

VICTOR DISCOVERS TREASURE, BOOK 1



Bible verses are from one of these versions:

The Message (MSG)

The International Children's Bible (ICB)

The New International Version (NIV)

The New Living Translation (NLT)

New King James Version (NKJV)

Amplified Bible (AMP)

Common English Bible (CEB)

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Page 3, Victor the Donkey

Luke 19:28-40 (MSG) Jesus headed straight up to Jerusalem. When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says anything, asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'His Master needs him.'"

The two left and found it just as he said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said, "What are you doing untying the colt?"

They said, "His Master needs him."

They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on. As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street.

Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed:

Blessed is he who comes, the king in God's name! All's well in heaven! Glory in the high places!

Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, get your disciples under control!"

But he said, "If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise."

Page 4, You Are God's Treasure!

Psalms 139:1-6 (ICB) "Lord, you have examined me. You know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them. You know where I go and where I lie down. You know well everything I do. Lord, even before I say a word, you already know what I am going to say. You are all around me—in front and in back. You have put your hand on me. Your knowledge is amazing to me. It is more than I can understand."

Page 5, Is God Your Treasure?

A Matthew 6:19-21 (MSG) "Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being."

B Matthew 13:44-46 (ICB) "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. One day a man found the treasure, and then he hid it in the field again. The man was very

happy to find the treasure. He went and sold everything that he owned to buy that field. Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a man looking for fine pearls. One day he found a very valuable pearl. The man went and sold everything he had to buy that pearl."

Page 6, *Shoulders Are For Resting*

A Deuteronomy 33:12 (NIV) "... the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders."

B Psalm 55:22 (MSG) "Pile your troubles on GOD's shoulders—He'll carry your load, He'll help you out."

C Matthew 11:28 (CEB) "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

Page 7, *Shoulders (again)*

A Job 12:7-9 (ICB) "But ask the animals, and they will instruct you; ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Or speak to the earth, and it will instruct you; let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?"

B Revelation 22:16 (ICB) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to tell you...I am the bright morning star."

C Philippians 2:8-11 (ICB) "And when he [Jesus] was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God. He obeyed even when that caused his death—death on a cross. So, God raised Christ to the highest place. God made the name of Christ greater than every other name. God wants every knee to bow to Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Everyone will say, 'Jesus Christ is Lord' and bring glory to God the Father."

Page 8, *Obey Road Signs*

A Numbers 22:21-35 (ICB) "Balaam got up the next morning. He put a saddle on his donkey.... But God became angry because Balaam went. So the angel of the Lord stood in the road to stop Balaam. Balaam was riding his donkey... The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road...So the donkey left the road and went into the field. Balaam hit the donkey to force her back on the road.

Later, the angel of the Lord stood on a narrow path between two vineyards. There were walls on both sides. Again the donkey saw the angel of the Lord. So the donkey walked close to one wall. This crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he hit her again.

The angel of the Lord went ahead again. The angel stood at a narrow place. It was too narrow to turn left or right. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord. So she lay down under Balaam. Balaam was very angry and hit her with his stick. Then the Lord made the donkey talk. She said to Balaam, "What have I done to make you hit me three times?"

Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made me look foolish!"

But the donkey said to Balaam, "I am your very own donkey. You have ridden me for years. Have I ever done this to you before?"

"No," Balaam said.

Then the Lord let Balaam see the angel...Then Balaam bowed face down on the ground.

The angel of the Lord asked Balaam, "Why have you hit your donkey three times? I have stood here to stop you. What you are doing is wrong. The donkey saw me..."

Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned. I did not know you were standing in the road to stop me. If I am wrong, I will go back."

The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with these men. But say only what I tell you." So Balaam went..."

B Psalm 19:11 (MSG) "...God's Word warns us of danger and directs us to hidden treasure."

Page 9, *We Are Clay Pots*

A Jeremiah 18:3-4 (ICB) "So I went down to the potter's house. I saw him working at the potter's wheel. He was making a pot from clay. But something went wrong with it. So the potter used that clay to make another pot. He used his hands to shape the pot the way that he wanted it to be."

B Psalm 139:13-16 (ICB) "You made my whole being. You formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old."

Page 10, *We Are Cracked Clay Pots*

1 John 1:9 (CEV) "But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away."

Page 11, *I Am His Sheep*

A Psalm 100:3 (ICB) "Know that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep he tends."

B Psalm 23:1 (ICB) "The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need."

C Job 34:21 (ICB) "God watches where people go. He sees every step they take."

Page 12, *Sheep Habits*

A Psalm 23:1 (ICB) "The Lord is my Shepherd. I have everything I need."

B Hebrews 13:5,6 (MSG) "God assured us, 'I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you, we can boldly quote, God is there, ready to help...'"

C John 10:27 (ICB) "My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

D John 10:3 (ICB) "And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out."

E Jeremiah 15:16 (NIV) "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty."

F Luke 15:3-7 (ICB) "Then Jesus told them this story: 'Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses 1 of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will keep on searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, the man is very happy. He puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!' In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in heaven when 1 sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that 1 sinner than there is for 99 good people who don't need to change.'"

