

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!





A Child Is Born

Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20

Birth of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

(This story ties in with another lesson, *Unable to Speak*.)

Begin in Luke 1:26.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. At this time, Nazareth was a small town with a population of around 200-400.

He came to a virgin named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph. Her fiancée was of the house of David; this means he was a descendant of King David.

The angel came to Mary and said, "Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you: you are blessed among women!" She was troubled at this saying, and wondered what kind of a greeting this was and what it meant.

This is quite a statement. An angel comes to you - that is shocking in itself - and then tells you that you are blessed and highly favored. It sounds like she has been selected for a special purpose and she was probably wondering what that meant.

Then the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and name him JESUS. He will be great, and called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

"Of his kingdom there will be no end." What does this mean? Discuss this. All earthly kingdoms come to an end. Throughout history we see the rise and fall of kingdoms. This baby is going to be a different type of man. This baby is "The Son of the Most High," and will be king forever.

Mary asks a question. If you remember our story about Zacharias, he asked a doubting question. Mary is not asking a doubting question, but more of a "how" question. She is not married, and asks how she will be able to have a baby.

Then the angel explains. He says, "The Holy Ghost will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; the holy thing that is born of you will be called the Son of God."

This is amazing; think about this. The power of the **Highest**. The highest power in the universe will conceive in her the Son of God.

Then the angel tells her about her cousin, Elisabeth, who had been barren for many years. He tells her that Elisabeth is already six months along.

"With God, nothing shall be impossible.

Look at Mary's response. She doesn't doubt, she doesn't question. She just says, "Be it unto me according to your word."

This is quite a response. She is saying, I will accept whatever you have said.

But there is **so much more here**. We read in John 1:1 that Jesus **is** the *Word*. He is the Word of God. He is the summation of every prophecy in the Old Testament that was ever written. There are so many prophecies and reflections of the Old Testament to the New Testament. There are so many of these treasures in the Old Testament that the average reader does not even recognize. Jesus is all over the Bible, and he is hidden in the stories, psalms, and prophecies (1 Corinthians 2:7.)

When Mary says, "Be it unto me according to your word," all the words about Jesus that have been prophesied and spoken into the world for thousands of years, have now become a seed (Genesis 22:18, 26:4; Psalm 89:4, 29, 36; Isaiah 65:9.) This seed, made up of all the words spoken of the coming Messiah, has now become the **very** seed that will conceive in Mary the Son of God - **because she believed and accepted it**. This is so powerful.

The angel leaves Mary, and she hurriedly left to see Elisabeth.





A Child Is Born

Go to Matthew 1:18

Mary is engaged to a man named Joseph. They are not yet married, but Mary is now expecting a child through the power of the Holy Ghost. Joseph finds out that Mary is expecting a baby that he knows is not his child. He clearly cares about her, and does not want to embarrass her and make an example out of her, so he has decided to just quietly leave.

For a woman in this time who was not married but expecting a baby, it was a very disgraceful thing. According to the Mosaic law, she could have been stoned to death.

While Joseph was thinking about these things and trying to decide what to do, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to marry her, because she was expecting a baby that was conceived by the Holy Ghost. Then the angel told Joseph that Mary would have a son, and call his name JESUS: and he would save his people from their sins.

These things were done to fulfill prophecy that was spoken by Isaiah that a virgin will conceive and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14.)

Joseph woke up, and did as the angel had told him to, and took Mary as his wife. They were not truly married in the fullest sense until she brought forth her first born son, and called him Jesus.

Luke 2:1

In those days, there was a decree from Caesar Augustus that "all the world" had to be taxed. This "all the world" means the entire Roman Empire, which ruled over a huge portion of the modern world at that time.

Even though they were living in Israel, they had been conquered by Rome, and they were part of the Roman Empire. Discuss this, and what it would mean.

They had their own government, which was King Herod. But their kings and rulers were ultimately subject to the Roman rulers as final authority.

