

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!





The Heart of Man

Matthew 15:1-3; 15-20
Mark 7:1-9; 14-23

Teachings of Jesus

Teaching the Lesson:

NOTE: The teacher may prefer to teach from Mark as it is more concise, and Jesus refers to several things in Matthew that will not be covered in this lesson.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of the day; they led the Jewish people teaching them from the Old Testament. It would be similar to our church leaders today. But the Pharisees were very proud people, and always wanted everyone to know how good they were, and how they obeyed all the commandments given by Moses. They even made extra rules and “traditions” that they followed, and expected everyone else to follow, to make them more holy.

Explain this first, so they have an understanding of the way things were in the time of Christ. Then talk about rules, and different types of rules that people follow. Even though these Pharisees obeyed all the rules, *obeying the rules did not make their hearts right*.

Romans 3:20 (NLT)

No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

The Pharisees had many disputes with Jesus, and ultimately they were the ones who sentenced him to death. They were always trying to catch people doing wrong, and show them how wrong they were. Jesus did the opposite. He did not point out sins and shortcomings, he showed grace and truth with love, and that led people to repent.

However, Jesus did find fault with the Pharisees. He spent much of his time telling them how their ways of being holy were never what God intended. Because they obeyed all the commandments, they looked like they were doing the right things, and other people thought they were super holy. Doing all the commandments made them proud, and their hearts were wrong. Jesus said they made rules and traditions more important than the Word of God, and God’s Word had no power in their lives.

Jesus often called the Pharisees hypocrites; explain what a hypocrite is.

A hypocrite is someone who plays a part to get favor, and puts on a show. On the outside they seem to be much better than they really are; they are basically a pretender or fraud, all the time holding other people to the rules and values that they are pretending to have. They bragged about how they obeyed all of Moses’ laws.

The story starts with the Pharisees seeing some of Jesus eat some bread without washing their hands first. The Pharisees would NEVER eat without washing their hands. They even had other rules about washing cups, pots and tables.

Then the Pharisees came to Jesus and said, Why don’t your disciples follow after our traditions (their own rules) and eat without washing their hands? Jesus responded by calling them hypocrites and going back to a prophecy in Isaiah 29:13. It says the people act like they honor God, but their heart is far from it. Their worship is useless because they made up their own rules that they teach as God’s rules.

Jesus then calls everyone around to come listen so they will understand that there is nothing outside of a person that will defile the person, but the things that come out of a person are what defiles him.

Discuss: What does the word “defile” means?

To defile means to pollute, or spoil (like spoiled food) or make unclean.

What are some things that would be defiled? Dirty water would be defiled, etc.

Water can be defiled or polluted by something that is put in it; but Jesus was saying it is different with people

Then Jesus says, if anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. That means that not everyone that hears this is going to understand, a person has to open their heart to the Lord and see with their hearts.





The Heart of Man

After Jesus left the others, the disciples came up and asked him about the parable, because they did not understand. Jesus says, “do you not understand either?”

They were with him all the time and they still did not understand. Today we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us that gives us understanding.

Jesus explained again. He said whatever enters into your body cannot defile you, because it doesn't go into your heart. It goes into your stomach, and comes out when you go to the toilet. What defiles is what comes OUT of the person. In your heart are evil thoughts, improper thoughts, thefts, murders, greed, malice, deceit, envy, pride, foolishness. As the teacher you can expound on this and give examples they would understand.

He concludes with, these evil things come from within, and that is what defiles a person. Matthew puts it in greater detail, and says what comes out of someone's mouth comes from the heart, and that is what defiles a person.

Jesus in the Story



The Jews thought pleasing God was about obeying the law, and keeping all the commandments, but in God's eyes it was always about the heart. The Pharisees kept all the laws, but it only made them proud. They judged everyone, and boasted in their ability to do everything right. Over and over, Jesus told them of their hypocrisy. He saw through their facade and it angered them because their hearts were not pure.

We now have a completely different way of interacting with God. When we believe on Jesus, we are given a new heart, we now have His spirit on the inside of us and it changes us into a new person.

Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.....

