

# Quick Start Guide

## **SUMMARY**

### **The Quick Start Guide will:**

1. Show you how the manual works.
2. Help you solve problems in using interactive study.
3. Help you enter the world of people with disabilities.

### **Contents of Quick Start Guide:**

1. Summary of each lesson.
2. How to prepare.
3. Entering the world of disability.
4. Strategies to teach people who have disability.
5. Videos of Jill Miller giving Instructions.
6. "With-it-ness".
7. Sections of the lesson.
8. Frequently Asked Questions.
9. How to Teach the Bethesda Series.

## **I. SUMMARY OF EACH LESSON:**

### **Each lesson (except for introductory lesson) includes:**

1. Review the Story.
2. Experience the Story.
3. Understand the Story.
4. What about me?
5. Close in prayer.

## **2. HOW TO PREPARE TO TEACH**

1. Read the lesson at least three times.
2. Notice that the questions are in bold, pink font. Possible answers or what you are looking for are in black font in parentheses following the question. Comments for the teacher are in black italics and "Teacher talk" is in pink, non-italics.
3. Think about how the lesson applies to your own life.
4. Think about how this can apply to the students you know who will be attending the study.
5. Pray...pray...pray. Write out a prayer card for each student in your class. Begin praying for them daily.
6. Write the Scripture on the flip chart prior to the class using the same color scheme as in the Student Manual.
7. Make sure you have the prop for the lesson, if you didn't purchase the seeJesus props.

Keep all the props in a container and take them each week to class. You will need them for review to reinforce the concepts from previous lessons.

### **3. ENTERING THE WORLD OF DISABILITY**

1. Don't be afraid as you enter this amazing world. Follow Jesus' pattern of looking, feeling compassion and then acting.
2. As you enter this world you will discover:
  - There are many abilities amidst the disabilities.
  - We *all* have some sort of disability.
  - We *all* learn from one another.
  - Most of us are not comfortable, in the beginning, with people who are affected by disability, but this uncomfortable feeling *will* fade away into an excited anticipation as you meet each week with people who are differently enabled.
  - We *all* love fun. We believe you will be experiencing one of the secrets to the benefits of the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **4. STRATEGIES TO TEACH PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISABILITY**

1. Make your words visual by drawing the scenes on poster paper when possible. Use different colors in your drawings.
  - The drawings in each lesson are deliberately amateurish and simple, so you see that you can do the same. Label the drawings as you teach. (This does provide amusement for the class!)
  - In the drawings, use the same colors for the characters throughout the lesson...and if the lesson runs into the following week/weeks, maintain the same colors.
2. The props are visualizations of the lessons to promote the students' learning and remembering.
3. Review the highlights of the previous lesson(s).
  - You and your students benefit from review; with all the craziness of life, many of us forget previous lessons taught.
  - Review every week using the props and poster drawings from previous lessons.
  - At times, pull out props not just from the previous lesson, but many lessons back.
  - Review times are great to see how everyone in the study is applying the lessons in their daily life.
  - Review also gives focus to what we have learned and inspires us to change through the power of Jesus in our lives.
4. Reading the Scripture.
  - When reading, have the students who are comfortable read aloud. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/or giving them shorter portions to read.
  - The verses are in different colors to help the students find where they, or others, are in the passage.
5. Role play:
  - Use different colored scarves or shawls to wear over the head or around the shoulders for a quick costume to play the assigned roles.

