

Finding Jesus

Gospels



...these are the very scriptures that testify about me." John 5:39

Victorious Light

Finding Jesus

Gospels

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Table of Contents

<i>Jesus the King</i>	5
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<i>Teaching the Lessons</i>	7
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Life & Miracles of Jesus

My Beloved Son	10
Into the Wilderness	16
A Wedding Invitation	20
A Den of Thieves	24
An Evening Visit	32
Everything I've Ever Done	38
The Nobleman's Son	44
Waiting for the Water	48
So You May Know	54
A Withered Hand	60
Finding Great Faith	66
Who Is This?	70
Set Free!	76
Only Believe	82
What Do You Have?	88
If It Is You	94
One Thing I Know	100
If You Believe	106
Giving Thanks	112
Have Mercy	116
Zacchaeus	122
Forgiven Much	126
More Than the Others	132

Parables & Teachings of Jesus

How Will You Understand?	138
City On A Hill	144

Parables & Teachings of Jesus

When You Pray	148
Into the Ditch	154
How Much More	158
On the Rock	164
Weeds in the Wheat	170
Two Kinds of Yeast	174
The Heart of Man	178
The Door	182
Who Is My Neighbor?	186
The Wicked Servant	192
The Lost Sheep	198
The Lost Coin	202
The Lost Son	206
What Fills Your Heart?	214
Workers in the Vineyard	218
The Wicked Farmers	222
Kingdom Business	226
Improperly Dressed	232

Death & Resurrection

Arrested!	236
Falsely Accused	242
When the Rooster Crows	248
Crucify Him!	256
King of the Jews	262
Empty Tomb	270

Birth of Jesus

Unable to Speak	276
A Child Is Born	282
From the East	288







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!





Finding Great Faith

Matthew 8:5-13
Luke 7:1-10

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Teaching the Lesson:

Before class, read this story in Matthew, and Luke. Teach from one gospel, but familiarize yourself with the accounts in each gospel; when you tell the story, combine information from both gospels.

Jesus has returned to Capernaum, where the nobleman lived. It is believed that this event with the centurion took place about six months after the nobleman's son was healed. It is very possible that the centurion heard about that miracle. Capernaum is also referred to in Matthew as Jesus' own city. Jesus was rejected in Nazareth in Luke 4:16-32, and afterwards he made his home in Capernaum.

Discuss the centurion:

The Jews were living in Israel, but at this time Israel was under the authority of the Roman government. Discuss what this would have looked like. The Jewish people were able to lead themselves to some degree with local matters, but they were under the rule of the Romans, and the Romans had ultimate authority over them.

Discuss what centurion means. What is a century? (100 years) What would mean if you were an army officer called a centurion? A centurion would have had rule over 100 soldiers. This man would have been wealthy, respected, important, and an authority in the Roman army. Picture his lifestyle.

The centurion was a man in authority. He could have used his authority over Jesus and sent orders to get Jesus and make him come to his house. He had a high position in the government and could have sent messengers demanding Jesus to come.

Matthew and Luke give slight differences, but we can reconcile these two accounts. Matthew tells us that the centurion came to him, and Luke tells us that the centurion sent messengers. It is common that when someone sends a representative - especially in a authority or military sense - that you would say that the leader himself "came." When someone comes representing them, it would be as if the authority was present.

Looking at Luke's account, the centurion had a servant who was very sick, and about to die. He heard about Jesus, and he sent messengers to the leaders of the Jews begging them to have Jesus come heal his servant. The Jewish leaders respected this centurion, and came to Jesus on his behalf. Notice what they say. The Jewish people thought very highly of the centurion; they said he loved the nation of Israel, and he had built them a synagogue. To the Jews, the things he had done made the centurion very worthy and deserving that Jesus should come and heal his servant.

The centurion's message to Jesus was this: LORD, my servant is sick.

The servant had palsy, which was some sort of paralysis. It likely caused weakness and often uncontrolled seizures. We also know that he was near the point of death, and in a lot of pain. The centurion loved this servant; he was very dear to him.

Stop and discuss this for a few minutes:

Notice, the centurion called Jesus what? He called him Lord. This is a big deal. When you call someone Lord, you are giving them the highest honor. This man is not Jewish; he is a gentile and does not have a covenant with God. Jesus responded, I will come heal him. What did the centurion do that made Jesus so willingly agree to go? He called him Lord. This is a title of honor and respect; it is the highest place. Lord is a title for someone who is in authority over others: a ruler or a master. This centurion, this great man of authority, is willingly putting himself under Jesus' authority.





Finding Great Faith

When Jesus got near his house, the centurion sent friends to Jesus with his message, "LORD, don't trouble yourself to come here, I am not **worthy** (deserving, important, sufficient, enough) for you to come *under my roof*. Neither did I think myself **worthy** to come to you, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

Next, the centurion says he is not worthy. What did the Jews come to Jesus and say about this man? Why did they say Jesus should come and heal his servant? They spent time telling Jesus how important the centurion was. They told Jesus how honorable, worthy and deserving this man was, and that Jesus should come because of the great things this man had done. This centurion was humble; he did not "expect" Jesus to come because of his "great" accomplishments. He said he was not worthy for Jesus to come to *under his roof*. He is acknowledging that Jesus is higher than he is; I am not worthy that you should come under me.

