

Finding Jesus

Gospels



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

Victorious Light

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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!





The Wicked Farmers

Matthew 21:33-46

Mark 12:1-12

Luke 20:9-19

Parables of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

Jesus had been speaking in the temple, and then he told this parable.

There was a landowner, or master, who planted a vineyard. He set a hedge around it, and dug a winepress, and built a tower. Then he rented it out to some farmers, and then the master moved to a far country.

Discuss: The man clearly invested in this property. He planted a vineyard, and then he put a hedge around it. What does that mean? This could have been a hedge of bushes or trees, or it may have been a fence. Why would he build a fence? This would keep out people that he did not want to come in and take from the vineyard.

Then he put a winepress in it; and this is a place where they would smash the grapes to make wine.

The last thing he built was a tower. Why would he build a tower? This would allow watchmen to see who was coming and prepare for an attack.

The landowner put everything in place to protect the property while he was gone. He made many preparations for the safety and preservation of the land. Then he rented it, or leased it, to some farmers, or "husbandmen" to take care of it while he was gone. It was their job to grow the grapes and make the wine and take care of the land.

When it was time for the harvest, the master sent his servants back to the farmers, so they could get the fruit of what had been grown and produced.

Discuss: What do you think they were expecting to get? Grapes, maybe? Maybe wine? Maybe both.

But the farmers would not give the servants anything. Mark and Luke say one servant, Matthew seems to say three. It is clearly the same story, just told slightly different in the gospels; if you read it closely you can see they are just listing the servants and what happened to them in a different order.

The farmers took the servants and beat one of them, and sent him away with nothing. Then they threw stones at the next servant, and wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. The man kept sending servants and some of them they beat up, some of them they killed, and this seems to have gone on for a while.

Discuss: Would you want that job? Would you want to be one of the servants sent to check on the land?

The landlord said, "What should I do?" Finally, he thought, I will send my son; they will respect him.

He had one son, who was dear and beloved to him. He thought if he sent him, they would respect him and listen to him.

But when the farmers saw the son, they talked among themselves. They said, Let's kill him, and then we will take his inheritance.

Discuss: Is that how that works? Would they be the rightful heirs? Probably not!

So the farmers took the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

This is serious.

What do you think the landlord will do now? Do you think the farmers will get the inheritance they thought they would?

Absolutely not. The landlord will come himself and destroy the farmers, and give the land to someone else. He will rent it out to others who will give him the fruit from the land.

This ended the parable.

Then Jesus said, Have you read the scripture that says, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone: This is the Lord's doing. The kingdom of God will be taken from you, and given to a nation who will produce the fruit."

Whoever will fall on this stone will be broken, but whoever it falls on, it will grind him to powder.





The Wicked Farmers

When the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees heard his parables, they thought Jesus was talking about them.

Discuss: Did they understand the parable? No, but they knew he was talking about them, and they knew he spoke the parable against them.

The Pharisees wanted to seize him and arrest him right there, but they were afraid of the people. The people thought he was a prophet and the Pharisees were concerned about the response of the people. So they left him at that time. But the telling of this parable was just days prior to the arrest of Christ, and he was crucified days later they arrested him and he was crucified within a week.

Jesus in the Story



What does this parable mean?

The landowner is God.

The husbandmen, or farmers, are the nation of Israel, the Jewish people, and specifically the Pharisees, scribes, and priests.

The servants are the prophets, and the son of the master is Jesus.

As a last resort, God sent Jesus to earth, and he was killed by his own. Israel killed its own Messiah.

The Lord had a plan. He sent his prophets to the earth for centuries prior to Jesus. Some were persecuted, and some were killed by the Jews. The people rejected their teachings and pleas to lead the people back to the Lord. Finally, the Lord sent Jesus, and they killed him.

The wicked farmers hoped to receive the inheritance of the heir. In the same way, the leaders of Israel were trying to receive the blessings and inherit the kingdom by their own merit. They felt they had earned it, and their goodness would obtain these things for them. They did not realize that our goodness or righteousness is nothing to God (Isaiah 64:6). The only way to receive the inheritance - which is the blessings of kingdom life here on earth and life eternal - is through a relationship with Jesus Christ and acceptance of his righteousness.

Just like the parable, the kingdom of God was taken from the Israelites after the death of Christ, and it was given to another nation. It opened up the kingdom of God to all the nations of the world; and now the kingdom was available to anyone who would believe, whether Jew or Gentile.

When they took the heir outside of the garden and killed him, this is symbolic of Jesus being taken to Golgotha to be crucified. The place of his crucifixion is believed by some scholars to possibly be the place where Cain was exiled, the point where the land of Eden.

This stone that Jesus is referring to is mentioned in Psalm 118:22-23.

The stone is Jesus.

The builders are the Jewish nation.

This stone, Jesus, was rejected by Israel. What they did not realize is that Jesus was the cornerstone by which God would build everything.

