

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

*But to you who fear my name the Sun of Righteousness
shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go out
and grow fat like stall fed calves.*

Malachi 4:2



Only Believe

Matthew 9:18-26

Mark 5:21-43

Luke 8:41-56

Life of Jesus: Miracles

*(*The lady was probably not elderly, due to the nature of her illness. It is likely that she touched the sleeve or tassel of Jesus' clothing, and doubtful that she was on the ground, as she would have been trampled by the crowd. This illustration could not be found.)*

It is suggested that you read this to the children from the book of Mark, as it gives the most detail. Use the information from the other gospels to insert into the story the extra details.

Discuss: Jesus has a LOT of people following him everywhere he goes.

Have you ever been in a large crowd where there were so many people it was hard to move and they had to squeeze through? This is what it was like much of the time for Jesus.

He had just come off of a boat, and a whole lot of people were waiting for him. Why would they be waiting for him? What do you think they might be thinking would happen? What were they hoping to see?

Lead to answers such as: the people had heard about something Jesus did; they might be hoping to see a miracle; they may have been interested in listening to Jesus preach; they may have just been curious because they'd heard about him.

A man comes up to Jesus. His name is Jairus, and he is the ruler of the synagogue. A ruler of the synagogue would have been the man who oversaw the synagogue, took care of the building, set the times for services, chose the teachers, and chose the people who did scripture readings.

Discuss: How do you think Jairus got through the crowd?

Answers could include: He had an urgent need, he was a somewhat important man, people knew him; maybe they let him through.

Jairus would have had close relationships with the Pharisees who did not like Jesus. He had to make a decision of whether he was going to honor them, or give honor to Jesus. Should he give more honor to his friends who don't like Jesus and his daughter dies, or give honor to the only man who can help him. Jairus fell down at Jesus feet. This is placing honor on Jesus, and putting himself under Jesus. What does this look like? Why would he do this? He was *begging* Jesus to come to his house. Why? He was desperate; his only daughter, who was twelve years old, was very sick and about to die. He told Jesus, please come and lay hands on her, and she will live. Did he have faith? Yes. He had faith to believe that if Jesus came to his house, she would be well.

Discuss: Jesus and his disciples went with Jairus. A crowd of people followed him, and pressed on him. Talk about what this would look like. They're all walking along, a huge crowd of people, and everyone is very close together, touching other people, and everyone is bumping into Jesus.





Only Believe

In the crowd is a sick lady who has a problem with her blood, and she has been bleeding for twelve years. No one knows this lady is there, or what she is doing; it seems she has come alone. She had spent ALL her money on many different doctors. She suffered many things from many doctors. In those times, they did not know very much about medical things, and they sometimes did strange treatments to try to help people. But they doctors could not help her; she did not get better, but instead she got worse.

This lady heard that Jesus was coming. She came into the crowd from behind, and touched his clothes. She had said,

"If I can just touch his clothes, I will be healed." She also was desperate, and had been trying to get healed for many years; the same length of time as Jairus' daughter had been alive. Jesus was most likely wearing a prayer shawl that the rabbis (teachers) wore. This shawl would have had fringe on the corners. The corners were called kanaph, or wings, and the fringe was called tzitzit (zeet-zeet). This lady must have known this verse:

But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. Malachi 4:2

Notice this verse says, "those who fear my name." This word fear here means: honor, revere, respect, worship - it means to means this lady honored the Lord. The Sun of Righteousness means the Messiah; this was a prophecy about Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. By reaching out to touch the wings on Jesus' clothes, she was acknowledging that Jesus was the Messiah, the Sun of Righteousness, and she knew he had healing even in his clothing. Most likely what she touched were these tassels, or fringe, that probably would have been on the four corners of a prayer shawl he wore over his shirt.

When the lady touched his clothes, she immediately stopped bleeding and she could feel in her body that she was healed.

Jesus felt power leave his body. He turned around, and said,

"Who touched me?" Everybody around him denied touching him, and his disciples said, There's all these people here thronging and pressing on you, and you are asking, who touched you? They were basically saying, Are you kidding? What do you mean, who touched you? There are so many people here that could have touched you.

But, Jesus responded, SOMEBODY touched me, because I felt POWER go out of me. And he looked around to see who it was.

Discuss: Power left his body because not because someone bumped him, but because someone touched him with FAITH. Were there other people who touched Jesus? Did they get healed? Why did this lady get healed? Because she touched him in faith.

