

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

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

Matthew 7:15-16



Weeds in the Wheat

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Parables of Jesus

The parable is given in Matthew 13:24-30; and Jesus gives the interpretation in Matthew 13:36-43.

Jesus is teaching on this day from a ship. There are a great many people listening on the seashore, and Jesus is sitting in the boat just off the shore. People have found the place where it was believed that Jesus spoke. There was a cove here, and the land was u-shaped around where Jesus sat in the boat. This created a natural amphitheater, making it easy to be heard from off the water for quite a distance.

He tells several parables. He begins with the parable of the sower, and follows with this parable of the weeds in the wheat.

Jesus begins his parable by saying that "the kingdom of heaven is like..." a man who sowed good seed in his field.

Discuss: If you are going to plant a garden or a crop, what kind of seeds would you plant?
Would you make sure they were seeds of the foods that you wanted to grow?
Would you make sure that the seeds were not damaged, and they were healthy seeds of good foods?

This man knew exactly what he was planting, and he planted good seeds, expecting certain plants to grow.

But while the men slept, this man's enemy came and sowed tares, or weeds, in the wheat field.

If you look up the original Greek word that was used here in the book of Matthew, that word is "zizanion." It actually is very specific. It is a plant called darnel, which looks almost exactly like wheat. It is almost impossible to tell the difference between this plant and a wheat plant until the fruit grows, and the grains of this plant are black.

Discuss: Do you think the man knew about the tares (weeds) that were in his field?
Probably not. It took them a while to figure out what happened.

When the plant grew, and it the fruit was produced, you could see that it was not wheat. The servants of the man came and asked him, Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did the tares come from? And the man realized what had happened. He told them, an enemy has done this. But the servants asked, Do you want us to go and gather them up?

But the man said, "No, or when you pull the tares you will also rip up the wheat with them."

Discuss: Have you ever weeded a garden?
Have you ever planted a garden and had weeds come up near your fruit or vegetables? What did you do?
What happens if the weed is growing very closely to the good plant?

Sometimes if you pull a weed, it can damage the good plant. Sometimes it can rip up the good plant too because the roots are growing so closely together that they have grown around each other.

The landowner said, Let both of them grow together until it is time to harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to gather the tares first, and tie them up in bundles to be burned. But the wheat will be gathered into the barn.





Weeds in the Wheat

After the crowds had gone, the disciples came to Jesus and asked him to explain the parable of the tares in the field.

Jesus said, the man that sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. Every time scripture speaks of the Son of Man, it is speaking of Jesus.

The field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the weeds are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed the tares is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the angels are the reapers.

Just like the weeds were gathered and burned in this story, it will be the same at the end of the world. Jesus will send his angels to gather everything that causes sin and them that do evil and cast them into the fiery furnace where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Be gentle telling this story to young children; do not try to scare them to believe in Jesus.)

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. If you have ears to hear, let him hear.



Jesus in the Story



Jesus sowed this seed. The "kingdom of heaven" was not on this earth until Jesus brought it here. That is why he was always saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." He was trying to tell people that things are different now that he had come into the world.

Jesus is very clear in the interpretation of this parable. The devil has positioned some of his own people in the kingdom. They are living among the Christians, going to church and acting completely like believers. They infiltrate from the inside and like a spy in a nation, it can be more effective to appear to be in agreement with the ones you are trying to deceive than to simply openly oppose them. When the evil one is out in the open, he is easier to identify than one that hides among us.

Jesus presented this concept in Matthew 7:15 with false prophets as an analogy of "wolves in sheep's clothing."

