

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!





If You Believe

John 11

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Teaching the Lesson:

The story begins by telling the reader about "a certain man." This man, Lazarus, lived in Bethany, and his sisters were Mary and Martha.

Mary was a very common name. Some think that this is Mary Magdalene, others do not; the scriptures are not completely clear.

Does anyone remember a story about a Mary that did something unusual for Jesus?

The next verse tells you that this is the same Mary that is mentioned in all four gospels that anointed Jesus with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair; Jesus said she prepared his body for burial.

It seems that Jesus was very good friends with this family. We are told that Jesus loved Martha, her sister Mary, and Lazarus. The sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him that "he who you love is sick." Who are they talking about?

When Jesus heard the message, he said to those around him, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the son of God may be glorified." Discuss what this means. It sounds like he plans on doing a miracle.

After Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed another two days in the place where he was.

Discuss this; what would you do if you heard someone you loved was dying? Would you rush to go see them? What did Jesus do?

After that, he told his disciples, "Let's go back to Judaea." The last time Jesus was there the Jews tried to stone him. So his disciples could not imagine why he would want to go there again. They said, Lord, the last time we went there they tried to stone you; you want to go back? This is a short time before Jesus' death, and there is increasing hostility among the Pharisees and other leaders towards Jesus.

Jesus responded and by talking about hours in the day. He talked about walking in the day and not stumbling because you see the light of the world.

Discuss this. What did he mean? It seems that he meant that traveling during the day was like traveling with God's guidance; following the light of the world. Jesus was obeying the leading of the Father to go back to Judaea. He said if you travel at night (without God's leading) you will stumble because there is no light.

Then he told the disciples, Lazarus is asleep, I am going to wake him up.

The disciples did not understand. They said, If he's sleeping, that's good, he will get well. Jesus was saying that Lazarus was dead, but they thought he was saying that Lazarus was just asleep.

Why do you think Jesus used the word sleep instead of dead? Jesus may have used "sleep" to avoid the negative emotions of death and despair that would come with saying that he was dead. Perhaps when he said "sleep" it was because he knew it was a temporary situation that would change in the same way that he referred to Jairus' daughter in Luke 8:52 & Mark 5:39. Also, the New Testament often refers to death as "sleep." Sleep is temporary because God's people do not "die." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

Then Jesus told them, "Lazarus is dead." But he continues, "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there so that you may believe, but let us go to him."





If You Believe

Jesus is basically saying, I'm glad I wasn't there to heal him so that you would believe.

Discuss this. What is he saying? What does he want them to believe? Maybe he knows that some of them do not *really* believe in him. Jesus wanted to do this miracle; he said as much when they told him Lazarus was sick and he said the sickness was so that the Son of God would be glorified.

Thomas makes a comment about going to die with him. It is not completely clear if this is speaking of dying with Jesus or Lazarus.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany he found out that Lazarus had been in the grave for four days already.

Discuss this. They have already have the funeral; he's been buried. But they did not bury in the ground; they buried in a cave and would cover the entrance with a big stone. They wrapped the bodies in a light linen cloth.

Bethany was near Jerusalem (about three kilometers or almost two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to visit.

Discuss this. What usually happens when someone dies? Friends and relatives come over; some people bring food, and some just come and sit with the family when they are grieving. This is a similar situation: many of the Jews had come to comfort Mary and Martha. The house was probably crowded and full of people who were all sad and crying, maybe telling stories about Lazarus.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming. Someone must have sent a message because he had not even come into town yet, because she went and met him outside of town, but Mary stayed home.

Discuss this. What do you think Martha said when she got to Jesus? When Martha got to Jesus, she said, "Lord, *if you had been here*, my brother would not have died. *But I know*, that even now, whatever you ask of God, God will give it to you."

She said, if you would have been here, this would not have happened. What does this tell you about Martha's faith? She believes that Jesus would have been able to heal him. She believed that If Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Does she think it's too late? Maybe. But with her phrase, "...even now..." she seems to have some hope that maybe Jesus can do something.

Jesus tells her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha responds that she knows that he will rise again in the last day at the resurrection. But that was not what Jesus meant. He tells her that He *is* the resurrection, and the life. He that believes on Jesus, even though he was dead, yet he will live. Resurrection is not just a thing or a future event. Resurrection is a person; Jesus *IS* the resurrection.

Then he says that whoever lives and believes in him will never die. This seems to refer to the eternal perspective that Jesus has about our real selves. Our bodies will die, but our born-again spirits will never die.

Then Jesus asks Martha directly, "**Do you believe this?**"

She responds by a profession of faith, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

As soon as she said this, she went back home. It would have taken a while to get back into town. She probably went to Mary secretly and whispered to her that Jesus was asking for her. As soon as Mary heard she got up quickly and went to meet Jesus.

