

Wednesday *Jesus stands to read from the scriptures.*

Read Luke 4:16-17

1. The action here is described in clear detail, as if the story has been put into slow motion. Why would Luke focus on these small details? What do they tell us about Jesus and his knowledge of tradition, scripture, and his own community?
2. Is there a particular Bible verse or passage that speaks to you today?

Prayer Focus Pray for the scriptures to come alive in your life. If possible, recall a verse you know by heart and offer it to God aloud, or read one aloud from the Bible.

Thursday *The words of Isaiah*

Read Luke 4:18-19

1. This passage is based on Old Testament Book of Isaiah, Chapter 61:1-2. It has long been used as to point to the coming of Jesus in the world. Why do you think Jesus chose this passage to read on this day, in his hometown?
2. What six things has Jesus been anointed or chosen and given power to do in his ministry? Do we share in that mission? How can you share the good news?

Prayer Focus Spend some time reflecting on Jesus' six goals. Ask for God's guidance in hearing the call to share the good news and for the power to act in ways that proclaim the good news.

Friday *Jesus makes a bold statement.*

Read Luke 4:20-21

1. Why does Jesus say that the words of prophet Isaiah are fulfilled? How do you think the people of Nazareth responded to that statement?
2. If the prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, what does that mean for us? How do we live as people who have been called to help share and create the year of the Lord's favor?

Prayer Focus Rejoice that Jesus has fulfilled the promises that he proclaimed. Pray to hear your own calling and to be ready to follow Jesus' example.

A Light to Enlighten the Nations:

A Mission to Light the Way

We define Jesus' mission, and our own. In his reading of the prophet Isaiah and his one sentence sermon, Jesus sums up his life purpose. As disciples of Christ, Jesus' mission becomes ours. Knowing our mission helps us keep our priorities straight and lights the path God intends us to take.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share a time when you set a goal and reached it. Have you set any goals for your spiritual life for this new year?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Luke 4:14-21.

- Have someone read **Luke 4:14-21**.
- 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)

January 27, 2019

A Mission to Light the Way

Monday *Jesus' fame begins to grow.*

Read Luke 4:14-15

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How might Jesus have felt about his growing fame? Do you think it helped in his ministry?
2. Jesus is already a famous teacher or rabbi by the time he comes to Nazareth. What do you think he was saying that really reached the people?

Prayer Focus Give thanks today for those who first taught you about Jesus and his message.

Tuesday *Jesus comes home to Nazareth.*

Read Luke 4:16

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Jesus attends synagogue and worships with the people who knew him when he was a boy. What do you imagine the people were thinking about him?
2. What do you think the people of Nazareth were hoping to hear from him? Imagine you are in the synagogue that day and you see Jesus stand up to speak; what would you expect to hear. What might you want to hear?

Prayer Focus Remember where you came from. Give thanks for the way in which God has brought you this far. Pray for peaceful, joyful reunions, for yourself, for others, for the world that often seems so divided.

