Peter followed, but at a distance. He went into the palace and sat with the servants to watch what would happen. He sat with them and warmed himself by the fire.

Discuss: What would you do? Would you follow like Peter did and hope that no-one noticed you?
Would you go home and hide?

The high priest asked Jesus about his disciples, and about his doctrine. Jesus told them that he spoke openly. He taught in the synagogue and in the temple and he did not do anything secretly, meaning he was not conspiring to do anything; he was very open about everything he said. Then he told the priest not to ask him, but to ask those who heard him because they know what he said.

Then one of the officers struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" And Jesus said, "If I said something wrong, then testify to what is wrong.

But if what I said is true, why did you strike me? "

Remember that in all the lessons that were studied about Jesus and his miracles, that the Pharisees and Jews were always trying to catch Jesus doing something wrong. They were constantly looking for a way to condemn him, for him to do something that they could use as evidence to put him on trial - and kill him. They have been searching for evidence against him for quite a long time.

Discuss: They hated him.
If someone is hated, it is common that people will misconstrue or misunderstand what they are trying to say - on purpose.
They will try to twist everything that person says to make it sound like that person has bad intentions.





Falsely Accused

So the chief priests and elders, and all the council tried to find false witness against Jesus - people who would lie about him - so they could sentence him to death. They found people who would witness against him, but their stories did not agree with one another so they were not credible witnesses.

Discuss: If you have two people telling stories, they would at least need to agree to make it believable. If their stories were too far off, then you would not be able to use their witnesses. In a fair trial, you would realize that their stories were not completely true and the testimony would be considered unreliable. But this was not a fair trial.

Finally, they got two false witnesses. And one said, we heard this man say that he would destroy the temple of God, the temple that was made with hands, and build it again in three days (a temple that is made without hands.)

What Jesus actually said was in John 2:19-22. The Jews had been asking Jesus for a sign - they were always asking him for a sign. And he said, destroy the temple, and in three days I will raise it up. But he was talking about his body as the temple and his death and resurrection. And after he resurrected from the dead, the disciples remembered what he had said.

But even the stories of these witnesses did not agree. But the high priest stood up and said, Don't you have an answer to what these men are testifying against you? But Jesus stayed silent. Then the high priest said, "By the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Then Jesus answered, "You have said.....you will see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven. Luke's gospel says,

"After this you will see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of the power of God."

This outraged the priest. But to know why, the reader needs to go back to the Old Testament book of Daniel. Daniel 7:13 prophesies of the "son of man" coming on the clouds and being presented to the Ancient of Days. This has been interpreted to mean that the human like figure (Jesus) would come on the clouds of heaven and be presented to God the Father.

The priests, elders, and scribes knew these prophecies. That is why in Luke 22:70 they *all* said,

"Are you then the Son of God?" To which Jesus responded, "You say that I am."

And they are OUTRAGED. The high priest ripped his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy, do we need further witnesses? We heard it out of his own mouth."

That was it. That sealed his fate, and they decided at that moment they had what they needed to condemn him to death. To them, this was complete blasphemy.

Then they began discussing it, asking one another what they thought. They decided he was guilty and they condemned him to be guilty of death. They mocked him, and hit him. They blindfolded him, and hit him on the face and said, "Prophecy, who hit you?" They made fun of him, spoke many lies and blasphemed about him.





Falsely Accused

Discuss: Have you had someone lie about you? Did you defend yourself? Jesus is sentenced to death for things he did not do.

At this time there was a unique system of government in Israel. The Romans ruled over Israel, but allowed the Jews to govern themselves on their own matters. The leaders of the synagogue ruled over matters relating to the Mosaic law and other temple laws. The Romans allowed an Israelite leader to rule over the Jews, but he also was subject to the Roman Empire. So although the Jews were allowed to govern over their own issues, they did not have the authority to condemn people to death. If they wanted to give the death sentence, the command had to be executed by the authority of the Roman government.

Discuss: Explain the governmental system of Israel at the time of Jesus using relevant examples to help the audience understand how this would have been structured.

After the high priest decided that he was guilty of death, they did not have the authority to actually sentence Jesus to death. The chief priests had to send Jesus to the Roman leader of this area to determine the validity of the claims and execute the sentence.

They tied Jesus up and took him to Pilate, who was the Roman leader in Jerusalem.

Pilate was reluctant to judge Jesus, and encouraged the Jews to judge him according to their laws. But the Jews told Pilate that they did not have the authority to put anyone to death, and they were determined to see Jesus put to death. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, the leader of the Jews, and Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Ultimately he was condemned to die and he died and suffered on the cross.

The details of the trial of Pilate, the interactions between Pilate and Herod, as well as the details of the crucifixion will be covered in later lessons on the topic of Easter.

Review the following points briefly with the students so that they will have an overview of the Easter story and the trial and crucifixion. Follow this lesson with a lesson on the resurrection.

Briefly discuss:

1. The Last Supper: Jesus washed the disciples feet, told them of his death and betrayal.
2. The prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and arrest.
3. Denial by Peter
4. The trial by the high priest.
5. The trial by Pilate and scourging.
6. The carrying of the cross and crucifixion of Christ.



Jesus in the Story



Jesus did not sin. He never did any wrong. The people said he was guilty of things he did not do, and they crucified him as if he did terrible things. He did not try to defend himself, but remained silent. (1 Peter 2:22-23; Hebrews 4:15)

God put the sins of the whole world on Jesus, and turned his back on Jesus at the cross. After Jesus died and rose again, God gave righteousness to all those who believe in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Jesus never defended himself. He remained silent. He could have argued that he had done nothing wrong.

He knew that if he did not die, he would not be able to save all the people from their sins. (Galatians 1:4)

Jesus had to become a man in order to save mankind. In the very beginning, God gave the rule, or dominion, of the earth to men. But then everything was changed through sin.

Jesus came to fulfill prophecy. When he told the priests and elders that he would come on the clouds, he was referring to Daniel 7:13. He was making the claim that he was “the son of man”. He would come on the clouds and be presented to the Father.

Jesus was completely man, but also completely God; he was both. This was the only way this could work; he had to come as both man and God to die for the sins of everyone. When people believe in him, God sees those people as righteous, as though they had not done anything wrong. When we believe in our hearts that Jesus died for us and accept what he did, we are saved. (John 1:1,14; Romans 10:9)





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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