

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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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!





From the East

Matthew 2

Birth of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judaea in the days when Herod was the king. After Jesus was born, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem. They saw his star in the east, and came to worship him. They must have been studied in the stars to notice a difference in the night sky, and somehow they knew that this star was the star of the newborn king.

Talk about this. These men were believed to be kings, or dignitaries. They were definitely of great importance as they came with very expensive gifts. It would have been known that they were in town; they likely came with a great caravan. They had traveled a great distance, and had to have carried many supplies for the journey. Men of this great status most likely would have servants that accompanied them on this long journey. There were probably multiple camels, animals, and people with them. People would have seen them come into town, and were probably talking about these men.

We do not know the number of wise men. Tradition holds that there were three, possibly because of the number of gifts. Scripture says the wise men came from the east; many believe that they are a New Testament parallel of the Queen of Sheba. Just as she came to Solomon bringing gifts and seeking his wisdom, these wise men came bringing gifts to the newborn king. It is believed that Sheba may have been located in what is now modern day Yemen, or possibly Ethiopia. Isaiah seems to indicate that the wise men came from this same area (Isaiah 60:6.) The Bible does not speak specifically to these details, nor does it mention how many wise men there were.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they began asking questions. Where is the new king? There was a birth, and they were looking for a new baby that that will grow up to be the King of the Jews. They would have to be of some importance to get the attention, and get an audience with the king.

Herod is the presiding king. Usually, kings are chosen from family lineage. Herod would have expected that his son would be the next king. If people are coming looking for a new king, this would be very disturbing news to an existing king. It seems that someone has been born that will grow up to lay claim to his crown. Herod, and everyone in Jerusalem, was troubled with this news.

Herod got all the scribes and chief priests together. They would know the prophecies of the coming Messiah. He demanded them to tell him where the Christ would be born.

It says "demanded." Herod is upset. He is the king, and he is very angry, as well as scared, and feels very threatened. He is demanding to know where to find this "King of the Jews."

The priests and scribes told him that the prophet wrote that he would come out of Bethlehem of Judaea (Micah 5:2.)

Once Herod heard this information, he called the wise men privately and asked them *when* the star appeared. Then he told them to go to Bethlehem and look for the baby. He told them to come back and tell him after they found him, so he could go and worship him too.

Does Herod really want to worship this new king? No, he wants to kill him.

After speaking with the king, the wise men left. This star they saw in the east went before them, and came and stood over where Jesus was. That is an amazing thing!

They rejoiced when they saw the star, and they went into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother. They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were very expensive presents, ones that would be gifts for a king.

It is believed that Mary and Joseph were not wealthy. What we know is that Joseph was a carpenter, so they seemingly lived a very humble lifestyle. It is speculated that these gifts helped them in their travels to Egypt and setting up a life in Nazareth, but the Bible does not say.

God appeared to the wise men in a dream and told them not to go back to Herod. Bethlehem is located approximately nine kilometers (5.6 miles) from Jerusalem. But the wise men went back home a different way.





From the East

After the wise men left, the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to get up and flee, or run away, into Egypt. The Lord told Joseph that Herod was going to try to kill Jesus, so to stay in Egypt until God gave him word to leave. They left in the middle of the night and fled to Egypt and stayed there until they heard that Herod had died. This fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy where it says the Lord called his son out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1.)

After Herod figured out that the wise men were not going to come back, he knew he had been deceived and he was **very** angry. He had all the babies in Bethlehem and surrounding areas killed that were two years old and younger. He wasn't sure exactly when the Messiah had been born, but the wise men had told him when the star appeared.

This was a horrific tragedy, and a sad time to be living in this region. It is not necessary to elaborate on this with the students. Some translations say Herod only killed the boy babies, other translations are vague.

This fulfilled the prophecy spoken of in Jeremiah 31:15 where it speaks of a great weeping and deep sadness for the loss of children.

After Herod was dead, the Lord appeared to Joseph in Egypt in a dream. He told Joseph to go back to Israel, because everyone who was trying to kill Jesus was dead.

Joseph took Mary and Jesus and went back to Israel. But he heard that Herod's son, Archelaus, was the king instead of Herod, and he was afraid to go near. He was warned of God in a dream and went into the region of Galilee, and came to live in a city called Nazareth. This was actually the city where Mary was living when Gabriel appeared to her, and the city that Joseph and Mary left when they went to Bethlehem to be taxed. Apparently this was their home town. This fulfilled another prophecy that Jesus would be called a Nazarene.

Jesus in the Story



There are many prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament, and many things in the Old Testament are also foretold and patterned in the New Testament.

Numbers 24:17 says that a Star will come out of Jacob.

Micah 5:2 says that a ruler will come out of Bethlehem.

The star is representative of God's glory. This glory guided the Israelites through the wilderness as a pillar of fire by night. The star is the New Testament counterpart that guided the gentiles to Christ by night.

Psalms 72:15 speaks of the Messiah to be given the gold of Sheba. Isaiah 60:6 says that a multitude of camels will cover (the Messiah), and they will come from Sheba bringing gold and incense and showing the praises (worshipping) the Lord.

One Old Testament counterpart for the wise men could be the Queen of Sheba. She was a gentile woman who came from what could be modern day Yemen or Ethiopia to see King Solomon. She came from the east bringing gifts to a king, and seeking his wisdom.

Another Old Testament reflection could also be the connection between Daniel's three wise friends being taken captive by a gentile (non-Jewish) king and carried east. Now you have wise gentile kings return to the King of the Jews.

Matthew 2:23 says that this was a fulfillment of the prophecy that Jesus will be called a Nazarene. This comes from Isaiah 11:1,10. The Hebrew word for Branch is Netzer, which is where Nazareth gets its name.

Up to this point, the Gentiles had not had any hope of a Messiah. Jesus came to fulfill God's promises to Israel, but he came as a light to the Gentiles also (Luke 2:30-32.)



From the East



Matthew 2

MEMORY VERSE

*The Gentiles shall come to
your light, and kings to the
brightness of your rising.*

*...They shall bring gold and
incense, and they shall
proclaim the praises of the
Lord.*

Isaiah 60:3,6

Answer the Questions

Matthew 2

1. What gifts did the wise men bring?
2. Why did the wise men not go back to talk to Herod after they found Jesus?
3. Where did Joseph and Mary take Jesus?





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

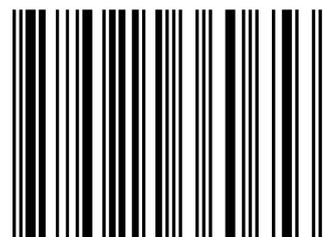
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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