Page 13, *Tricky Wolf*

A John 8:44 (ICB) "...the devil...there is no truth in him. He is a liar, and he is like the lies he tells. He is the father of lies."

B John 14:6 (MSG) "Jesus said, 'I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life.'"

Page 14, *The Trusty Gate*

A Psalm 100:3 (ICB) "...we are his people, the sheep he tends."

B Luke 12:32 (ICB) "Don't fear, little flock. Your Father wants to give you the kingdom."

C John 10:9, 10 (MSG) "I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."

Page 15, *A Work of Art*

A Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) "For we are God's masterpiece."

B Psalm 139:14-16 (ICB) "I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old."

Page 16, *Look At The Birds*

A Matthew 6:26 (ICB) "Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns. But your heavenly Father feeds the birds. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds."

B Matthew 10:29-30 (NLT) "But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered."

Page 17, *A Loud Cluck and Strong Wings*

Matthew 23:37 (NLT) "How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings..."

Page 18, *Your Safe Place!*

A Psalm 94:22 (MSG) "...God became my hideout; God was my high mountain retreat.."

B Psalm 91:4,9 (MSG) "His huge outstretched arms protect you— under them you're perfectly safe; his arms fend off all harm. Fear nothing...Yes, because GOD's your refuge, the High God your very own home."

C Hebrews 13:5,6 (MSG) "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you, '...God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?"

Page 19, *Dwelling Place*

A, C Ephesians 2:22 (NIV) "And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

B John 14:2-3 (AMP) "In My Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and I will take you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also."

Page 20, *Just Like Tents*

A 2 Corinthians 5:1 (CEV) "Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made, but they are in heaven and will last forever."

B John 14:2 (AMP) "In My Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you."

Page 21, *Vines and Branches*

John 15:5-8 (CEV) "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me. If you don't stay joined to me, you will be thrown away. You will be like dry branches that are gathered up and burned in a fire. Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored."

Page 22, *Tree Talk*

A Psalm 1:2-3 (MSG) "...you thrill to GOD's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You're a tree...bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom."

B Colossians 2:6-7 (ICB) "As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him. Keep your roots deep in him and have your lives built on him. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught. And always be thankful."

Page 23, *Be Fruity*

A Proverbs 20:11 (CEV) "The good or bad that children do shows what they are like."

B Galatians 5:22 (NIV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

C Matthew 7:16 (NKJV) "You will know them by their fruits."

Page 24, *Strong, Deep Roots*

Jeremiah 17:7,8 (ICB) "But the person who trusts in the Lord will be blessed. The Lord will show him that he can be trusted. He will be strong, like a tree planted near water. That tree has large roots that find the water. It is not afraid when the days are hot. Its leaves are always green. It does not worry in a year when no rain comes. That tree always produces fruit."

Page 25, *Your Heart Has Eyes and Ears*

A Matthew 13:16 (CEV) "But God has blessed you, because your eyes can see and your ears can hear!"

B Luke 6:45 (ICB) "A good person has good things saved up in his heart. And so he brings good things out of his heart... A person speaks the things that are in his heart."

Page 26, *Honey*

Proverbs 16:24 (CEV) "Kind words are like honey—they cheer you up and make you feel strong."

Page 27, *Bright With Light*

A John 8:12 (NIV) "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

B John 1:5 (CEV) "The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out."

Page 28, What Path Are You On?

- A Psalm 119:105 (CEV) "Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk."
- B Hebrews 12:2 (CEV) "We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete."
- C Luke 1:79 (MSG) "[God] then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace."
- D Psalm 23:3 (CEV) "...you lead me along the right paths."

Page 29, Hide It!

- A Psalm 119:11 (NIV) "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- B Proverbs 2:1-5 (CEV) "My child, you must follow and treasure my teachings and my instructions... Search for wisdom as you would search for silver or hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to respect and to know the LORD God."

Page 30, Jesus Is Your Ladder

- A John 14:6 (CEV) "I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father."
- B John 1:51 (ICB) "And Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth. You will all see heaven open. You will see angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man."
- C Genesis 28:12 (ICB) "Jacob dreamed that there was a ladder resting on the earth and reaching up into heaven. And he saw angels of God going up and coming down the ladder."

Page 31, God and Gold

- A 1 Peter 1:7 (NIV) "...your faith—of greater worth than gold..."
- B Psalm 19:9,10 (CEV) "...All of his decisions are correct and fair. They are worth more than the finest gold..."
- C Proverbs 16:16 (ICB) "It is better to get wisdom than gold."
- D Revelation 21:21(ICB) "The street of the city was made of pure gold. The gold was clear as glass."
- E Job 22:25 (MSG) "God Almighty will be your treasure..."

Page 32, Rope and Anchor

- A Hebrews 6:18-19 (CEV) "We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us. This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls."