Everyone had to go back to their home town to pay taxes. Joseph was of the house of David, so he and Mary left the city of Nazareth and went into Judaea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem. She was very much expecting, and while they were there it came time for the baby to be born.

They tried to go to an inn, or a hotel, but they were all full. Everyone had come to pay their taxes; it was a decree, which meant it was a mandate, and not optional. So the city was very busy, and there was no room in the inn.

Discuss this. She is having the most important baby that anyone has ever had. She is having the Son of God. And there's no room at the hotel for them. So she had to go in the barn. She probably did not have a doctor, or a nurse, it was probably just she and Joseph. And they did not have any baby blankets, so they wrapped him tightly in some cloths and laid him in the manger.

Talk about this. It was probably dirty; there probably was not a place to give the baby a bath. She did not have a bed for him, so she laid him in the feeding trough. It was probably full of hay, and that is where the animals ate.

Nearby, out in a field, there were some shepherds sleeping in the field, watching over their sheep flocks at night.

Why would they be outside at night watching their sheep? What would they be doing? They might be doing this in case a wolf or another wild animal came to get the sheep.

The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord was shining all around them.

Imagine this! You are outside at night - it is very dark and all of the sudden an angel appears and lights up everything around you! The shepherds were very afraid.





A Child Is Born

BUT - what do the angels always say? "Fear not!" Don't be afraid! This time the angel was excited! He said, "I'm bringing you good news of great joy which is for *all* people."

Who did Jesus come for? Just some people? No, he came for ALL people.

Then the angel said, "In the city of David is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. This is how you will know you found him, you will find the baby, wrapped tightly in clothes, lying in a manger."

Then, all of the sudden the whole sky lit up! There was a large number of angels - a multitude of the heavenly host - all praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

Then the angels left.

What would you do? Would you wonder what was going on? Would you go see what they were talking about? The shepherds said to each other, let's go to Bethlehem and see what the angels were talking about.

So, they hurried! They found Joseph, Mary, and the baby lying in a manger. Then they went and told everyone what had happened.

Would you? Would you go tell everyone if the sky lit up and angels were singing and telling you that there was great news that a baby had been born? And then it was true, and you went and saw the baby?

Everyone that heard the shepherd's news wondered about those things. Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Then the shepherds went back and glorified and praised the Lord for all the things they saw.

Jesus in the Story



This IS Jesus!