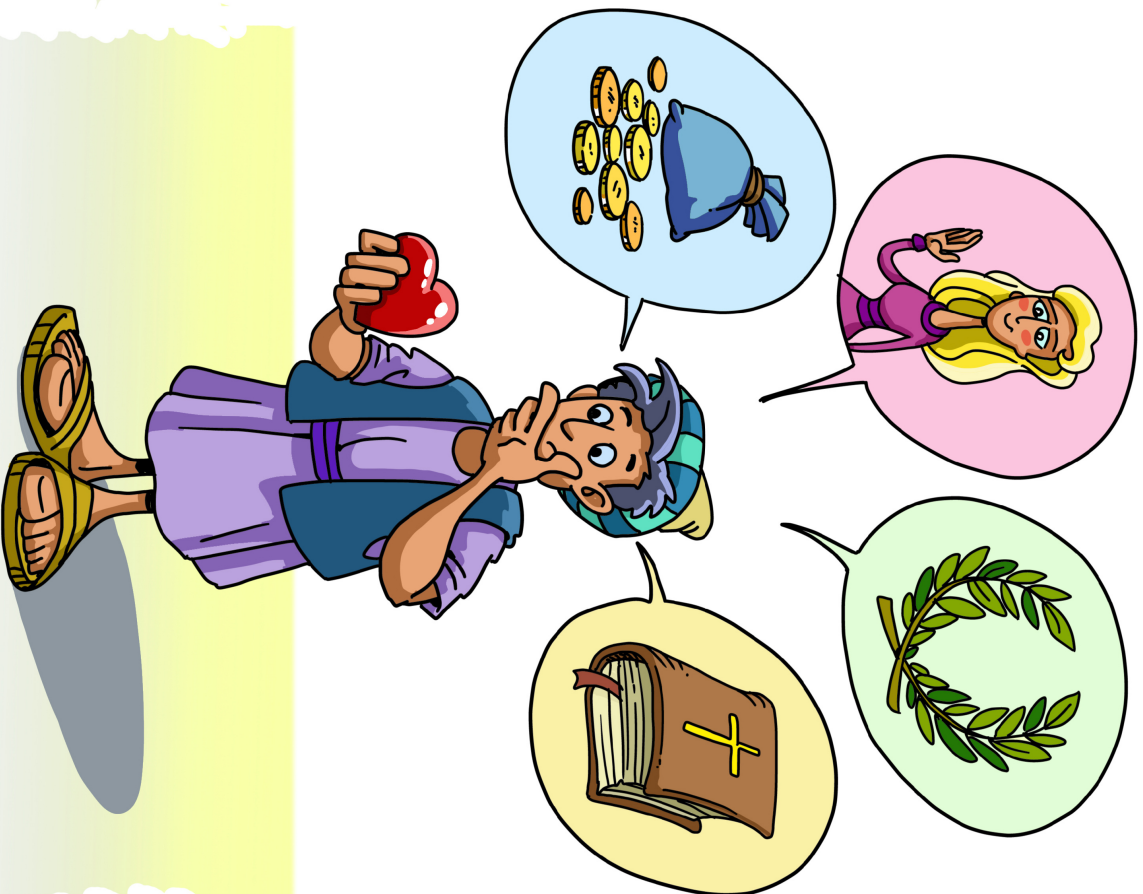
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.....

Proverbs tells us to guard our hearts. We have to be careful what we think about and meditate on, the things we watch, the things we talk about, and the attitudes that we allow to grow in our hearts. We can guard our hearts by always giving glory and praise to God. It takes the focus off of us, and puts the focus on the Lord. Our hearts are defiled when we focus on ourselves and our goodness. When we focus on the Lord and his goodness, it helps us to guard our hearts. What is in your heart will come out; the things that are in your heart are the things that you talk about. You do not want to allow evil things to grow in your heart so fill it with the things of Jesus; let him show you his love and how to love others.



The Heart of Man



Matthew 15:1-12; 25-20; Mark 7:1-9; 14-23

MEMORY VERSE

*Keep your heart with all
diligence for out of it
spring the issues of life.*

Proverbs 4:23

Answer the Questions

Proverbs 4:20-23

1. To what should we give attention?
2. To what should we listen?
3. Where should we keep the Word of God?
4. What is the Word of God to our bodies?





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

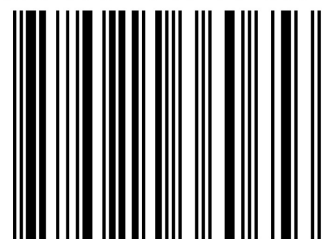
connect deeply with Scripture and find Jesus in every story of the Bible. Once her children were grown, she prayerfully developed this curriculum to speak to children across different cultures and backgrounds. In September 2024, a divine meeting with a Kenyan woman on a layover in Istanbul led to the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