- The teacher will also be a narrator and support the students in their roles.
  - The students will act out the characters in the story using some of the dialogue. The teacher will prompt them to speak.
  - Keep the play quick and easy (this isn't Broadway!).
  - The focus of the play is to get the class familiar with the characters and the plot.
6. Personalize stories throughout lesson.
- All of us enjoy hearing stories about other people, especially when we can relate to them. So as you teach try to think of a story from your own life and tell it to the class.
  - Here is an example from Jill Miller's life: *"In lesson 4, we talk about how it takes time to love. My mother is 85 and moves very slowly. I try to allow extra time for mom's pace but sometimes I schedule just too much to do. One time I knew I had to hurry up with mom, so instead of using her walker I used a wheelchair to get her to my car. As I was pushing mom in the chair, a nurse came up to me and asked me to slow down because I was a hazard for the other patients who were walking in the hallways. Oh my!"*
7. Questions can be difficult for people with disability:
- Turn the question into a statement; it makes it simpler to understand.  
Example: Who did Jesus touch in the coffin?  
Change to: Tell me who Jesus touched in the coffin.
8. Turn questions into multiple-choice. Some students may have a problem expressing their answers. They know the answer but it is "stuck"; how frustrating is that! To help them, turn the question into multiple choice.
- For example:  
Tell me who Jesus touched in the coffin.
    - Was it his mother?
    - Was it a person from the community?
    - Was it a woman's son?

## **5. VIDEOS OF JILL MILLER GIVING INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TEACH**

- Jill Miller was videotaped teaching Lesson #7. The video is available at [www.seeJesus.net/Bethesda](http://www.seeJesus.net/Bethesda) along with the pages for that lesson.
- On our resource page are short clips of Jill demonstrating key sections of a lesson. Please review these if you have any questions or need additional help in preparing for a lesson.

## **6. "WITH-IT-NESS"**

This is so important for all teaching. "With-it-ness" is being aware of your students, in tune with them as a group. As soon as you see someone who is not engaged in the lesson, you begin praying quietly, asking God to show you how to engage them.

- By looking at your audience you will know if they are "getting" the lesson.
- Keep the lessons moving, upbeat.
- Ask questions during the lesson to make sure all the students are with you,
- If a student isn't understanding what you are saying re-phrase what you are teaching,
- Try to make what you are saying visual.

*Jill's Personal Example: "At one point a student who was affected with autism really needed to be more engaged in the lesson, so I gave him the bag of markers and asked him for specific colors as I was drawing on the poster paper."*

## **7. SECTIONS OF THE LESSON**

1. Materials are listed by number at the beginning of each lesson.
  - Scripture Passage (have the students refer to their manuals).
  - The Scripture on the flip chart in front of the class written in same colors used in the student manual.
  - Different colored scarves or shawls (enough for each character in the story).
  - If using YouTube, make sure link is still active; if link is not active search for another appropriate link. These YouTube links are available at [www.seejesus.net](http://www.seejesus.net).
  - Student Manuals with the Scripture and Reminder sheet for the lesson. (It's best if the teacher keeps these manuals with him/her; to avoid the students forgetting to bring them to class.)
  - Prop(s) for lesson. Keep all previous props in container.
2. Goals (Love, Jesus and Faith). As you teach make sure these are woven through the lesson.
3. Kim's World: 🎁
  - This is to give a practical inside glimpse into the world of disability.
  - Kim, Jill's daughter; has multiple disabilities, with autism being one of them.
  - This will help you connect the lesson to the students in your class.
4. Summing it up: Each section has a brief summary at the beginning.
5. Always review from last week: 🎁
  - Use props to prompt recall of previous lessons.
  - Use drawings on poster paper from previous lessons.
  - Use this time to ask the students if they have applied the lesson.
6. Experience the story:
  - Read the Scripture passage. 🎁 You should read the passage at this point in each lesson.
    - ◆ Have the students who are comfortable read aloud one verse each until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/or giving them shorter portions to read.
    - ◆ Using multi colors allows the students to follow more easily, and if they get lost you can help them find where they are by identifying the color of the verse.
  - Then choose two of the next four options to reinforce the primary reading of the story:
    - i. Role Play 🎁 (see point #4 under Strategies).
    - ii. Draw the story. 🎁 The completed drawings are inserted into the lesson at this point. You will draw as you teach. In your drawings, use the same colors for the characters throughout the lesson. If the lesson runs into the following week/weeks, maintain the same colors.
    - iii. Watch a YouTube video that portrays the story.
    - iv. Use puppets to act out the story. There is a nice series of Bible character puppets from [www.thepuppetstore.com/biblical\\_s/62.htm](http://www.thepuppetstore.com/biblical_s/62.htm).

