

Finding Jesus

Gospels



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

Victorious Light

Finding Jesus

Gospels

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Table of Contents

Jesus the King5

Teaching the Lessons7

Life & Miracles of Jesus

My Beloved Son10

Into the Wilderness16

A Wedding Invitation20

A Den of Thieves24

An Evening Visit32

Everything I've Ever Done38

The Nobleman's Son46

Waiting for the Water50

So You May Know56

A Withered Hand60

Finding Great Faith66

Who Is This?70

Set Free!74

Only Believe78

What Do You Have?84

If It Is You92

One Thing I Know98

If You Believe104

Giving Thanks110

Have Mercy114

Zacchaeus120

Forgiven Much124

More Than the Others130

Parables & Teachings of Jesus

How Will You Understand?136

City On A Hill142

Parables & Teachings of Jesus

When You Pray146

Into the Ditch150

How Much More154

On the Rock160

Weeds in the Wheat164

Two Kinds of Yeast168

The Heart of Man172

The Door176

Who Is My Neighbor?180

The Wicked Servant186

The Lost Sheep192

The Lost Coin196

The Lost Son200

What Fills Your Heart?208

Workers in the Vineyard212

The Wicked Farmers216

Kingdom Business220

Improperly Dressed224

Death & Resurrection

Arrested!228

Falsely Accused234

When the Rooster Crows240

Crucify Him!248

King of the Jews256

Empty Tomb264

Birth of Jesus

Unable to Speak270

A Child Is Born276

From the East282







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!

Appendix

Memory Verses & Lesson Questions

The lessons are designed with a memory verse and optional questions for the teacher to give to the students. If the teacher chooses, they may ask the students to bring a notebook to class to write down the memory verse every week. Writing down the scripture will help with memorization, and the option of using a notebook can also help the student learn responsibility.

The teacher may choose to give the students the additional lesson questions in the appendix beginning on page 339. The students can write down the questions and take them home to look up the answers, or simply write the answers in their notebook.

It is completely up to the teacher to determine how to use these resources.

Coloring Pages:

In the back of this book you will find an appendix which includes a corresponding black and white coloring page for each lesson. Feel free to make copies and distribute these to the younger students. You may alternatively choose to have them recreate the illustration with their own drawing in their own 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

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6



The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4-7

Parables of Jesus

Jesus is teaching the people, and all the publicans and sinners came to hear Jesus. The publicans were tax collectors, and they were not liked by the people. Many of them became rich because they were dishonest in their business dealings. The sinners were people who were doing things that were looked down on by the community. But these people all wanted to hear Jesus; they were drawn to him and may have known they needed his mercy.

The Pharisees were around Jesus all the time, but not because they wanted to hear his teachings. They heard them but they did not understand them (Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:13). They were around Jesus because they felt threatened by him. They knew the people liked him, and they thought the people would believe on Jesus and then the Romans would take away the authority of the Pharisees (John 11:48). They followed Jesus and listened to him because they were always hoping to find something that would give them a reason to arrest him. The Pharisees were building a case against Jesus.

The Pharisees and scribes were complaining that Jesus let the sinners come hear him, and he even went to eat with them. He would go to their homes and eat and the Pharisees thought this was wrong. They looked down on these people and did not care about people coming into the kingdom.

Jesus responds to them by telling them three parables about lost things. A lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son.

Jesus asks,

If a man has one hundred sheep, and loses one of them, will he leave the ninety-nine out in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost? Will he look for it until he finds it?

Discuss:

Would you do this?

How would you know if one was missing? That is a lot of sheep.

This shepherd must have been a very good shepherd. He would have to count his sheep every day and know them individually.

He would have to be intimately involved in the day to day activities of his sheep to notice that one was missing.

When he finds the sheep, he carries it on his shoulders and rejoices.

Discuss:

This shepherd really loves his sheep. He is a strong shepherd; he picks up the sheep and carries it on his shoulders.

Why did he not let it walk?

Was he afraid it would get lost, or stumble?

Or is he just so glad to find it that he lovingly carries it?





The Lost Sheep

He comes home, calls all of his friends and neighbors, and says rejoice with me! I found my sheep that was lost.

Discuss: This shepherd really cares about his sheep.
He is throwing a party with his friends and neighbors because he found his sheep.
We might think, he has one hundred. He only lost one, it's not a big deal. It's okay, he still has ninety-nine left.
Or, what about the ninety-nine he left behind? Are they okay?

Then Jesus said, just like this, there is joy in heaven over *one* sinner that repents, more than over the ninety-nine just persons who do not need to repent.