After he asked the question and looked around, the lady came forward, fell down before him and trembled, and told him what she did and why. This lady may have been afraid of His response. According to the Jewish law, she was not supposed to touch anyone because of her illness, because anyone she touched would be unclean. If she had been wrong about this, and she was not healed, she could have been put to death. Discuss this with the students. But the kingdom works the opposite way. Instead of her contaminating Jesus and making him unclean, he made *her* clean.

Jesus is not upset, he tells her,

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease."

What made her well? Her faith.





Only Believe

While Jesus was still speaking to the lady, a messenger from Jairus' house came and said,

"Do not trouble the Master, your daughter is dead." In other words, don't bother Jesus, he doesn't need to come anymore, she's already dead.

We can speculate on what Jairus was thinking, but we do not know. He may have been wanting to rush Jesus, he might have been frustrated at this interruption; we really do not know. But we are human and we can imagine how he might have felt.

Jesus knew the power of words. Our words have creative power (Proverbs 18:21) and he immediately shut down the conversation. He didn't let anyone say anything else. **As soon as he heard the word** that was spoken to Jairus, Jesus said to Jairus,

"Do not be afraid, only believe."

Jairus had to decide if he was going to put faith in man's words, or Jesus' words. He has just heard a word, and he has to decide which word he is going to allow in his heart. Jairus heard, "She's dead." If he allows that word in his heart, it will produce fear.

Whether Jairus fears or believes is significant in whether or not his daughter receives her healing. If Jairus expects Jesus to heal his daughter, he cannot allow fear to get in his heart. His faith is crucial to his daughter's healing. Notice what Jesus had just told the woman a few moments before, "Your faith has made you well..."

When they got to Jairus' house, it was quite a scene. A lot of people were there crying, and not just crying but weeping and wailing. It was common to hire people to come play music, and they had musicians there playing sad music.

Jesus came into this group and said, Why are you making such a big deal out of this and are weeping? She is not dead, but sleeping. Everyone made fun of Jesus and laughed at him and ridiculed him. But Jesus made everyone leave except the father and mother, and Peter, James and John and they went into the room where the girl was.

Jesus put unbelief outside. He did not allow the voices of unbelief and doubt to be in the room with them. Fear works against faith.

He took the girl by the hand, and said, "Child, get up!" She got up, and walked, and he told them to give her something to eat. Everyone was very surprised and astonished, even the parents. But Jesus told them not to tell anyone what happened.

Do you think this was a secret they could keep? What about all the people outside crying? They all thought she was dead, and they must have been astonished too, and probably told EVERYONE what Jesus had done.



Jesus in the Story



This story is full of so many amazing truths.

The rabbis wore the tzitzit to remind them to think about the Lord all the time and keep his commandments. The tzitzit would have had five knots in it, and the four gaps between the knots represent Y H W H. The Hebrews did not add letters to it to make it Yahweh like we do today. They did not utter the name of God because it was holy. The combination of the five knots and the eight strands of thread, put together with the word tzitzit (which in Hebrew has a numeric value of 600) represents the 613 laws of Moses.

The lady was giving honor to the Lord, and she knew in her heart that Jesus was the Messiah. She must have read the verse in Malachi where she knew healing was available if she just touched his clothes. This was an acknowledgment of WHO Jesus was. When we give Jesus first place in our lives, and give him honor, he gives us a new identity. We do not lose who we are in making Jesus Lord of our lives, instead we find out who we really are. This lady found out she was a child of God, and part of his kingdom. Notice what Jesus calls her in Matthew 9:22, Mark 5:34 and Luke 8:48. He calls her "daughter". **This lady got a new identity when she acknowledged Jesus as her Lord.**

Both of these people were desperate. This lady was willing to break the Mosaic law to have a chance at healing. It turned out that Jesus did not condemn her for breaking the law, but comforted her telling her that her faith had made her well.

There is so much power in our words. Jesus knew the creative power of our words, and that speaking death brings death. Speaking life is giving glory to God. He shut down the conversation and did not allow the negative words to be spoken, but immediately countered them with a promise of life.

Jesus also put unbelief and doubt outside. He did not allow them into the room where the girl would be healed. This evil heart of unbelief can hinder faith, and he would not allow it in. (Hebrews 3:12)





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

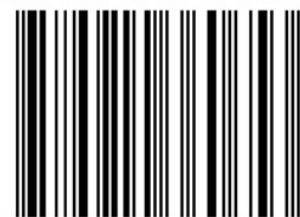
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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