

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!





Arrested!

Matthew 26:36-57

Mark 14:32-52

Luke 22:39-54

John 18:1-14

Trial & Crucifixion

Teaching the Lesson:

**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.*

This lesson picks up after the Lord's supper. Jesus has spent time telling his disciples many things, and that one of his disciples would betray him.

Jesus and his disciples crossed over the brook of Cedron (Kidron) and entered into the Garden of Gethsemane which is on the mount of Olives. The word Gethsemane means "olive press." John tells the reader that Judas knew this place, because Jesus and his disciples went there often. Jesus told his disciples to sit there while he went to pray, and told them to pray that they do not enter into temptation (Luke 22:40; Matthew 6:13.)

This is a very difficult evening for Jesus. He knows what he is about to face and he is very sorrowful, or grieved, and very heavy (distressed, troubled.) He told the disciples to wait there and watch. He went on a little further and fell down on the ground. He prayed to the Father that "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Jesus was fully man and fully God. His humanity was like us, he knew what was coming and wanted to avoid it if at all possible. But his resolve was amazing. He was so dedicated to the Father and doing His will that he completely submitted to whatever was going to be necessary. After he prayed, an angel was sent to him from heaven to strengthen him (Luke 22:43.) After this strengthening, he prayed more earnestly in agony, and his sweat fell as great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The word Gethsemane means "olive press." In this garden, the weight of what was coming pressed on Jesus and his sweat flowed from him like olive oil flows as it is squeezed out from a press.

When he rose up from prayer, he went back to his disciples and found them asleep. Luke's account says they were sleeping from sorrow; a study of the words here show that they were sleeping because they were exhausted from grief and sorrow, as if trying to escape. Jesus asks them why they were sleeping, and says, "Could you not watch with me for one hour?" And then again, three gospel accounts tell us that he told them watch and pray, or else they would enter into temptation. He tells them that "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He left his disciples again and prayed the same words. Then he came back and found the disciples sleeping again. Their eyes were heavy and they did not know how to answer him.

Then he left and went and prayed a third time, saying the same words. When he returned to the disciples he told them to take their rest because the hour had come for his betrayal.

He knew Judas was coming; he knew what was about to happen. He told the disciples to get up, it was time to go because the one that would betray him was near.

While he was still talking, Judas came to where they were, but he was not alone. He came with a large number of people; the chief priests, scribes and elders were all with him. They came with lanterns and torches and were armed with weapons of swords and staves.

These clubs, or staves, were the beams or wooden poles that were used to carry the ark of the covenant. They were also used as a beam from which to suspend someone, or also used as a staff. They were always made of wood.

The people that were with Judas did not all recognize Jesus. Judas had told the officials beforehand that they would be able to identify him because the person he kissed would be Jesus, and he was the one they should take.

Judas approached Jesus and addressed him as "Master," and then kissed him. Matthew's account says that Jesus said, "Friend, why have you come?" Luke's account says he asked Judas why he betrayed him with a kiss.





Arrested!

John tells the reader that Jesus asked them who they were looking for. They responded, "Jesus of Nazareth." To this, Jesus responded, "I am (he)." When the translations place a word in italics, it has been added by the translators for clarity. What Jesus actually said was, "I am." Does this sound familiar? When Moses asked God his name as he was preparing to lead the people out of Egypt, God responded, tell them I AM has sent you (Exodus 3:14.)

When Jesus responded this way, the people backed away and fell to the ground. They did not understand what had happened, but there was so much power in the declaration that Jesus used; he is "I AM THAT I AM." Jesus IS Jehovah. He IS Lord. He IS ultimate power and authority.

Then Jesus asked them again, "Who do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." He said, I told you I am; if you're looking for me then let these go their way (speaking of the disciples.). This was to fulfill the prophecy "of which you gave me I have lost none except the son of perdition," (or, destruction; John 17:12.) Jesus seems to be referring back to an older prophecy which is possibly apocryphal but scholars are not clear on this reference.

The disciples are ready to defend Jesus. One of them asks, "Lord, shall we fight with our swords?" Peter, who is always quick to respond, did not wait for an answer. He pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. This would definitely take precision to cut off someone's ear without serious injury to their head.