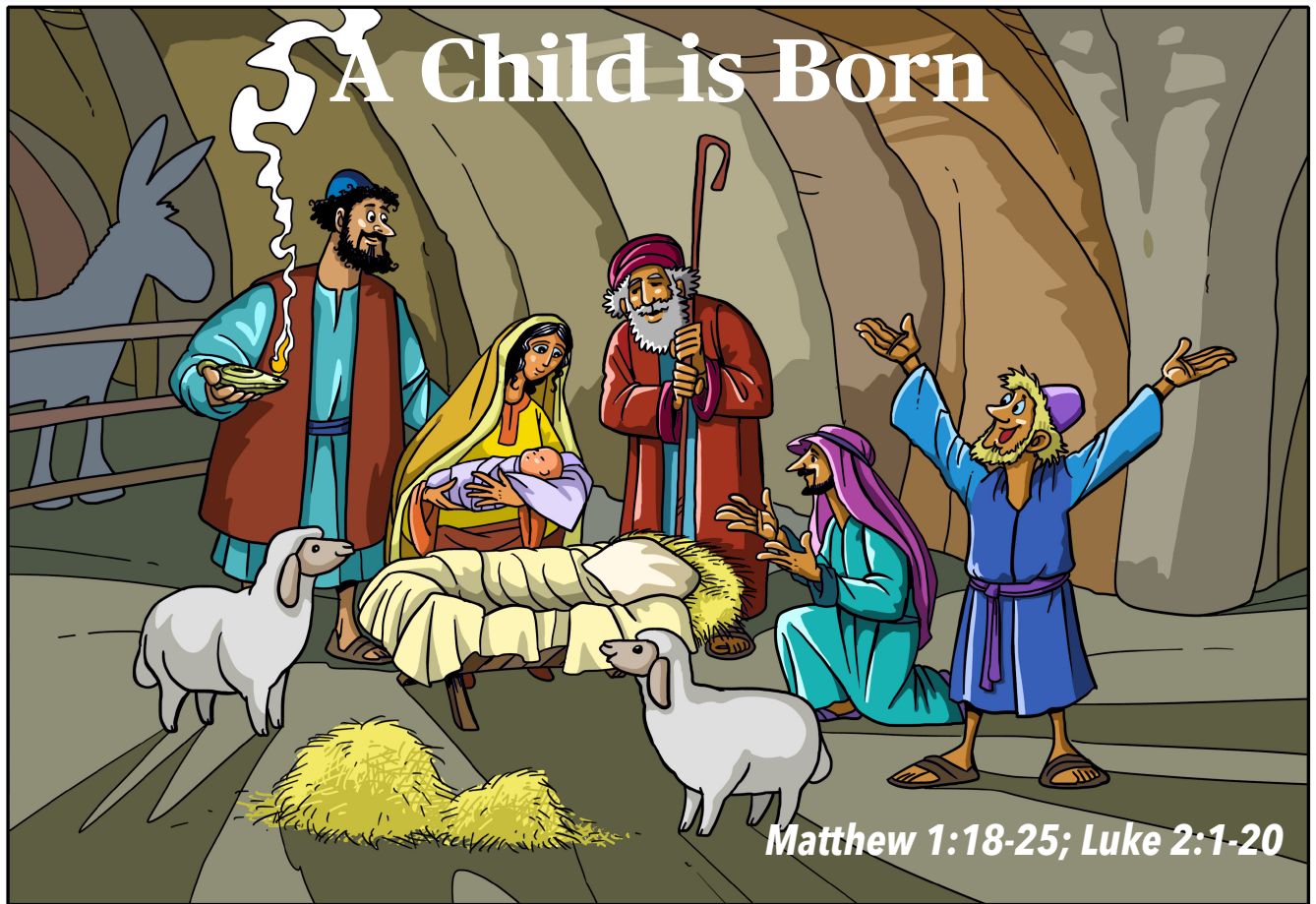
Since before the world was created, it was always God's plan to bring about salvation for his people through Jesus (Revelation 13:8.)

When Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord already had a plan to save mankind. His plan at the very beginning was for Jesus to come in the flesh as a man and be crucified to save us all.

At the fall of man, Satan took man's authority from him. God could not just immediately bring Jesus into the world at that time to save mankind. Man had been given authority, or dominion, over the earth, but he gave his authority to Satan through sin. God created the world through words, and he had to bring Jesus into the earth through words. For thousands of years words were spoken about Jesus; how he would come, what he would do, what he would be like, what his purpose would be. The words had to be spoken by humans because they were given authority over the earth. These words had to be hidden in mysteries, otherwise Satan and the rulers of this world would have never crucified Jesus if they would have been able to understand God's plan (1 Corinthians 2:8.)

When the angels lit up the sky, they were saying, this is great news! The Son of God is finally here! God is sending peace, and goodwill to men! Mary accepted the angel's words along with all the words and prophecies spoken over the years and they manifested in human form. Jesus is now here on the earth to free man from sin, and restore everything that was lost through the fall to those who believe.