At this point, Jesus has not yet arrived. This means that Martha heard from someone that Jesus was on his way. As soon as she heard, she ran to meet him outside the town. Martha would have gone all the way out to meet him, come all the way back, and told Mary. Jesus must have been waiting for Mary because he was still in the place outside of town where he and Martha had been talking.

When Mary jumped up to go meet Jesus, all the people got up to follow her. They were probably talking and wondering where she was going. They thought she was going to cry at the grave.

Is that what she's going to do? No, but that's what they think, and they all followed her.





If You Believe

Mary came to the place where Jesus was and fell down at his feet.

What is the first thing she says to Jesus? The same thing that Martha said, "Lord, if you would have been here, my brother would not have died."

Both of these sisters knew Jesus well. They understood his love for them. They even described Lazarus as the "one you love." They both knew Jesus so well that they had faith, and they knew he would have not allowed this to happen if he were there. They knew his character. They had experienced his love. They knew how he would have responded.

Mary was weeping when she came to Jesus, and the people in the crowd that followed her were also weeping. When Jesus saw how sad everyone was, he was troubled, and he asked them where they had laid Lazarus. The people told him to come and see.

Then Jesus wept.

Jesus was also human. Even though he knew the miracle he was about to perform, he empathized and had compassion on the people that were there and he mourned with them as he wept. Maybe he wept because he knew his death was coming soon and he knew his disciples and friends would be weeping and sad for him.

The people saw Jesus weeping and saw how much he loved Lazarus. Some of them said, this man healed blind eyes (which was an amazing miracle) could he have saved Lazarus from dying?

He groaned in himself as he approached the grave, which was a cave. What do you think they had over the cave? A stone. The word for this groaning is close to an anger, an indignation. Jesus seems to be upset with the situation. He said,

"Take away the stone."

Martha interrupts and says, "Lord, by this time he stinks. He's been dead for four days."

Some commentaries say that the Jews believed that a person's spirit would be near the body for three days after death looking for an opportunity to reenter the body. But this fourth day would have been too late; by then the body has begun to decompose (stink), and this would have been an amazing miracle.

Jesus asks Martha, "Didn't I say to you that *if you believe* you would see the glory of God?"

Why does it matter if Martha believes? Did Martha's faith have something to do with Lazarus' resurrection? It seems so. Faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:21) and all things are possible to those who believe (Mark 9:23.) If everyone there was doubting, Jesus may have not been able to do the miracle. He needed some faith to be present. Unbelief is a powerful force because when Jesus was in his own country where his hometown was, he could not do any miracles because of their unbelief (Matthew 13:58.) Unbelief is evil (Hebrews 3:12) and faith must be present for God to work.

Martha now is probably becoming quite hopeful. She knows he wants to take away the stone, and there must be a reason. She doesn't stop him this time, and they took away the stone. Jesus lifted up his eyes and prayed. It looks like he prayed out loud for so all the people would hear. He says, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. I know you always hear me, but because of the people which stand by I said it, so that they will believe that you sent me." Jesus wanted to do this miracle. He wanted people to **believe**.

Then he said, loudly,

"Lazarus, come out."

What do you think the crowd is doing now? Probably staring at Jesus and the open grave and wondering what is about to happen. Then Lazarus came walking out, wrapped with grave clothes. His hands and feet were tied up with the cloth, and his face was wrapped up. Jesus told them to unwrap him and let him go.





If You Believe

Discuss this. What would this have been like if you were there? This would be amazing. The people there would have been completely astonished. They had never seen anything like this.

Is everyone happy and excited? Some of them were. Some of them saw what happened and believed. BUT there were always people who are upset and some of them went to tell the Pharisees what Jesus had done.

It seems unbelievable that people would make this seem like a bad thing. But there were people outraged by the fact that he raised Lazarus from the dead. This seems hard to understand because it is such an amazing thing, and clearly something that only God can do, and it is wonderful that Lazarus is no longer dead. But it is also amazing what hatred and pride can do. The Pharisees were proud, and Jesus questioned their methods and ways of doing things, and they hated him for it.

After this, the Pharisees and chief priests came together for a meeting and tried to decide what to do. They knew that Jesus had done many miracles. Is anyone else doing miracles? The Pharisees were concerned that people would believe on him, and people would no longer follow the leading of the Pharisees and the Romans would take over everything. What the Pharisees were really concerned about was losing their power, or control over the people.

Caiaphas was the high priest. He was not really serving God, but God still used him to speak prophecy about Jesus. Caiaphas told them that they did not understand that one man would die for the people, so that the whole nation would not die. God used him to prophesy that Jesus would die for the nation, and not just the nation, but to bring together all the scattered children of God.

After this, the Pharisees and priests met together to decide how to put Jesus to death. And as a result, Jesus could no longer go to the places in public where the people were. The Jews had given commands that if anyone knew where Jesus was, to tell them so that they could come take him. He did an amazing miracle, but now the leaders wanted to kill him all the more. It is getting closer and closer to the time of his crucifixion.

