

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFE, WORK,
TEACHING AND CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

Amazed: The Claim

LUKE 4:14-28 | JANUARY 4 & 5, 2014

This week's message points to the wonderful moment where Jesus publicly points to all that lies ahead. Joining others at the synagogue in Nazareth, his hometown, Jesus reads the scroll which is opened to Isaiah 61. The passage is a Messianic passage and Jesus links it to himself. Moreover, Jesus makes two additional comments showing sympathy to gentiles – a widow from Zarephath and a Syrian leper. The crowd grows defensive and angry and seeks to throw Jesus off a rocky ledge, but Jesus serenely walks the other way, exiting his town; "a prophet is without honor in his hometown."



Watch this week's summary message from Pastor Mike at <http://luke.christchurchil.org/resources>. (Videos will be live on Sunday afternoon.)

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What do you consider to be the hometown of your youth? What kind of town was it to grow up in? Did it help you or challenge you to become who you are today? Who were some of the people in your experience that helped you grow as a person (a teacher, mentor, coach, a friend, a parent, etc.)?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

Describe the "work of the Messiah" as described in Luke 4:18-19 (also in Isaiah 61:1-2). What do these things mean? Is this what you imagine (or know) Jesus did with his life?

In Luke 4:22 – the townspeople appear pleased with their "hometown hero." Why do you suppose things changed so rapidly and led to the events in Luke 4:28-30?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What was the most helpful or inspirational part of the sermon for you?

Find a passage to share from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) where Jesus performs one of the loving actions described in Luke 4:18-19. As a group then, share your various stories and tell each other how these stories demonstrate that God is a loving and gracious God.



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Based on today's reading, what would it mean for you to live this week as Jesus would if he were living in your place? Think through your week ahead, who will you encounter, what will you experience? Now tell the group how you might do this more "lovingly" in Jesus' way.

Are there any people in your "hometown" that are rejecting what you believe about Jesus? How does it make you feel when you consider how Jesus was received in his hometown? Are there some ways you can continue to show love for those who "reject" you? Discuss your situations as a group.

ON YOUR OWN



PRACTICING

Make a list of those who may still be "rejecting your beliefs" for whom you are praying. Try inviting one or more of them to a place where they can learn and experience community. Alpha is a great way to encourage faith steps by learning about Christianity in community (starts January 21st). There are also parenting courses, marriage courses or your own small group all starting up in January.



PRAYING

Father, I thank you that you revealed yourself and your power. I thank you that you are anointed and loving. I am glad that you bring freedom, sight, release, value and favor to all. Be with me in a wonderful way this year and draw my heart ever closer to yours.



MEMORIZING

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THESE WEEKLY STUDY GUIDES
VIA EMAIL AT [HTTP://LUKE.CHRISTCHURCHIL.ORG/RESOURCES](http://luke.christchurchil.org/resources).