Discuss "under his roof". When you invite someone to your home, who is in authority? You are. Who tells the guests where to sit, where to put their shoes, when to eat? You do. You are in control of your home, and you make the rules. The centurion knew Jesus' authority, and he knew if Jesus came to his home, that would put Jesus under the centurion's authority. The centurion was so humble that he was not going to allow this to happen. He knew that Jesus was above him. Jesus' authority superseded, or was over the centurion. He respected Jesus and his rule, and he knew Jesus had authority to heal *simply by His word*.

The centurion begins to explain how authority works. He tells Jesus, I understand this. I have soldiers under me. I tell one man to go, and he goes. I tell another man to come, and he comes. I tell them what to do, and they do it.

He understood that Jesus was under the authority of God the Father, and that Jesus had authority over sickness and disease and every evil work. He understood that Jesus had the power to heal. He knew that all Jesus had to do was say it, command it, and it **would happen**.

Jesus marveled; this means he was amazed. He said, "I have not found faith like this in all Israel."

In Matthew, Jesus says that the Gentiles will be part of the kingdom of heaven, but that many of the Jews (the children of the kingdom) will be cast out and will not be a part of the kingdom of heaven (*because they did not believe*).

Then Jesus says, go on your way, and *as you have believed*, so let it be done for you. His servant was healed in the same hour, and when the messengers went back to the house they found the servant completely well.

Jesus in the Story



Jesus has the ultimate power and authority, but the Jewish leaders did not recognize this or treat him with respect. The Jews exalted the centurion over Jesus, begging Jesus to heal him because of the honor they gave the centurion.

The centurion recognized the power of Jesus, and he gave him glory and honor by calling him Lord. The centurion refused to exercise his worldly authority over Jesus. He knew that Jesus' power was greater than his, and he put himself under Jesus' authority. This man, who was not a Jew, understood the authority of God's kingdom much more than the Israelites. He knew that Jesus had power over sickness and death, and all he had to do was speak the Word, and give the command.

Matthew 28:18 (ESV)

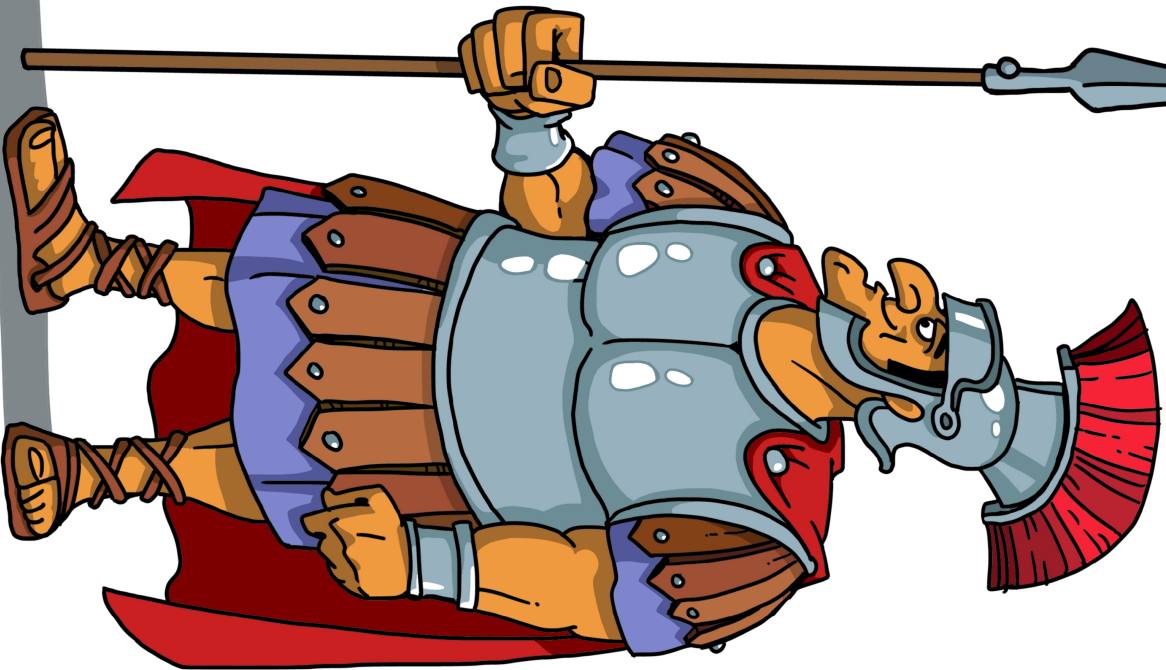
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Luke 4:32 (KJV)

And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.



Finding Great Faith



Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

*Lord, you have heard the
desire of the humble; you
will prepare their heart; you
will cause your ear to hear.*

Psalms 10:17

Answer the Questions

1. Why did the Jews tell Jesus he should go to the centurion?
2. What did the centurion say about Jesus coming to his house?
3. What did the centurion say he understood because of the soldiers that served under him?





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

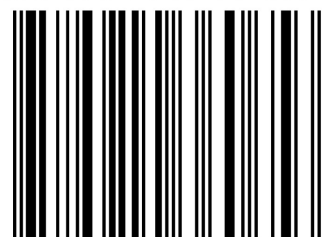
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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