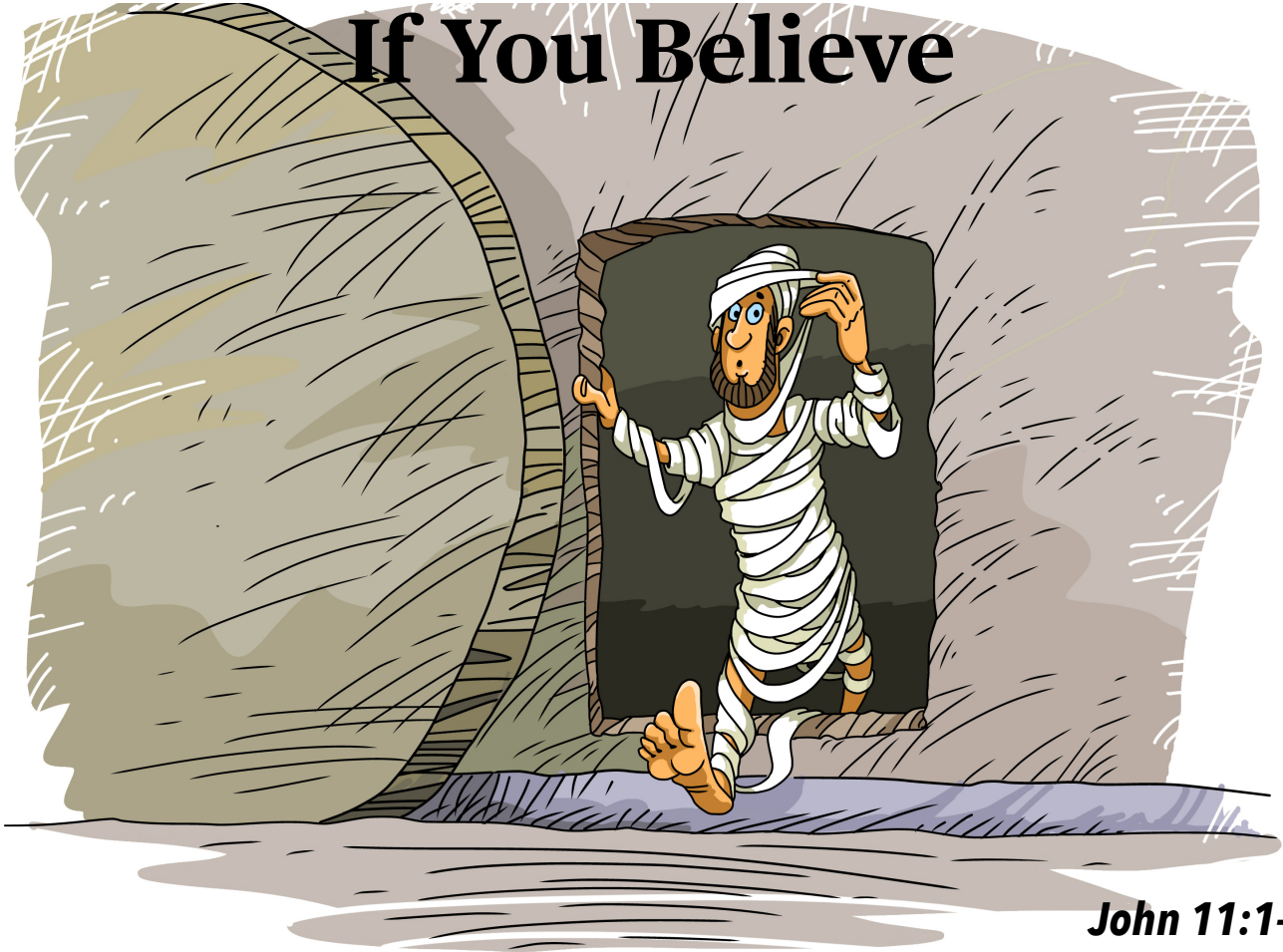
Jesus in the Story



Jesus knew that if he went to Bethany to heal Lazarus, it would cost him his own life. He knew that once he did this miracle, the Pharisees would plan to kill him. Jesus fulfilled what he spoke in John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus knew his death was very near, and his time was running out. He wanted to give an opportunity to as many people as possible to see the glory of God that they might believe on Him. Jesus wanted to do this miracle of raising Lazarus so the people would know that it was the Father who sent Jesus (John 17:21.)

If You Believe



John 11:1-54

MEMORY VERSE

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31

Answer the Questions

1. What does Mark 9:23 say is possible to those who believe?
2. John 12:44 says if you believe on Jesus you actually believe on who?
3. Luke 8:12 says if they believe they would be?





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

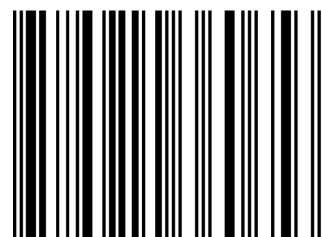
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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