

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 Wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11
Mark 1:12-13
Luke 4:1-13

Life of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

NOTE: Matthew and Luke give the most detail; they reverse the order of the last two temptations but give the same account.

Jesus was baptized, and Luke says he was full of the Holy Ghost. Afterwards He was immediately led by the Spirit into the wilderness *to be tempted* by the devil. .

Discuss: He's in the wilderness, the desert. It might be really hot. It might get cold at night.

There were wild animals (Mark 1:13), and he was probably sleeping on the hard ground.

He fasted forty days and forty nights; he was hungry. Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully man (Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16). He had all the human characteristics that we do. He got tired; He needed sleep. He got hungry; He needed food. Talk to the kids about being hungry; what this would be like to not eat for this long. Have they ever fasted? How long? Is it hard to focus when we are hungry? Watch as Jesus stays focused.

There are three types of temptation listed in the Bible, and every temptation can be put into one of these categories.

1 John 2:16 (BSB) For all that is in the world - the *desires of the flesh*, the *desires of the eyes*, and the *pride of life* - is not from the Father but from the world.

Notice what the devil says, "IF you are the Son of God...". He wants to make Jesus **prove** who he is. He first tempts him with the desires of the flesh. Jesus is hungry, and Satan tells him *IF you are the Son of God*, command this stone into bread. The devil knows how the kingdom works: by authority and words. Jesus has the authority to command the stone with his words, but He doesn't do it, because that would be a response to prove the challenge IF you are the Son of God. He already KNEW He was the Son of God.

Jesus responds the same way every time: ***It is written***. He answers every temptation with the word of truth.

John 17:17 (BSB) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Jesus responds with ***it is written***, and quotes Deuteronomy 8:3(ESV): "...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

The devil tries again.

Satan takes Jesus up to a high mountain and shows him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment, perhaps in a vision. He saw everything at a glance. Talk about these kingdoms; what they may have looked like; what that would mean. Large cities, powerful kings, rulers of the earth.

Satan did possess this power over the earth, giving him the ability to make this offer to Jesus. When Adam and Eve were tempted and sinned in the garden, they turned over their dominion (Psalm 115:16) on this earth to Satan making him the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) also called the prince, or ruler, of this world (John 12:31, 14:30.) Jesus came to the earth to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) and through his death and resurrection He won back dominion over this earth (Ephesians 1:19-22; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28) Satan was offering a shortcut; Jesus could have power and glory without suffering and sacrifice. Satan tells Jesus that IF He will worship him, he would give Him all the power and glory of the world.

Satan is a liar (John 8:44.) It is doubtful that he would have ever given Jesus the power he promised. Nonetheless, Jesus knew that if He would have accepted Satan's offer, He would not have been the sinless sacrifice and the world would not be redeemed. This was clearly not the will of the Father.

Ask the children - how did Jesus respond? ***It Is Written!***





Into the Wilderness

He again responds with *it is written*, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him *only* shall you serve.

(for further study: Deuteronomy 6:13; 4:19; 8:19; 10:20, 11:16; 30:17; 1 Kings 9:6; 2 Chronicles 7:19; Jeremiah 13:10; 25:6)

Satan then brings Jesus to the top of the temple; we are not told how they got there, perhaps supernaturally. But they clearly ARE there, as Satan challenges Jesus to throw himself down from this temple IF he is the Son of God. Satan knows the Bible, he quotes Psalm 91:11 here, but twists the wording. Satan took out 'protect you in all your ways' and added 'at any time' If Jesus had jumped off the roof of the temple, that would have been tempting God, and the Lord will not be tempted. (Deuteronomy 6:16; Acts 5:9) Discuss this; talk about tempting God, and that is not how God works.

Ask the children - how did Jesus respond? *It Is Written!*

This was an IF you are the Son of God temptation, and again Jesus responds with *it is written*, "you shall not tempt the Lord your God."

Jesus in the Story



This is the what Jesus must face as the coming king. He has just been announced by God at his baptism, and now he is going into the wilderness to do battle with evil. He is coming into his kingdom; coming to do battle and conquer as he prepares for his reign. But does not have a physical kingdom to conquer. He is mirroring the temptations of the children of Israel in the wilderness. They failed; he is victorious over evil.

We might look at these temptations and think they are different from ours. But we read that Jesus was tempted just as we are.

Hebrews 4:14-15 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - **yet he did not sin.**

These temptations were an attack on Jesus' identity. Satan's temptations all began with "*IF you are the Son of God.*" Jesus had just been baptized. The heavens were opened, the Holy Spirit came down like a dove, and the voice of the Father from heaven said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus was the Son of God and the Son of Man, fully God and fully human. He had to meditate on this, and focus on the truths of what God said about Him. He had to know in His heart that this was true.

Because Jesus knew who He was, He knew His identity, and He was able to stand strong during temptation.

We need to know our identity so we can also stand strong when we are tempted. If we know who we really are, it is much easier to use our authority to speak the Word of God against the devil. As believers in Jesus, who does God say we are?

