

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!





Into The Ditch

Matthew 7:1-7
Matthew 15:14
Luke 6:39-42

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

This is part of the teaching Jesus taught that we call the "Sermon on the Mount." Matthew and Luke construct the passages slightly differently, but they both reference the same sermon. We can see from the passage in Luke that the "blind leading the blind" passage is clearly connected to the passage on judging others and looking at your own eyes first. Matthew separates these in chapter 7 and chapter 15, but there is more information in Matthew 7 and it will be easier to teach from this passage, and reference the verse in Matthew 15.

Jesus was speaking of the Pharisees, and he said, ...They are blind leaders of the blind. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch (Matthew 15:14).

Discuss: What does this mean?

Would you ask a blind man for directions? Would you ask a blind man to lead you somewhere you had never been? This would not be wise. You want someone to lead you and guide you who can see what is ahead. Someone who can see where you are going.

The Pharisees were the respected Jewish leaders of their day. They were the leaders in the church. They were studied and knew the scriptures, especially the Torah, which was the law of Moses, and all the Talmud, which were the writings and additional laws they put into place to explain and enforce the Torah, or Mosaic law.

Although respected and knowledgeable, the Pharisees were very proud. They had allowed their hearts to harden and puffed themselves up. They thought of themselves more highly than they should. They also obeyed the 'letter of the law,' but missed the heart of the law. This meant that technically they were keeping the laws, but they not doing it with the right heart, or the right motive. And this is something that Jesus addressed again and again.

For example, the Pharisees would continually be angry with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, saying that healing was "work" and he violated the Sabbath. But they missed the whole heart of God. Jesus told the Pharisees that if one of their sheep fell in a ditch on the Sabbath, they would rescue it, and healing is the same way (Matthew 12:11-12). It is God's heart to save his people.

These Pharisees made up their own commandments and taught them as doctrine (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7). Jesus said the Pharisees shut off the kingdom of heaven from the people. He said they were not going into the kingdom themselves, neither were they allowing others to enter either (Matthew 23:13). He was saying that they made it seem so difficult, if not almost impossible for the common people to enter into the kingdom of heaven. They would make it seem as if they were the only ones who would make it. But Jesus corrected them, saying that they were not allowing others to enter the kingdom, but they themselves would not be able to enter.

The risk in having knowledge is that it can "puff up" or make you arrogant (1 Corinthians 8:1). The more knowledge that you possess the more you might feel qualified to judge others. This is why Jesus says, don't judge, so that you will not be judged. You will be judged in the same way that you judge others, and the way that you measure, is the way that it will be measured to you. (Matthew 7:1-2). This is not only applicable to the Pharisees, but to us as well. Many scholars believe that this is referring to the way that we will be judged by God, and others say it pertains to the way that we are judged by people in this life. Either way, it would be better to not make ourselves judges over others (Romans 2:1-3).

Jesus tells the people that when a person tries to correct, or judge, another person, it is like trying to pull a speck of dust out of someone else's eye when you have a stick or branch in your own eye (Matthew 7:3).

Discuss: How does it feel when you get something in your eye? Have you gotten a piece of dust or dirt in your eye?

How does it feel? Does it make it hard to see? Do you have to squint?

Does it also make it difficult to focus to see out of the good eye?





Into the Ditch

It would be very difficult to try to help someone get something out of their eye when you have anything in your own eye, even if it was just a speck. Jesus uses this analogy to help us understand the principle. We seem to often see so clearly when we are judging someone else and their actions. But in reality, we are completely blind to our own actions and what we are doing. This is the literal translation of the “blind leading the blind.” Jesus tells us, You hypocrite! Pull the branch out of our own eye first, then we will be able to see clearly to pull the speck of dust out of someone else’s eye (Matthew 7:5; Luke 6:41-42).

What is a hypocrite? Jesus used this word for the Pharisees many times. A hypocrite is someone who tells other people what to do, but they themselves do something totally different.

Notice he doesn’t say, pull the branch out so you can pull a branch out of someone else’s eye. It seems that if we pull the branch out of our eye first, we usually realize that it is just a speck in the other person’s eye. Realizing our own mistakes and shortcomings often puts everything into perspective with regard to others.

So what if you really do have a good perspective and insight, you have checked your own motives and “cleared your eye” and want to help someone. Is it right to offer advice?

Not always. This is what Jesus addresses in the next verse. Not everyone is ready to receive correction or wise counsel. He tells us not to ‘give that which is holy to dogs, or give pearls to pigs, or they will trample them with their feet and turn again and tear you to pieces.’ (Matthew 7:6)

Discuss: What does that mean?

Would you make a really nice meal, an expensive dinner that you cooked all day, and give it to a dog? Probably not. The dog would not appreciate it at all and it would be wasted.

Would you take your nicest clothes and jewelry and put it on a pig? Of course not. The pig has no understanding of what is nice or not. It would trample your nice things and bury them in the mud.

In the same way, you can discern whether someone is open to your insight. You can waste good advice on people. If you give it when they are not ready to receive, it can also ruin a future opportunity when they might be more willing to listen. This is the paradox explained in Proverbs 26:4-5. You have to know determine how to respond to someone who seems foolish.

How do you know when and how to respond? That is when the next verse comes into practice. Pray about it. “Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened unto you,” (Matthew 7:7).

Jesus in the Story



Jesus sums all this up in Matthew 7:12. The heart of the law comes down to this, which we often call “The Golden Rule.”

The NKJV says:

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

A more simplified translation simply says:

Treat people the way you want them to treat you.

Jesus said this sums up the law, and all the prophets. Basically, the Old Testament law can be condensed to this. If we treated other people the way we want to be treated, it would equate to loving them as much as we love ourselves. This would completely change almost all of the interactions in our lives.



Into the Ditch



Matthew 7:1-7, 15:14; Luke 6:39-42

MEMORY VERSE

*Judge not, that you
not be judged. For
with what judgment
you judge, you will be
judged; and with the
measure you use, it
will be measured
back to you.*

Matthew 7:1-2

Answer the Questions

1. What do people try to pull out of other's eyes?
2. What does the scripture say is in our eye?
3. How can we see to take something out of someone else's eye?
4. Explain what you think this means.





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

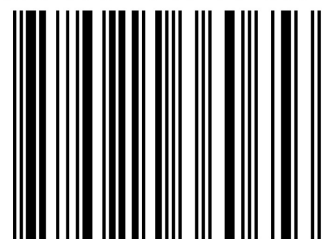
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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