It is commonly believed that the ninety-nine are already saved; they are in the kingdom, and they are fine left in the wilderness, and this is one possible interpretation of this story.

But wait. Look closer at the story.

Look at where the shepherd left the ninety-nine. He left them in the wilderness. This word in the original Greek means solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited. Would the sheep be safe out there? What about wild animals? It doesn't say he left them with someone else. All it says is he left them in the wilderness.

Throughout scripture, the wilderness does not represent the promised land. It represents a time of trial, and it is not a place of security. It is not a destination, it is merely a place of transit to get to a better place.

It also says that these ninety-nine just, or righteous, persons had no need of repentance.

Who has no need of repentance? Doesn't everyone need repentance?

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Could it be that the ninety-nine were the Pharisees? Is Jesus using a twist here; based on the Pharisees view of themselves? Could Jesus be using sarcasm? They thought they were the most righteous. (Mark 7:6-8) The Pharisees thought they were better than these sinners when actually the Pharisees were in pride and they were the ones that were in the most need of repentance.

Who is the lost sheep?

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way..."

We are the lost sheep. You are the lost sheep. Each one of us, individually.





The Lost Sheep

Where did the shepherd go after he found the sheep?

Notice that the shepherd did not go back to the other sheep in the wilderness. He did not take this sheep and add it to the fold.

He took this lost sheep and brought it *home*.

Could it be that the ninety-nine were still in the wilderness? Could it be that the ninety-nine who were "just and righteous" were actually quite lost? Maybe they were not truly just or righteous.

One of the meanings of the original Greek word "dikaioi" for *just* or *righteous* is:

"of those who seem to themselves to be righteous, pride themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves in their virtues, whether real or imagined."

Could it be that these ninety-nine represent the Pharisees, who were still in the wilderness and not entering the kingdom of heaven?

But the one who was lost, and now found - he was brought home. He has entered the kingdom of God.

Jesus in the Story



Some people think that Jesus came only to save humanity. That he would not have died if it were just one, or "just me." Some would say, of course he died for our sins, but it was a group effort; he knew by his crucifixion that he was saving mankind.

But, that theory does not seem to line up with this parable.

This parable shows the importance of the ONE. Our shepherd, Jesus, was so focused on *the one* that he was willing to go to great lengths to find the *one* and bring it *home*.

This is YOU. YOU are the one. He searches for you, and rejoices over you. He carries you, and all of heaven holds a party when ONE sinner repents and comes into the kingdom.





Lesson Questions - continued

31. Two Kinds of Yeast

1. How many measures of meal did the lady in the story use?
2. Is it possible to remove the yeast from the dough?
3. What do you have to do instead?
4. In your own words, what is "leaven of the Pharisees?" (Luke 12:1)

32. The Heart of Man

Read 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?

33. The Door

1. Who comes in the door?
2. Who do the sheep follow?
3. Will the sheep follow a stranger? Why or why not?
4. What does it say we will recognize if we know Jesus?

34. Who Is My Neighbor?

Read Matthew 25:35-40

1. Jesus said, I was hungry and you gave me?
2. I was thirsty and you gave me?
3. I was a stranger and?
4. I was sick and you?
5. I was in prison and you?
6. When we help others, who are doing it for?

35. The Wicked Servant

1. How many times did Jesus say we need to forgive? Explain.
2. What did the master give to the man who owed a very large amount of money?
3. What did that man do when his worker owed him a little bit of money?
4. What does God say he will do if we do not forgive others?

36. The Lost Sheep

1. How many sheep did the shepherd leave behind?
2. Where did he leave the other sheep?
3. Where did he take the one lost sheep after he found it?
4. What did Jesus say happens in heaven when someone repents?

37. The Lost Coin

1. What did this lady do when she lost her coin?
2. What did she do when she found it?
3. Who did she tell?
4. What do the angels of God do when someone repents?

38. The Lost Son

Read Romans 8:35-39

1. What can separate us from God's love?
2. We cannot be separated from God's love by death or?
3. We cannot be separated by angels, heavenly rulers, or?
4. We cannot be separated now or?

39. What Fills Your Heart?

1. Where do our words come from?
2. What comes out of the heart of a good man?
3. What comes out of the heart of an evil man?
4. What will we give account for to God?

40. Workers in the Vineyard

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

1. What have we been saved by?
2. What have we been saved through?
3. Were we saved by anything we did?
4. What was our salvation from God?
5. If it were by our works then we could do what?





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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