Righteous - received as a gift (Romans 5:17-18, 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:24; Philippians 3:9)

Children of God - heirs with Jesus, children of the King! (John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17; 1 John 3:1)

Discuss this. If you completely trust the Lord for everything, you will not be tempted to do wrong to get the things you need.



Into the Wilderness



Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

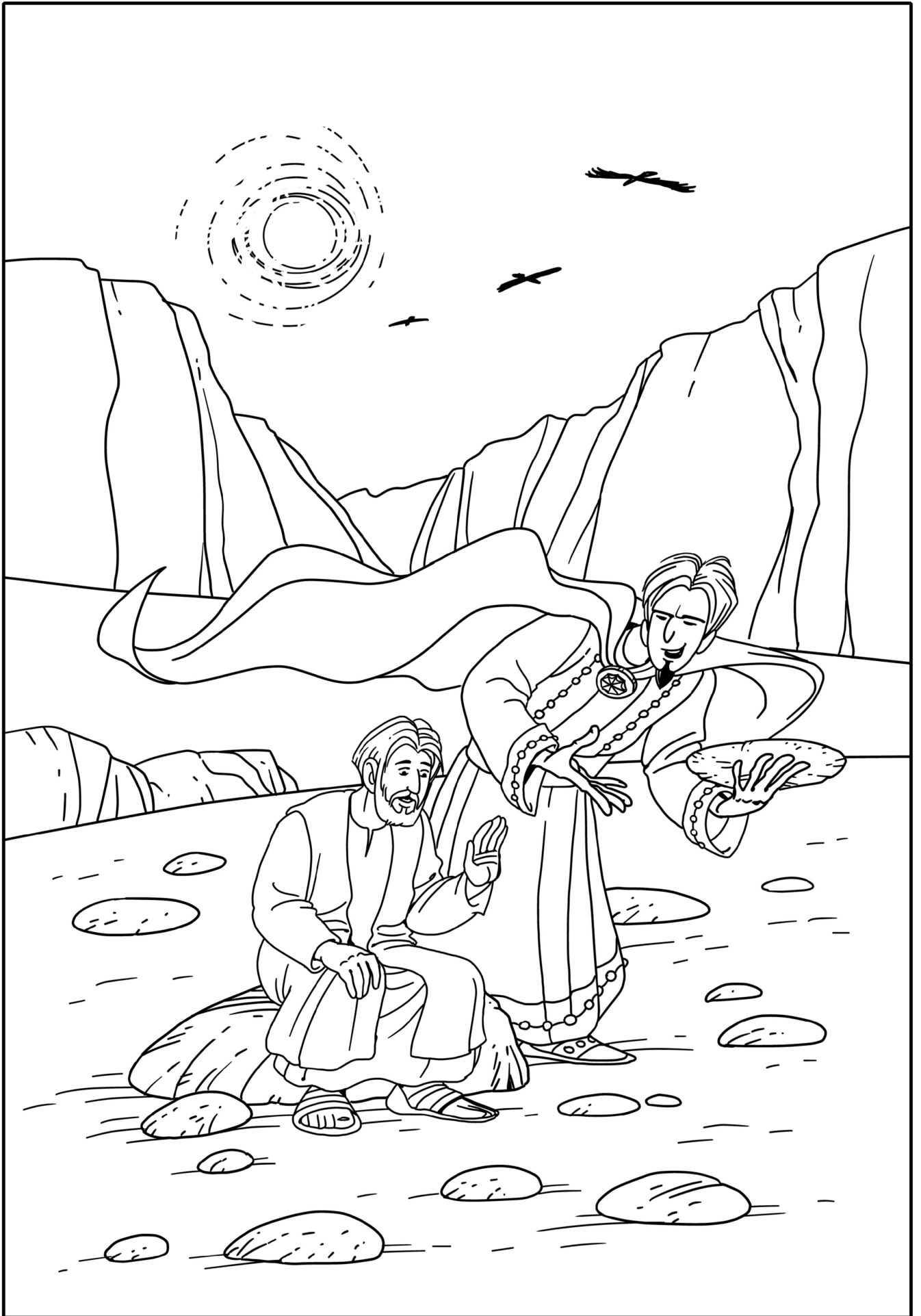
MEMORY VERSE

*Only fear the Lord, and
serve Him in truth with all
your heart; for consider
what great things He has
done for you.*

1 Samuel 12:24

Answer the Questions

1. What three things did Satan use to tempt Jesus?
2. 1 John 2:16 lists different types of sin and temptations in the world. What three basic things are the beginning of all sin and temptation?





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

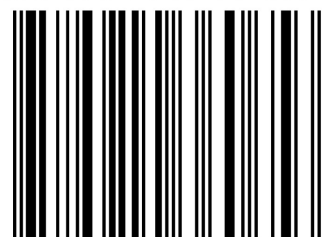
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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