Discuss the scene. This would have been quite chaotic. Jesus and his disciples are in the garden, a large crowd of people show up ready to arrest Jesus, but are not sure which one he is. Judas comes to betray Jesus with a kiss, and Jesus asks the crowd who they are looking for. As if things are not bad enough, Peter cut off the right ear of the high priest's servant, named Malchus. These are the priests and synagogue leaders that are arresting Jesus - this would be like our church leaders taking weapons and arresting people.

Is Jesus glad that his disciples are trying to defend him? No. He tells them to put away their swords, and if they want to live by the sword they will die by the sword. He tells all of them that he could ask God to send him more than twelve legions of angels to defend him. But, he said, "*How would the scriptures be fulfilled?*"

A legion was over 6,000 angels. Jesus is saying that God could have sent him over 72,000 angels to defend him if he only asked. But, Jesus knew the importance of what was at stake. He is basically saying, if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled. He knew that all of these things had been prophesied about him, and they had to come to pass.

So what happened to the man who lost his ear? Jesus responded, "Enough of this." Then he touched the man's ear and healed him. The disciples were trying to fight the battle as if this was an earthly kingdom, with an earthly battle to fight. Jesus understood that this was not the answer; physical violence was not the solution to what is actually a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12.) Even in the midst of his being arrested, he had compassion on those around him and healed them.

There is an unusual note in Mark 14:51-52 that does not seem to be relevant to any other part of the story. It comes after Peter has cut off the ear of the servant, and Jesus remarks that he was with them daily in the temple, and that they could have arrested him when he was there with him. Then all of his disciples run away out of fear that they too may be arrested.

Then Mark tells about young man who followed Jesus after the disciples left. This young man was naked, having a linen cloth around his body. But when they arrested Jesus, they laid hands on this young man. When they tried to grab him, he left the linen cloth, and ran away naked.

No explanation is given as to who this young man is what is happening. But there are a few theories. One theory is that when Jesus said "I AM," that there was so much power that some people were resurrected from nearby graves. This young man appears to be wearing cloths that were wrapped around dead corpses, and this could possibly explain this odd bit of information placed into the story. And perhaps a reference back to the nakedness of man in the garden to fulfill a spiritual parallel.

Then Jesus is taken away, to be put on trial and crucified.



Jesus in the Story



Jesus came to fulfill the scriptures. This means that there were prophecies spoken by prophets many years before Jesus that told who he would be, and the things that he would do. They were spoken in mysteries like a puzzle because if they would have been easy to understand then the devil would have never crucified Jesus. The crucifixion of Jesus was essential to the redemption of mankind. (Mark 4:11; Romans 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Colossians 1:26)

We have to look closely to see what was prophesied, and what was fulfilled.

In the garden, the crowd says they are looking for "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus responds, "I AM." There is so much power in this response that the crowd goes backwards and falls down. This is paralleled with Moses when he asks God what his name is. God's response is, "I AM THAT I AM," and tells Moses, tell the children of Israel that "I AM" has sent you. Jesus is the I AM. He is God. He tells the people that He and the Father are one (John 10:30).

This prophecy is given in Psalm 27:2, where it says, "when the wicked came against me.....my enemies and foes stumbled and fell." This is a prophecy of Jesus as the Messiah and tells of the crowd stumbling and falling when they came against Jesus.

In Matthew 26:50, Jesus says to Judas, "Friend, why have you come?" This parallels the prophecy in Psalm 41:9, where it speaks of "my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (betrayed).

Jesus, who is the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45), corrected what man ruined in the garden. Jesus obediently submitted to the will of the Father over his own will in direct contrast to the disobedience of man in a garden that brought sin into the world.



Arrested!



Matthew 26:36-57; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-54; John 18:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and
forget not all his benefits: who
forgives all your iniquities,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from
destruction, who crowns you
with lovingkindness and
tender mercies...*

Psalms 103:2-4

Answer the Questions

1. In Ezekiel 1:28, what happened when he saw the glory of the Lord?
2. In Psalm 41:9, who betrayed (lifted up his heel)?
3. In Matthew 26:50, what did Jesus call Judas?



Arrested!



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

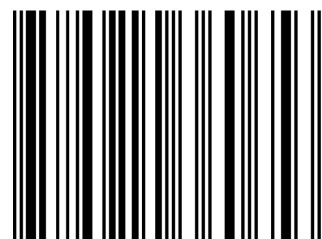
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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