

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

*He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense; I
shall not be moved.*

*In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my
strength and my refuge, is in God.*

Psalms 62:6-7



On the Rock

Matthew 7:24-28
Luke 6:46-49

Parables of Jesus

Start the discussion by discussing what a "lord" is. Historically, a lord is a person who is in charge, a ruler, or a master. This could be a landlord, someone who owns property, or someone you rent from.

Discuss: If someone is your Lord, what type of relationship would you have with them?
Would you do what they said? If they gave you directions, would you follow them?

Jesus is speaking to the people, and he begins by asking them, "Why do you call me Lord and not do the things that I say?"

If we claim to be followers of Jesus, should listen and follow his commands? If we hear what he says, shouldn't we DO what he says? If we claim that he is our Lord, should we give him absolute authority in our lives? If we really see him as our LORD, then would Jesus be in charge of our lives? Would he be our master? Would he be our ruler? If we give him this position in our lives, can we trust him with everything?

The answer to all of these questions should be yes. But Jesus begins telling a parable. Both of the people in the parable listen to Jesus. They both hear him, but they respond differently.

You may have heard this story before. Jesus says that someone who hears his sayings and does them is like what kind of person? Do you know what type of person it would be who listens to Jesus and obeys him?

Jesus tells us that the person who hears what he says and does them is like a wise man. So, if this is true, then what type of person would someone be if they heard his teachings and did NOT do them? He says that someone who hears his teachings and does not do them is like a foolish man.

Someone who is foolish is actually someone who has the ability to think, but does not make good judgments. A fool differs from someone who is stupid; that person may be lacking intelligence or not have the ability to think clearly. A fool has the capacity to think clearly, but makes decisions without thinking or considering the result.

Jesus begins to get specific. **He says that a man who hears his sayings and does them is like a man who builds his house on a rock.**

Discuss: Why would you want to build your house on a rock?
Hear and discuss possible answers.
Jesus said that this man "dug deep." Why would you want to dig deep when building a house.
Possible answers may include a better foundation, more stable, it would stand up better.

Use an illustration about trying to pull a pole or fence post out of the ground. You could even illustrate this with a stick in a hole in the ground. If the post only goes down a short distance into the ground, is it easy to remove? But what if the post is much deeper in the ground? Is it more stable? And what if the post was much deeper, and secured in the ground in concrete? Would that be easy to remove? If you put the post in the ground with concrete, is that a firm foundation?





On the Rock

If you build your house, and you have dug deep, and put your foundation down deep to the rock, when the storm comes, will it blow your house over? Would this be a firm foundation?

Jesus is saying that the person who hears his sayings and does them is like a wise person who builds a deep strong foundation for his house. Obeying what Jesus tells us creates deep roots in our lives. We can take this back to the parable of the sower, and know that our heart is the soil, or dirt. When we listen to what Jesus says and do it, the roots grow deep into our lives and they are not easily uprooted. They are strong, and become a foundation for which we can build the rest of our lives.

Now we have the contrast. The next person is the man who hears the teachings of Jesus, but does not do them.

This is like a man who built his house on the sand; or "without a foundation." (Luke 6:49)

Discuss: What if you tried to build a house or a structure but you did not put anything flat on the ground first? What if you just started building walls on top of the ground, what is going to happen? It's going to lean. It's going to fall over. When the wind blows, it will fall over and crash quicker. What if you built your house on the sand? Have you been to the beach? Have you seen sand? Have you ever made a sand castle? What happens when the water washes over the beach? What happens to the sand? What happens if you try to build a house on the sand? Is sand stable? Does it move? Sand is not stable. It blows with the wind, and moves with the water.

The person who built their house on the sand was foolish. It wasn't that they did not understand - surely they were familiar with the properties of sand. They must have known that sand is not stable, this can be seen just by walking on it. It wasn't that they did not know, it was that they did not consider it. They did not think about this when they were making decisions. They flippantly decided to build their house on the sand. They did not think about it or plan properly; they did not factor in the long term effects.

Did the person who built on the sand do what was easier? Did it seem like it didn't take as long, there wasn't as much preparation, and it was faster? It usually doesn't work out to take the easy way out. If we don't take time to do it right the first time, we often end up having to do it all over again, and often suffer loss in the process.

The storm came: the floods came, the wind blew, and beat on the house.

The house on the rock with the firm foundation could not even be shaken. But the house on the sand fell immediately. It completely fell apart; it crashed and broke into pieces and was completely ruined. Both of these people experienced the storm, but they had different results.

Discuss: Is Jesus talking about a rain storm? What does Jesus really mean? What are storms that come into our lives? There are all types of possible answers.

God does not bring storms, but storms come because we have an enemy in this world. (John 10:10; 16:33)





On the Rock

In this story, what is the house? The house is our life. When problems come, will you be shaken? Will your life be destroyed? Or will you stand firm because you have put your trust in Jesus?

Storms reveal what is in our heart.

The foolish person hears the words of Jesus, but does not place value on them. They hear, but disregard his teachings, quickly move on, and do not make a definitive decision to do something with what they have heard. They do not consider it, and even when the storm comes the foolish person does not always see that there could have been different results if they had done things differently.

Jesus in the Story



Throughout scripture, Jesus is referred to as the "rock."

In the Old Testament, Moses brought water in the wilderness from a rock.

