

Wednesday

Read Luke 4:24-27 *The works of other prophets*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *These stories tell of how the prophets of old worked miracles for people outside of their own “hometown” community. Why would Jesus quote these stories to Nazareth that day?*
2. *Who are the foreigners in our society today? Is our community open to the healing and inclusion of outsiders?*

Prayer Focus

Pray for the foreigners in our world today. Pray to give them faces and names and a place at the table.

Thursday

Read Luke 4:28-29 *The people’s reaction to Jesus*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What did Jesus say that triggered the people’s rage?*
2. *Why did they want to kill Jesus?*

Prayer Focus

God, grant us the wisdom to pause and really listen to the good news. Help us to have compassion in our hearts for those who are not “like us.”

Friday

Read Luke 4:27-30 *Jesus eludes the people*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you think Jesus managed to escape the mob?*
2. *What did Jesus do when he “went on his way?”*

Prayer Focus

Jesus, you never quit, even when you faced death. Help us to see and hear what we need to do to carry on your message to all the world.

Hometown Boy: Jesus Speaks to Nazareth

Jesus’ good news for the world isn’t a threat, but an invitation. Jesus told his hometown crowd that the ancient prophets didn’t focus on the widows and lepers of Israel, but brought good news and healing to outsiders. The people were disenchanted to hear that the good news wasn’t just for them. Jesus’ revelation that the good news is for the whole world, not just for those of us who have known Jesus our whole lives, should not offend us, but invite us to join in spreading the good news all over the world.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share a memory of your hometown as a child. Share how you see your hometown today.*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Luke 4:21-30

- Have someone read **4:21-30**. Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Hometown Boy



Monday

Read Luke 4:21-22 *Jesus is recognized in Nazareth*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why was Nazareth so delighted and amazed with Jesus' teaching in the first part of this story?*
2. *How did they see themselves in Jesus' proclamation of the year of God's favor?*

Prayer Focus

Pray for God to open your mind and heart to the message at the center of Jesus' teaching.

Tuesday Read Luke 4:23 *Jesus anticipates the people's response.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *"Doctor, cure yourself" is a common saying. What does it mean when Jesus says it here?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus did not work a miracle at Nazareth that day?*

Prayer Focus

Ask God's forgiveness for demanding miracles in our lives. Pray to have eyes to see God's miracles all around us.