What is a cornerstone?

It is the first, and the most important stone laid in a building's foundation. It is the stone on which all the other stones of the foundation are aligned and built.

Israel rejected Jesus, and he IS the foundation for the kingdom of God.



The Wicked Farmers



Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

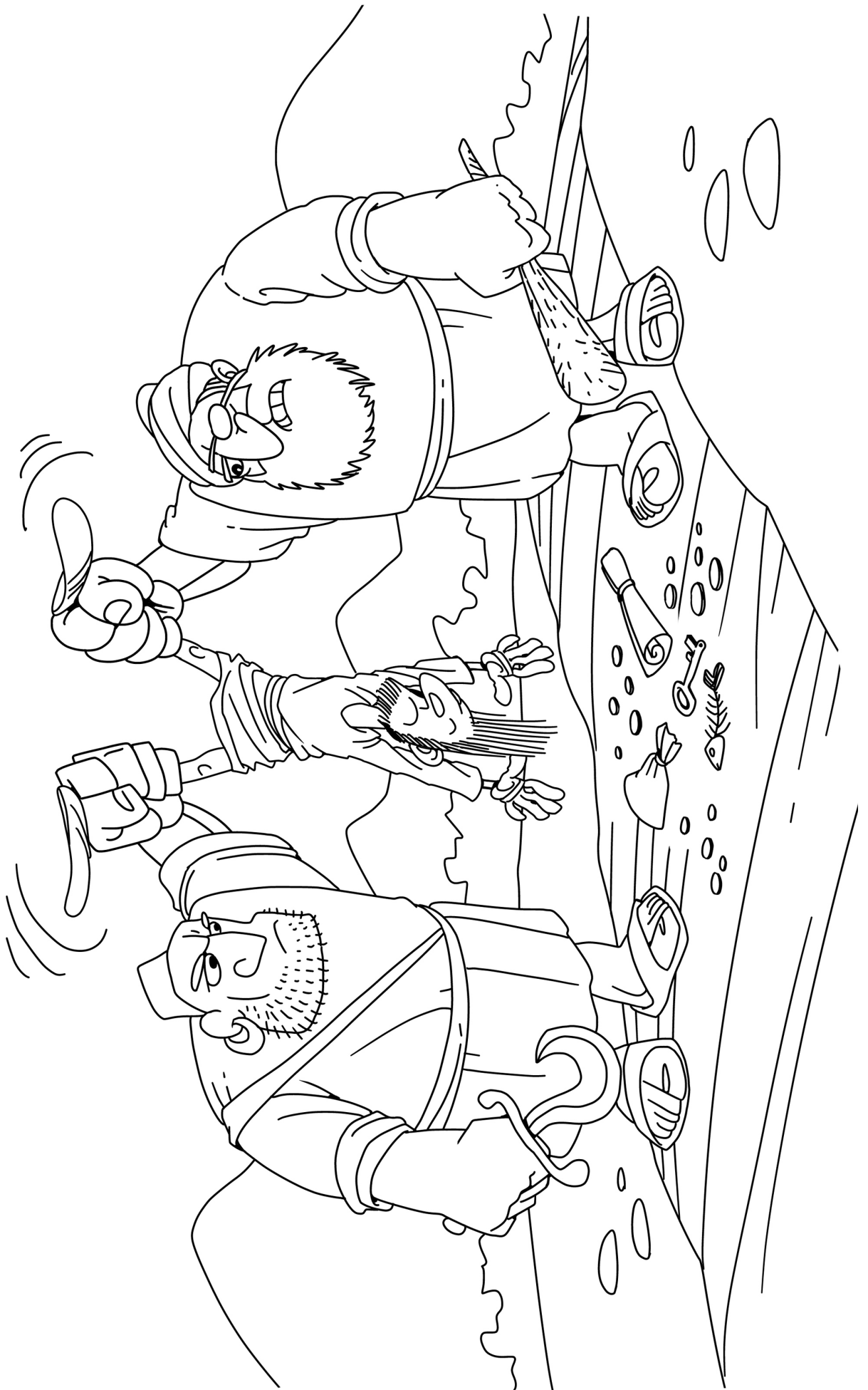
MEMORY VERSE

*...Behold, I lay in Zion
a stone for a
foundation, a tried
stone, a precious
cornerstone, a sure
foundation; whoever
believes will not act
hastily.*

Isaiah 28:16

Answer the Questions

1. What did the farmers do the first servant that the man sent?
2. What did they do to the other servants?
3. Who did he finally decide to send?
4. Where did they take the son?
5. What did they do to the son?





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

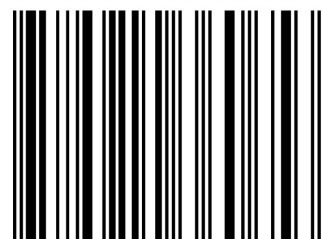
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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