Page 33, Don't Forget The Soap

- A Genesis 43:24 (ICB) "The servant...gave them water, and they washed their feet. Then he gave their donkeys food to eat."
- B Psalm 51:7 (MSG) "Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life."
- C Leviticus 17:11 (ICB) "It is the blood that removes the sins from your life so you will belong to the Lord."
- D Malachi 3:2,3 (CEV) "On the day the Lord comes, he will be like...strong soap in a washbasin. No one will be able to stand up to him. The LORD will purify..."

E Matthew 25:21 (ICB) "The master answered, 'You did well. You are a good servant... Come and share my happiness with me.'"

Page 34, **Living Water**

A John 7:37-38 (ICB) "Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. If a person believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from his heart.'"

B Hebrews 10:22 (ICB) "So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith. We have been cleansed and made free from feelings of guilt."

Page 35, **Olive Tree**

A Psalm 52:8-9 (CEV) "But I am like an olive tree growing in God's house, and I can count on his love forever and ever. I will always thank God for what he has done; I will praise his good name..."

B Genesis 8:11 (CEV) "It [the dove] returned in the evening, holding in its beak a green leaf from an olive tree. Noah knew that the water was finally going down." (emphasis mine)

Page 36, **Wearing The Right Clothes?**

A Colossians 3:8-10 (MSG) "But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk. Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it."

B Ephesians 4:25 (ICB) "So you must stop telling lies. Tell each other the truth..."

C 1 Peter 2:1 (CEV) "Don't be jealous or say cruel things about others."

D Ephesians 4:24 (NIV) "...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness [right living] and holiness." (emphasis mine)

E Ephesians 6:11 (ICB) "Wear the full armor of God. Wear God's armor so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks."

F Romans 13:14 (CEV) "Let the Lord Jesus Christ be as near to you as the clothes you wear. Then you won't try to satisfy your selfish desires."

Page 37, **Protect Yourself**

A Ephesians 6:11-18 (ICB) "Wear the full armor of God. Wear God's armor so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks. Our fight is not against people on earth... We are fighting against the spiritual powers of evil... That is why you need to get God's full armor. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the protection of right living. And on your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. And also use the shield of faith. With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. Accept God's salvation to be your helmet. And take the sword of the Spirit—that sword is the teaching of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray with all kinds of prayers, and ask for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready. Never give up. Always pray for all God's people."

Page 38, **Got Your Truth On?**

A Ephesians 6:14 (ICB) "So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist."

B John 17:15-17 (CEV) "Father...keep them safe from the evil one. They don't belong to this world, and neither do I. Your word is the truth. So let this truth make them completely yours."

Page 39, Making Right Choices

A Ephesians 6:14 (ICB) "So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the protection of right living."

B Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

C Psalm 19:14 (CEV) "Let my words and my thoughts be pleasing to you, LORD, because you are my mighty rock and my protector."

Page 40, Ready, Set, Go!

A Ephesians 6:15 (CEB) "...put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace."

B 1 Peter 3:15 (CEV) "Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope."

Page 41, You're Covered

A Ephesians 6:16 (CEB) "Above all, carry the shield of faith..."

B Psalm 28:7 (CEV) "You are my strong shield, and I trust you completely. You have helped me, and I will celebrate and thank you in song."

Page 42, What Are You Thinking?

A Ephesians 6:17 (ICB) "Accept God's salvation to be your helmet."

B 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (CEV) "Our firm hope that we will be saved is our helmet."

C Isaiah 12:2 (CEV) "I trust you to save me, LORD God, and I won't be afraid. My power and my strength come from you, and you have saved me."

Page 43, Stay Sharp

A Ephesians 6:17 (CEB) "Take... the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word."

B Hebrews 4:12 (CEV) "What God has said isn't only alive and active! It is sharper than any double-edged sword."

Page 44, Pray It On

A Ephesians 6:18 (MSG) "...prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long."

B 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ICB) "We do live in the world. But we do not fight in the same way that the world fights. We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God. These weapons can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy men's arguments. And we destroy every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ."

Page 45, It's A Race To The Finish

A Hebrews 12:1 (ICB) "So we have many people of faith around us. Their lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove

from our lives anything that would get in the way. And we should remove the sin that so easily catches us."

B Hebrews 12:2 (ICB) "Let us look only to Jesus. He is the one who began our faith, and he makes our faith perfect."

Page 46, *We're On A Trip*

A 1 Corinthians 1:9 (MSG) "God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that."

B Philippians 1:6 (ICB) "God began doing a good work in you. And he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again. I am sure of that."

C Deuteronomy 31:6 (ICB) "Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid... Don't be frightened. The Lord your God will go with you. He will not leave you or forget you."

D Proverbs 3:5-6 (MSG) "Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track."

Page 47, *Solid As A Rock*

A Deuteronomy 32:4 (ICB) "He is like a rock. What he does is perfect. He is always fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong. He is right and fair."

B Deuteronomy 31:6 (ICB) "...He will not leave you or forget you."

C 1 Samuel 2:2 (ICB) "There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no God but you. There is no Rock like our God."