6. Understand the story: 🎁
  - After you have read the story from Scripture and reinforced it with two of the above options, you will begin to get the students involved in the learning process by asking the questions written out in the manual.
  - Personalize the stories throughout each lesson by using either your own stories or the students' stories.
7. Historical Background: 🎁
  - Use photos when possible (easy to download from computers).
  - Make visual whenever possible.
8. What about me? 🎁
  - This is how you connect the lesson to the student and yourself 😊.
9. Close in prayer: 🎁
  - Ask the students if there are any prayer requests.
  - Use a prayer journal, if desired.
  - Remember we all need God's help to take what we learned in our heads and move it to our hearts.

## **8. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q. What's the difference between the traditional *The Person of Jesus* manual and the *Bethesda Series* study?**

The *Bethesda Series* covers the same topics that *The Person of Jesus* does, as shown in the comparison chart on the seeJesus website, but it is simplified. The *Bethesda Series* is adapted to be more visual and hands-on.

### **Q. How do I handle so many differences in abilities in one group?**

This is a challenge to every teacher in every class in schools, churches or other groups, so don't feel overwhelmed. It will take time to become familiar with all the abilities in your group and how to work with them together. Don't be afraid to be practical, deal with unwanted behavior as you normally do in a typical classroom.

**Author's comment:** *I personally find autism to be one of the more challenging disabilities to fit into the class. Some of the students may need to move more, some may have behaviors you need to deal with. The parents or caregivers may be able to help you with specific strategies. I have found that having typical peers in the room brings the unwanted behavior of challenging students to a halt. For example, one of the students in our class would wrap the scarf around his face during the "play" and try to scare some of the other students. Well, one day a very pretty gal sat next to him and that scarf never wrapped around his face again!*

### **Q. I've looked at a lesson plan and I'm still not sure how it works.**

Watch the videos of Jill demonstrating a lesson and key sections of a lesson at [seeJesus.net/Bethesda](http://seeJesus.net/Bethesda).

**Q. Can I shorten or split a lesson?**

Yes. You have to be in tune with the students and understand what they are retaining (or not).

**Q. How do I make the lessons hands-on?**

This is done through role-playing. The skits are important and they help the students to engage in the lesson. Also, when you draw the lesson as you teach, the pictures will “tune in” the lesson for the students. All of us want teaching to matter to our daily life; this is hands on!

**Q. What translation do you use in the studies?**

NIRV (New International Readers Version.) The text is inserted into the lesson at Point 2, “Experience the Story.”

**Q. How do I form a group?**

People who have different abilities are one of the most unreached people groups in the United States. Many families need a “breather” and would be thrilled to have a place where their child is wanted and welcomed. Once you have two or three families involved, the word will spread!

Also, there are group homes around you. These are homes that have adults affected by disability living alongside typical people. Find these group homes in your area, visit them, invite!

**Luke 14:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus spoke to his host. “Suppose you give a lunch or a dinner,” he said. “Do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, or your relatives, or your rich neighbors. If you do, they may invite you to eat with them. So you will be paid back.

<sup>13</sup>“But when you give a big dinner, invite those who are poor. Also invite those who can’t walk, the disabled and the blind. <sup>14</sup>Then you will be blessed. Your guests can’t pay you back. But you will be paid back when those who are right with God rise from the dead.”

**Q. Do I need to purchase the props container?**

No, but it will save you a great deal of time.

**Q. Should I purchase a Student Manual for each student?**

Yes. We have found that the reminder sheets, included in the manual, are used, applied, and enjoyed by the students.

**Q. What is unique about *The Bethesda Series*?**

- a. The study uses questions to get the students to think, instead of lecturing them. You’ll come to love seeing the lights go on as the students discover for themselves the insights in Scripture. Once you’ve taught with a method that elicits people’s responses, it’s hard to go back to doing straight lecture.
- b. The study incorporates historical insights. The author taught and others reviewed the questions in the study for the best phrasing to help the students understand the passage. The questions are in a sequential order so that one question smoothly follows the next.

