



Luke

Jesus Taught in Nazareth

Lesson Objective: Jesus is the Messiah and the fulfillment of prophecy in Scripture.

Activity: *Who is it?*

Supplies: paper, pencils

Distribute paper and pencils. Ask everyone to write down their answers to these questions, do not put your name on the paper. When finished, collect the pages and read each one. Try to guess who wrote the answers. At the end tell who wrote each one. *What is your favorite color? What is your favorite thing to do? What do you want to be when you grow up? Where would you like to go on vacation?*

Connect To activity to the lesson:

Did any of those sentences surprise you? Why? Do you think you would have recognized Jesus as the Messiah during the time He lived on earth?

WORSHIP - Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

Prayers: How can I pray for you?

Introduction;

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His earthly ministry. Jesus traveled to many places in Israel; Early in His ministry, he celebrated Passover in Jerusalem then went north to Galilee by way of Samaria. After, Jesus went to the town of Nazareth, where He had grown up. Nazareth was a small village in the hills between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue to teach. He read aloud the words of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus sat down. Everyone's eyes were on Him as He explained, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled." Jesus was saying, "It's Me." Let's find out how the people responded.

VIDEO: " Jesus Taught in Nazareth" (Video Transcript)

Jesus went to the town of Nazareth where He had lived when He was a boy. Now Jesus was grown. He traveled all around, teaching people about God. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth. The synagogue was a special building where Jews met together to pray, worship, and learn about the Scriptures.

Jesus stood up to read Scripture. He unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and read: "The Spirit of the Lord 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 tell the blind that they can see, to free people who have been treated badly, and to announce that the Lord's favor is on us." Then Jesus rolled up the scroll. He gave it to the attendant and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue stared at Jesus. Jesus said, "Today as you listened to Me reading these words, they came true."

The people said good things about Jesus, and they were amazed at Him. But some of the people in Nazareth had known Jesus from His youth. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. Jesus said, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown." Jesus told the people about times when God used prophets to help people who were not Jews. He reminded them of Elijah and Elisha. When there was a terrible famine in Israel and no rain fell there for three and a half years, plenty of widows in the country needed help. But the prophet Elijah did not help the widows in Israel. Instead, God sent Elijah to help a widow in another land. And when Elisha was a prophet, many people in Israel had leprosy. They wanted to be healed, but Elisha did not heal them. Instead, he healed a man named Naaman (NAY muhn), and Naaman was from Syria—a country that hated God's people. The people in the synagogue were angry. They forced Jesus out of town. They wanted to throw Him off a cliff, but Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on His way.

Christ Connection: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about God's plan to send a Messiah. The Messiah would bring good news and redeem people who were broken and hurting. Jesus read Isaiah's words and announced that He is the promised Messiah.

Read - Luke 4

Debrief:

What made Jesus different than other religious teachers? *(Jesus spoke with authority. He is the Word (John 1:1) and did not rely on tradition or other people to explain Scripture. Jesus came from heaven and is Lord over all things. He is God the Son and the promised Messiah.)*

Jesus' promise to help everyone, no matter where they were from, upset the people in Nazareth. What does this tell you about God's heart and man's heart? *(God loves all people. God's heart is full of mercy and love. Apart from Jesus, man's heart is full of envy, pride, and selfishness.)*

Will Jesus always answer our prayers for healing? Why or why not? *(Sin causes pain and suffering. Sometimes God chooses to say 'yes' to our prayers for healing and restoration; other times He seems silent. We don't always understand God's plan, but He is good and one day He will make all things right.)*

Apply the Story

Some people remembered Jesus from His youth. They asked, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" Jesus knew their thoughts; He had performed miracles in Capernaum, and the people wanted Him to do miracles in His hometown too. Jesus reminded them of two Old Testament accounts. Many widows lived in Israel when the prophet Elijah was there, but God sent Elijah to help a widow in another country. And Elisha likely encountered Israelites who had leprosy, but he healed Naaman the Syrian. Jesus wanted the people to understand that His miracles were an act of grace—a gift. No one deserves God's grace, so God may show grace to whomever He pleases—even Gentiles. The people were angry about that last part. They drove Jesus away, intending to kill Him, but Jesus escaped through the crowd. Jesus came to give sight to the blind and to set the captives free. He came preaching good news to all the people groups. Finally! The Messiah had come! Jesus was God's plan to save sinners.

Momentum Moment *Accept It or Reject It!*

Supplies: red and green paper plates (1 each per child)

Give each person a red and green plate. Read a statement. If they accept the statement as true, they should hold up the green plate. If they reject it as false, they should hold up the red one. Consider adding your own statements: • A cat spent 4 years serving as the ceremonial mayor of a town in Minnesota. (false; a dog) • A man in Germany once grew a pumpkin that weighed more than 2,500 pounds. (true) • A bat eats 3 million insects each night. (false; 3,000) • Eating too many carrots can turn your skin orange. (true) • Your body's largest organ is your skin. (true)

Why do you think anyone would reject Jesus' words? Emphasize that one day, Jesus will take away all sickness and pain. When we trust in Him, we have forgiveness, salvation, and life with Him forever.

Close with a prayer: Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.