For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them; and that Rock was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4

He is the Rock, His work is perfect: For all His ways are justice...

Deuteronomy 32:4

There is none holy like the Lord, there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.

Samuel 2:2

When we not only hear the sayings of Jesus, but also do them, we make him our foundation. When we do what he says, we are digging deep and putting our foundation on him, the Rock.

He is never shaken, so if we our foundation is laid on him, it makes us unshakeable. This means we make him our Lord in every sense of the word. We look to him for everything and he is our ultimate authority.

To make him our Lord is to give him all power and authority in our lives. When we try to do things our own way, we are building our homes on sand.

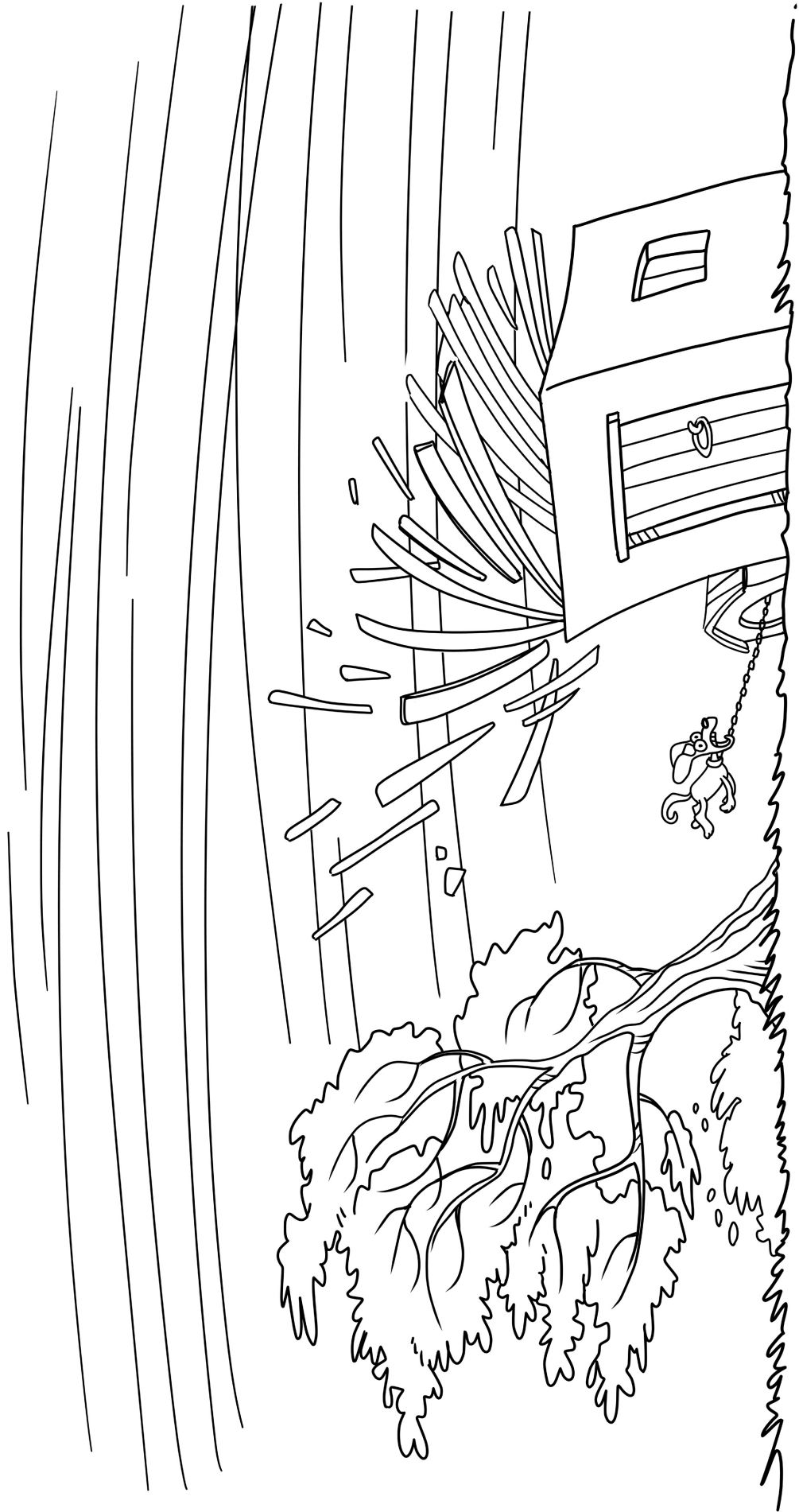
You have a decision to make. Only you can decide what you're going to do with the teachings of Jesus.

It comes down to the attitude of your heart. It's not about what anyone makes you do, or what it looks like on the outside.

In your heart, what are you doing with what the teachings of Jesus? Are you valuing them and making them the most important thing in your life? Scriptures speak about preparing your heart to seek the Lord. (2 Chronicles 12:14; 19:3; Ezra 7:10) You are the only one who can decide what your house will look like after the storm.

Will your house still be standing because it wasn't able to be moved?

Or will your house be completely destroyed?





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

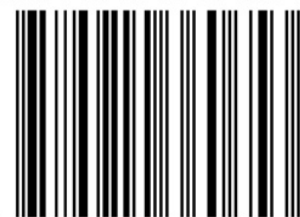
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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