

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 6: Nazareth Sermon (from Luke 4:14-21)

To the Teacher:

The words of Jesus were often shocking to people and difficult to understand. The passage this week shows us that he took things God's people thought they knew, and reveals an even deeper and better meaning behind them. Pray for the kids to have 'ears to hear' the words and intent of Jesus this week!

- **Big Idea:** The good news of Jesus is often not what we expect
- **Question:** Did you ever think you knew something, only to find out you were wrong?

- **Starter:** 'Finish that Phrase'

Start a few common sayings or song lines and ask the kids to finish the rest. Here are some examples you can use:

- 'Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle...'
- 'Ring around the rosy, pocket full of posies, ashes, ashes...'
- 'For God so loved...'

In today's story, Jesus starts to read something many Jewish people were familiar with, but purposely does not finish.

- **Story:** from Luke 4:14-21

[READ]

After Jesus beat Satan's temptations in the desert, he went back to the town of Galilee full of the Spirit's power. He started teaching people about God's kingdom and everyone was talking about and praising Jesus. Then he went to Nazareth, the town he grew up in, and went to the place where people worshipped and learned about God.

Jesus stood up and began to read the Scriptures, from words the prophet Isaiah wrote hundreds of years before Jesus came. He read:

**'God's Holy Spirit is with me,
because he has anointed me, to speak good news to the poor.
God has sent me to bring freedom to the prisoners,
to help the blind see, to save people from being taken advantage of,
to tell of God's favor...'**

Then he stopped reading, right in the middle of a sentence. He rolled up the scroll, put it away, and sat down. Everyone was amazed, mostly

because they expected him to finish the last sentence that said, 'to tell of God's favor... **and** of his vengeance'.

But he didn't say that. While everyone was looking at Jesus in amazement, he said, "Today, what I read is coming true because of me."

[Some Things to Point Out]

- The passage Jesus read is from Isaiah 61:1-2
 - Ask: What does **favor** mean? What does **vengeance** mean?
 - Ask: Why do you think Jesus stopped after saying he was bringing God's favor and didn't read the part about God's vengeance?
 - John 3:17, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."
- Did Jesus not believe all of Isaiah's words about God's judgement?
 - Of course he did. But he stopped at the right part of the Story.
 - His first coming was to bring *good news* & a chance for salvation - an invitation into God's Kingdom
 - He will come again and those who choose to live in a different kingdom than God's will not experience the freedom Jesus brings (Teacher - see 2 Thess. 1:6-10 & Rev. 19:15)
- Show kids which symbol in the **True Story** Jesus was at when he read from Isaiah (*Redemption*), and which symbol shows he'll return (*Restoration*)
 - God is patient between those symbols, so more people will leave the world's kingdom and come to his kingdom (2 Peter 3:9)

• **Prayer:**

God, thank you that Jesus brings good news, freedom, and love. Thank you for giving us a chance to live in your good kingdom, to escape the punishment we deserve. Jesus, you are a good King!

• **Craft:**

[For younger kids]

Use the coloring page on the next sheet.

[For older kids]

Make a DIY scroll. [Here is one example](#) tutorial for how to do it.

• **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Is there someone you know who is sick? Hurt? In need? How can you *Speak* some of Jesus' words from today with them as good news?