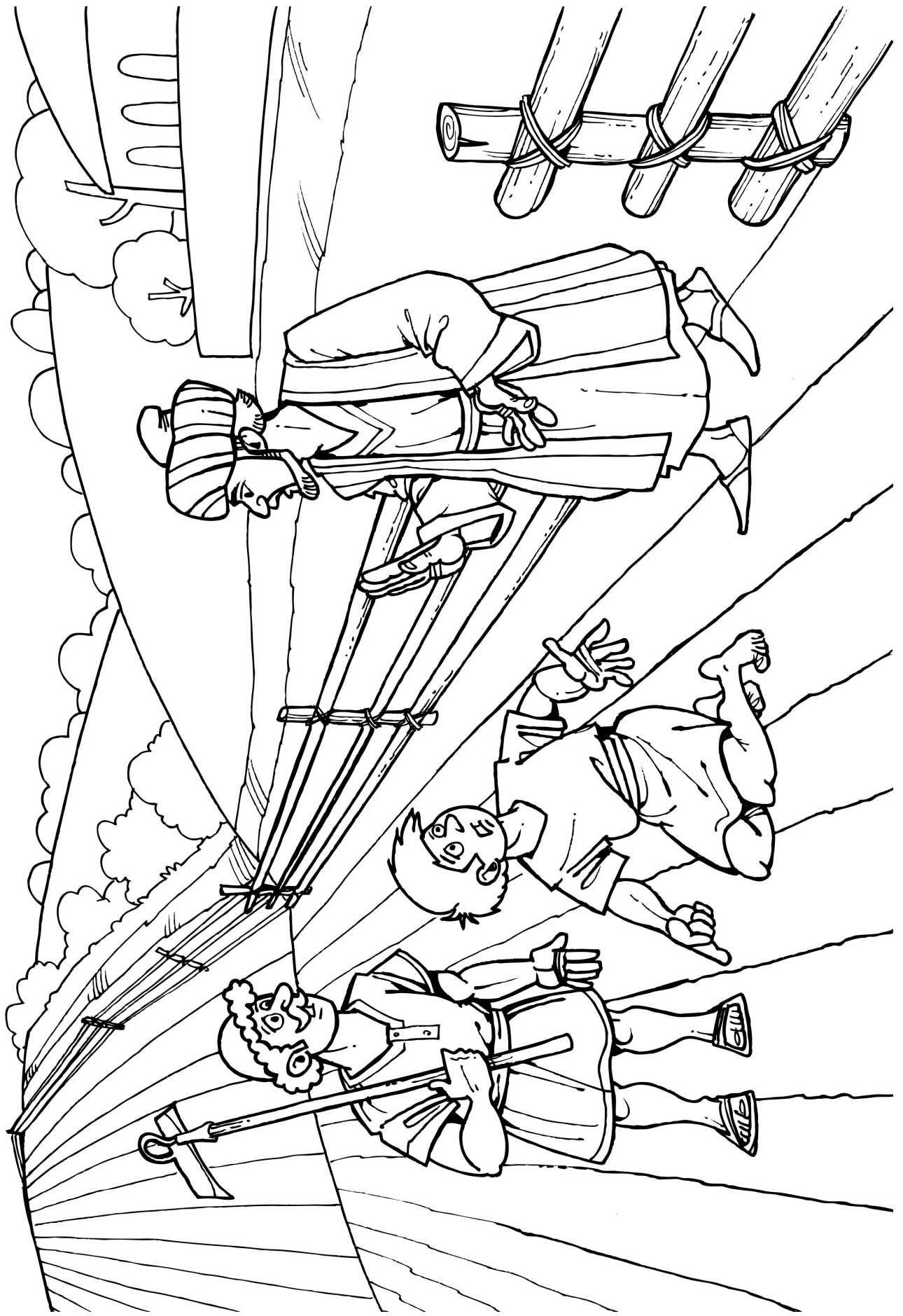
It can be difficult to identify these people. They look just like the "wheat," or believers, until they produce fruit, then it might be possible to know who they really are. But even if you are able to discern their true identity, it can be more damaging to try to remove them from the circle of believers, or kick them out the church. This could be harmful to some Christians who are not as discerning and could cause their faith to waver. There could be others that are even harder to identify that remain in the church until the end of the world and then God will expose their true identity.

The devil planted these people in the church intentionally. Weeds in a garden take the nutrients out of the soil that the good plants need for growth. In the same way, these people that have been "planted" in the church can divert others away and distract them from true ministry of the church body. These people can wrap their "roots" around true believers, and if the people who are tares are forcibly removed, they would take the true believers with them who are deceived.

Some of the people themselves may be surprised when this happens. (Matthew 7:21-23) Jesus says there will be people who will come to him calling him Lord, Lord, and tell him they did things in his name, but he will tell them "I never knew you."

We need to examine our own hearts and pray for God to search our hearts. (Psalm 139:23) Sometimes we don't even fully understand our own hearts because they are hard to discern (Jeremiah 17:9). Keeping a heart for God requires humility, and we can ask God to prepare our heart. (Psalm 10:17)







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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