MEMORY VERSE

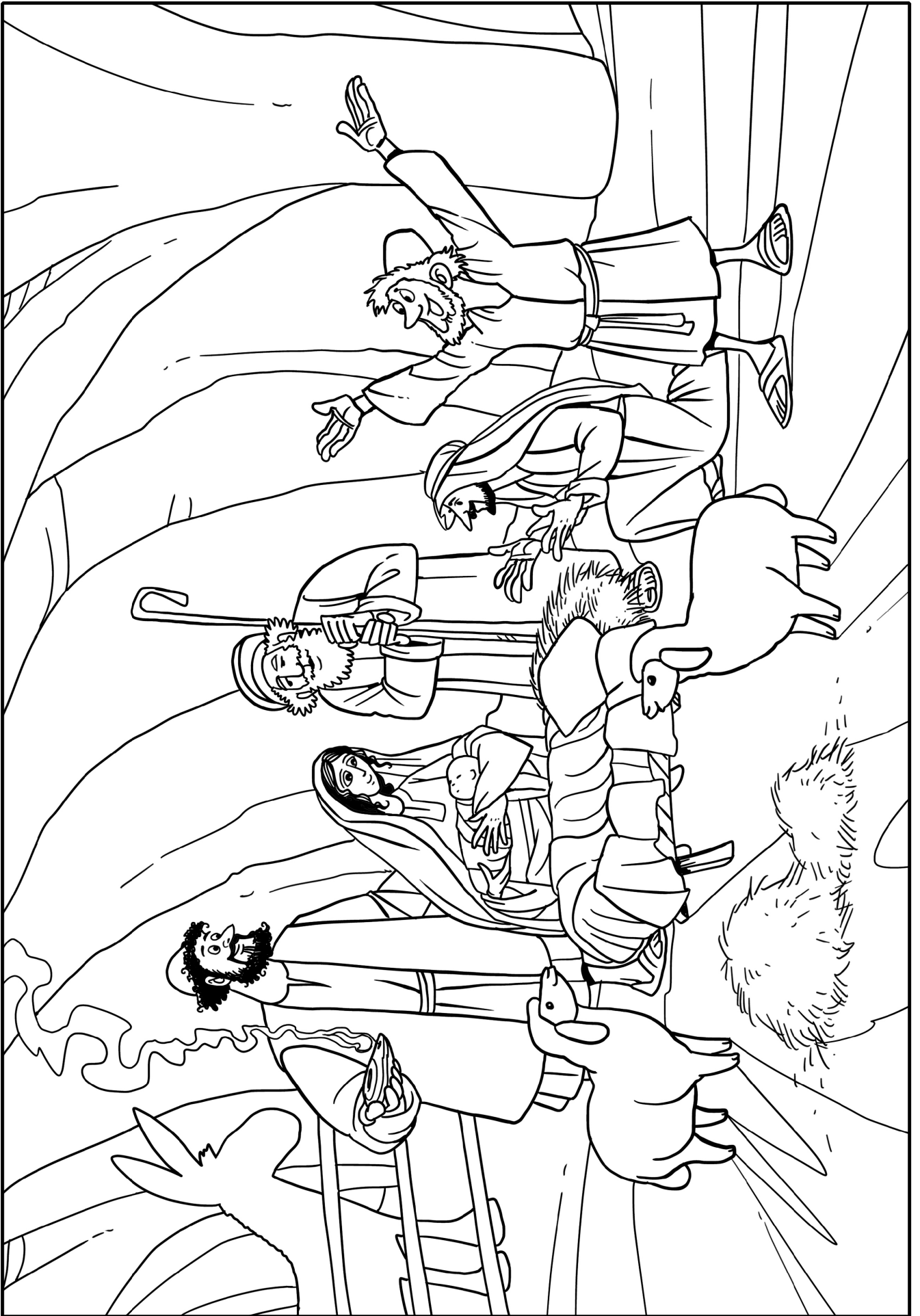
*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and the
government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall
be called Wonderful,
Counselor, The Mighty God,
The everlasting Father, the
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Answer the Questions

Isaiah 9:7

1. When will the government of Jesus stop increasing?
2. What else is always increasing?
3. Whose throne will Jesus sit on?
4. What is his throne established with?





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

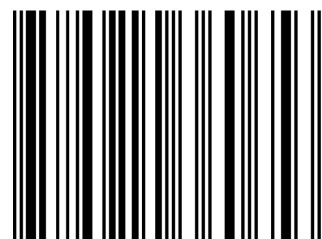
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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