

Unit 21 • Session 2 - Jesus Taught in Nazareth

Bible Passage: Luke 4

Story Point: Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.

Key Passage: John 3:16

Big Picture Question: What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus went to the town of Nazareth where He lived when He was a young boy. Now Jesus was grown up. He traveled all around and taught people about God.

On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue. The synagogue was a building where Jews met together to pray, worship God, and learn about the Scriptures. One of the ways people worshiped God was by listening to God's Word.

Jesus stood up to read God's Word. He opened a scroll. The scroll had words on it from the prophet Isaiah long ago. Jesus read: "God's Spirit is on Me. He has chosen Me to tell good news to the poor. He has sent Me to tell the captives that they are free, to help the blind people see, to free people who have been treated badly, and to announce that God's favor is on us."

Then Jesus rolled up the scroll. He gave it to a man who worked in the synagogue, and then He sat down. The people in the synagogue stared at Jesus, waiting for Him to say something. Jesus said, "These words came true today."

Yes, Isaiah's words came true because Isaiah's words were about Jesus! God was with Jesus, and God had chosen Jesus to tell people good news. Many of the people in the synagogue were happy. Jesus was saying wonderful things!

Jesus knew the people in Nazareth would not accept Him. "No prophet is accepted in his hometown," He said. Jesus told the people about times when God used prophets to help people who were not Jews. When Jesus was done talking, the people were angry. They made Jesus leave Nazareth. They wanted to hurt Jesus, but Jesus walked away.

Christ Connection: Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet talked about God's plan to send a Messiah to earth. Jesus is the One God promised to send. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting.

Say • Jesus traveled around to teach people about God. When He got to the town where He grew up, **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.** *Messiah* means anointed one. Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet talked about God's plan to send a Messiah to earth. Jesus is the one God promised to send. People in Nazareth were angry at some of the things Jesus said. They didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah, but Jesus brings good news to all people.

Learn the big picture question

Say • Jesus brought good news and helped people who were hurting. What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image. Our sin messes up God’s image in us, but **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah** who came to make us look like God again!

Practice the key passage

What you need: Bible

Write each phrase of the key passage on a strip of paper. Place the strips all throughout a Bible. Place a bookmark at John 3:16. Open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Allow your child to remove the strips from your Bible one at a time. Place the strips in order as she finds them.

Say • The whole Bible teaches us about God’s plan to send a Messiah. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah**, the one God promised to send. Our key passage explains how Jesus saves us like God promised!

Activity page

What you need: coloring/activity, markers or crayons

Give your child the coloring/activity page. Invite him to color the one side. On the other side, write the letters *J-E-S-U-S* where he can see it. Help him find these letters in the scroll and color them in.

Say • Good job finding the letters *J-E-S-U-S* on the scroll! That spells *Jesus*. In our Bible story today, Jesus read from a scroll of the Bible that was about Him, even though His name was not actually written in it.

Decide true or false

What you need: Bible, paper, marker

Place a Bible at one end of the room and a large X drawn on paper at the other end. Tell your child that you will say something, and if they think it is a truth from God’s Word, they should move to the Bible. If they think you’ve said something false, they should move to the X. Encourage your child to return to the middle of the room between statements. Use the following statements or create your own:

Isaiah’s words were not about Jesus. (*false*)

Jesus taught that He is the Messiah. (*true*)

God sent Jesus to make poor people rich. (*false*)

Jesus came to tell good news to people who were hurting. (*true*)

Only good people are special to God. (*false*)

All people are special because God made us in His own image. (*true*)

Say • Good job deciding what was true and what was false! Knowing what God’s Word says is important so we can know when someone is saying something that is not true. When **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah**, people in Nazareth did not think He was telling the truth. But He was! Jesus is the one God promised to send.

Make a gospel necklace

What you need: Gospel Plan Poster, “Gospel Necklace” printable, 1 for every 6 children, scissors (adult use), hole punch, yarn or string, clear tape

Print a copy of the “Gospel Necklace” printable, and cut out a set of four icons for your. Use a hole punch to punch out the black circles on either side of each icon. Cut 1 and 1/2-foot of yarn and wrap the ends with tape to prevent fraying. Help your child thread each icon onto a strand of yarn as you explain that part of the gospel plan poster. Tie the ends of the yarn together for them to wear their necklaces. Encourage them to practice explaining what each icon means.

Say • Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet wrote that Jesus would bring good news to people who were hurting. The greatest news ever is that God sent Jesus to save us! Our key passage tells us so. [*Review the key passage briefly.*] This news is called the gospel, and it’s what we just learned as we made our necklaces. These necklaces can help us remember and share the gospel with other people! ***What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.*** Everyone needs to hear the good news of God’s love for them.

Story review

Talk about how Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah when He went to the synagogue in Nazareth. Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet wrote about God’s plan to send a Messiah to earth. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**

Ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- Which Old Testament prophet wrote the scroll that Jesus read from? (*Isaiah*)
- When did Isaiah write these words? (*long before Jesus was born*)
- What did Jesus teach about the Messiah? (**Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**)
- How did the people of Nazareth respond to Jesus? (*They were angry.*)
- ***What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.***