- c. The study focuses on Biblical insight. The *Bethesda Series* study digs into the Biblical text to find out what is really going on.
- d. By drawing on the latest discoveries in historical, Biblical archaeology and our growing understanding of the Ancient Near Eastern world, the *Bethesda Series* study brings Scripture to life.
- e. The study focuses on heart insight. The goal of each lesson is not just behavioral change but insight into the heart (of the student and the teacher) and how the heart drives behavior.
- f. The study leads the students toward “Jesus insight.” You’ll discover things about Jesus in the gospels that you’ve never seen before. Many people say that they learned how to read the gospels through the study.

# How To Teach The Bethesda Series

## **MASTER THE CONTENT BY READING LOVE WALKED AMONG US**

The book will give you an overview of the material and a summary of each lesson. At the beginning of each lesson and in the comparison chart on the seeJesus website, the chapter in *Love Walked Among Us* that correlates with the lesson is listed.

## **LEARN THE LAYOUT OF A TYPICAL LESSON**



### **Kim's World:**

**Q. Questions in bold type and pink** are the heart of the material.

**“Teach”** is a short section that you teach. Don't linger.

**“Historical Background”** is a short teaching section that introduces historical background information to enrich your Bible study.



**“Draw”** appears where you will need to draw out the story, a graph or just illustrate visually what you are talking about.

**“Review”** is a very short teaching section usually at the beginning of a lesson that reviews the previous lesson and shows where this lesson fits in with the unit as a whole.



**“Teaching Tip”** is a teaching idea.

**[Write their answers.]** is always with the pencil icon. This means write their answers out on the flip chart or white board. The advantage of a flip chart is you can review previous lessons.

**[Teach what they don't say.]** is an indication that there are nuances in this answer that you'll likely have to teach after participants have had time to share their thoughts.

**“Jill's Personal Illustration”** is an example to help with application.



**Gospel Connection** is a brief explanation of how principles of the lesson relate to the essential gospel message.



**What about me?** Apply the lesson to your life.

The church will be transformed and the world will be captured by Jesus' beauty not because we are good teachers but because we are obedient servants. If we are just communicating abstract principles and not struggling to obey, then we risk creating Pharisees.

**Grace and Law.** The Bethesda material moves back and forth between two principle foci: Grace and law. Law is God's perfect standard that reflects his character. There is no better description of God's perfect standard than the person of Jesus. He is what we are to become like. The New Testament is not shy about tell us to "copy him". That might sound legalistic, but that is what the Bible says again and again: look at Him. Do what he does. But we can't. That is why we need grace. We need Jesus' death for us to give us the power to change. We need his Spirit within us to want to be different. Only as we understand Grace can we "copy him". The best place to look for grace is the person of Jesus! He is grace personified. He is constantly showing people that they can't do life on their own, that like the Tax Collector in his parable, they need to say, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Without grace, law is discouraging and frustrating. Without law, grace is just happy thoughts. We need both grace and law, faith and love.

**Every lesson has three goals:**

Love: what does it look like to become like Jesus, to love like him?

Jesus: What is something beautiful about Jesus?

Faith: how does Jesus give me the power through the cross and his Spirit to love like him?

## List of items in the Prop Kit

Lesson 1	Sponge
Lesson 2	Basket with doll
Lesson 3	Basket with doll
Lesson 4	Ace bandage, money and small cloth bag
Lesson 5	Ace bandage, money and small cloth bag
Lesson 6	Pig
Lesson 7	Party Invitation
Lesson 8	Zip-loc bag filled with dirt
Lesson 9	Small hand-held mirror
Lesson 10	Large sunglasses or x-ray
Lesson 11	Bottle of perfume
Lesson 12	Large sunglasses or x-ray
Lesson 13	Use real coins (not included in the kit)
Lesson 14	Picture of person praying
Lesson 15	Picture of Gaston from Beauty and the Beast
Lesson 16	Cup
Lesson 17	Apron
Lesson 18	Gold rocks
Lesson 19	Small cross





**Bethesda**  
series

