

## Lesson #3-18

# *Jesus Brings Good News*

Luke 4:14-30



### **Key Verse:**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.

Luke 4:18

### **The Point:**

Jesus brings good news for those in need.



## *Introduction*

Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit and begins his ministry. He starts near his hometown of Nazareth. Upon returning home, he proclaims good news to the poor, captive, blind and oppressed. Jesus acknowledges that it is hard to hear that his message and ministry is not just special for the people of Nazareth or even the Jews. He says that other prophets who are called to help outsiders, such as Elisha and Elijah, also have a hard time being heard at home. Then the people of Nazareth get so angry that they try to drive Jesus off a cliff.

### **The Point**

**Jesus brings good news for those in need.**

In a time when Israel is occupied by a foreign power, many people hoped for a military leader to defeat the Romans and free the Jews. Jesus presents himself as a leader for the forgotten and powerless. God's message is one of peace and hope for all people. Some people respond favorably, but others do not. Particularly those in military or religious positions of power do not like Jesus's message, as well as those who thought they knew Jesus growing up—the people of Nazareth.

# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Introduction

#### *Weak and Strong*

Create a new verse for "Jesus Loves Me."

10 min.

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

### Learning the Story

#### *Jesus Starts at Home*

Yay! and Boo! in response to Jesus.

10 min.

- † Bible
- † Poster board
- † Markers

### Activities

#### *What Makes Home?*

Draw a picture of where you feel at home.

10 min.

- † Paper
- † Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

#### *God's Kingdom Foretold*

Pray for the forgotten.

15 min.

- † Bible
- † Internet-connected devices or newspapers

### Prayer

# God's Story @ Home



## Introduction (10 minutes)

### Weak and Strong

Create a new verse for “Jesus Loves Me.”

#### Supplies:

- † Paper
- † Pens and pencils

#### Preparation:

1. You may want to provide the lyrics to “Jesus Loves Me.”
2. Make paper and pens or pencils available.

#### Instructions:

1. Discuss together:
  - **Who are the little ones?** [*Those who are small, children, those only have a little power or money or things.*]
  - **Who is weak?** [*Those who are sick or frail or have other ongoing problems.*]
  - **What does it mean that Jesus is strong?** [*Jesus’ power, ability to love, the fact that Jesus is from God.*]
2. Sing “Jesus Loves Me” together.
3. **Now let’s create a new verse! We will work together to try to create our own verse of “Jesus Loves Me.”**

## *Learning the Story (10 minutes)*

### *Jesus Starts at Home*

Yay! and Boo! in response to Jesus.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Bible
- † Poster board
- † Markers

#### *Preparation:*

1. Create a “Boo” sign and a “Yay” sign on poster board.
2. Familiarize yourself with the script so you know when to hold up the “Boo” and “Yay” signs.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **We are going to read today's Scripture and try to get a feel for how the people of Jesus' hometown Nazareth felt.** Read Luke 4:14-30.
2. **We are going to hear our story again and respond to it with cheers.** We will start with a slow cheer, and get louder and louder whenever I hold up the sign, until Jesus says “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me!” which will be the loudest. Then everyone will be stunned by who Jesus is talking to, and then they will start to boo him, quietly and then louder until they try to throw him off the cliff.
3. **Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, so he returned to Galilee.** [Yay!]
4. **People got excited and reports of Jesus spread everywhere.** [Yay!]
5. **He began to teach in synagogues and was praised by everyone.** [Yay!]
6. **Then, he stopped in his hometown Nazareth, where he went to the synagogue for Sabbath, as usual.** [Yay!]
7. **He stood up to read, and what was given to him for the reading was the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.** [Yay!]
8. **He unrolled the scroll, found the place he wanted and began to read by saying: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me!”** [Yay!]
9. **“He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”** After this, he rolled up the scroll and sat back down. All of the eyes of the synagogue were fixed upon him.



10. Give a pause here, and switch your sign to Boo, but do not hold it up.
11. **Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today, these very words are fulfilled as you hear them.” All were shocked at the gracious words that came from Jesus’ mouth, and they said, “Is this not the son of Joseph?” [Boo!]**
12. **Jesus said, “I know you will probably say, ‘Doctor, cure yourself.’ I know you want me to do those miracles you heard I did in Capernaum, but I cannot. [Boo!]**
13. **“You think you understand, but no prophet is understood in their hometown. [Boo!]**
14. **“It was true of Elijah, during the severe famine. He was sent to the widow Zarephath in Sidon, instead of the many hungering widows near his home. [Boo!]**
15. **“It is true also that the prophet Elisha cured Naaman the Syrian, instead of one of the many lepers in Israel. [Boo!]**
16. **“The same is true of me.” [Boo!]**
17. **When they heard this, every person was filled with rage; they got up and drove Jesus out of town toward a hill to try to drive him off the cliff. [Boo!]**
18. **But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.**



## *Activity (10 minutes)*

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### *What Makes a Home?*

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Draw a picture of where you feel at home.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Paper
- † Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

#### *Instructions:*

1. **Where do you feel the most comfortable or at home? Draw a picture of yourself at that place. As you draw, think about what makes you feel comfortable there.**
2. After everyone has finished their pictures, gather together and share where they feel “at home” and why.

## *Activity (15 minutes)*

### *God's Kingdom Foretold*

Pray for the forgotten ones.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Bible
- † Internet-connected devices or newspapers

#### *Preparation:*

1. If using newspapers, spread out sections so that there are many to look through.
2. If your family is not familiar with the Lord's Prayer, find the text online.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **In the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught us and his disciples, we pray together "Your kingdom come, your will be done." The key verse for today is Luke 4:18: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." Jesus is describing those who are powerless or forgotten. When we pray for God's kingdom to come we are praying for justice for those people.**
2. **Look at Internet news sites or through a newspaper, and find someone, a group, or a place that is without justice or has no power.**
3. **Discuss the following questions: Who is a part of God's kingdom? How do we do God's will? What are we praying for when we worship and pray together for God's kingdom to come in the Lord's Prayer?**
4. **Let's pray the Lord's Prayer as an act of worship and hope for God's justice to come.**
5. **Pray the Lord's Prayer together.**



## *Prayer*

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Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

**Dear God, we pray that you help us to reach out to all those who belong to you, we pray that we will...**(feed the poor, visit prisoners, etc.) **Help us to build your kingdom. Amen.**

If you have the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!