

**Bible Story**

Jesus Taught in Nazareth • Luke 4:14-28

**Story Point**

Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.

**Memory Verse**

“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**

**Big Picture**

***What makes people special?***

People are special because we are made in God’s image,  
as male and female, to know Him.

**FOR PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study**

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His earthly ministry. After John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, Jesus was tempted in the desert. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover. Then He headed north to Galilee. He went through the region of Samaria, stopping at Jacob’s well to talk to a Samaritan woman.

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. (See Isa. 61:1-2.) 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*. The words Jesus read were coming true. Some people remembered Jesus from His youth. They asked, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

Jesus knew their thoughts; Jesus had performed miracles in Capernaum, and the people wanted Jesus 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.

As you teach, explain that 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.

## **Activity Sheet**

Pass out the activity page. Have kids complete “Who Is Jesus?” on the activity page. Guide kids to color in the spaces with two dots to discover who Jesus said He is.

### **Ask:**

What name did you discover in the spaces? (*Messiah*) Do you remember what the name *Messiah* means? Explain that *Messiah* means “anointed one.” In the Old Testament, prophets told about a Messiah who would come and rescue Israel. Jesus is the promised Messiah!

### **Let’s Get Started Activity: Accept It or Reject It?**

**What You Need:** 1 red item, 1 green item for each kid

### **What You Do:**

Give each kid a red and green item. Read a statement. If kids accept the statement as true, they should hold up the green item. If they reject it as false, they should hold up the red one.

Consider adding your own statements:

A cat spent four 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**)

### **What You Say:**

When Jesus came to earth, He taught people the truth about God and His kingdom. Did everyone accept Jesus’ words as true? No. Today we will hear about a time Jesus was rejected in His hometown.

**(Open your Bible to Luke 4)**

## **Bible Lesson: Jesus Taught in Nazareth • Luke 4:14-28**

**Bible Storytelling Tips:** *Begin the story seated. Stand when Jesus stands and sit back down when He sits. Vary your tone. Speak boldly when speaking Jesus’ words. Whisper the questions of the crowd.*

### **Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup> “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

### **What You Say:**

Nazareth was Jesus' hometown. Remember, Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Mary and Joseph traveled there to be counted for a census. When Jesus was still young, Mary and Joseph took Him to Nazareth, and Jesus grew up there. (Matt. 2:19-22)

Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth to teach on the Sabbath. He read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. What were the words that Jesus read from the scroll? Look at Luke 4:18-19. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*]

When Jesus read these words, He said, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled." What did Jesus mean? Jesus was saying that those words Isaiah wrote were talking about Him! God chose Jesus to preach good news to the poor, to tell the captives that they are free, and to tell the blind that they can see. God promised throughout the Old Testament that a Messiah would come to rescue God's people. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah!**

Jesus talked about the miracles some of the prophets, like Elijah and Elisha, did in the Old Testament. God had done good things for many people—not just the Jewish people. This made some of the people in the synagogue angry, and they rejected Jesus. They forced Him out of town and wanted to throw Jesus off a cliff, but Jesus walked away.

### **Discuss**

- Where did Jesus grow up? (*Nazareth, Luke 4:16*)
- From whose scroll did Jesus read? (*the prophet Isaiah's, Luke 4:17*)
- How did the people react to Jesus? (*amazed and confused at first, then angry; Luke 4:22,28*)
- How do we know Jesus really is the Messiah? *Guide kids to discuss the overwhelming evidence that Jesus is the Messiah. Remind them of all the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled, such as His birth in Bethlehem. Point out His power to heal people and remind them that God called Jesus His Son. Jesus' claim in this story is well supported by other evidence.*
- What does it mean to accept Jesus rather than reject Him? *Help kids see that when our faith is in Jesus, we are doing more than admitting that He is the Messiah, we are also saying that He is the Lord of our lives. When we believe in Jesus, we are saying that we want Him to guide and control our lives. We want to obey Him out of love and serve Him to glorify God.*
- What can we do if we know someone who rejects Jesus? *Remind kids that we cannot save anyone. Our job when we believe the gospel is to teach other people about Jesus. Help kids understand that God is the One who saves people. Discuss the importance of prayer in leading others to Jesus. Make sure they know that we treat everyone with kindness and respect, even if they don't yet believe the gospel.*

### **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.

Though Jesus was rejected, His ministry continued. He came to earth to save people from their sins. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment we deserve when He died on the cross. Jesus was rejected at the cross so that everyone who trusts in Him will never be rejected by God. Everyone who trusts in Him is declared righteous and has eternal life.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS:**

#### **What You Do:**

Have kids open their Bibles to Luke 4. Explain that more than half of the stories found in Luke are not found in Matthew; Mark; or John. Luke was a doctor who wrote from eyewitness testimony to show that Jesus is both fully God and fully man, and He came to save all people—both Jews and Gentiles. Choose a volunteer to read Luke 4:21-22.

#### **What You Say:**

Jesus was in His hometown of Nazareth. [*Point to Nazareth (E5) on the New Testament Israel Map.*] Some of the people in the synagogue remembered Jesus from when He was a boy. They were surprised by Jesus' teaching. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**

- What made Jesus different than other religious teachers? *Lead kids to recall that 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.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 28:18.)
- 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? *Help kids recognize that 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.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:3-4.)
- Will Jesus always answer our prayers for healing? Why or why not? *Acknowledge that sin causes pain and suffering. Sometimes God chooses to answer 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.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Dan. 3:17-18.)

### **Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video**

Show the Bible story video "Jesus Taught in Nazareth."

Show the Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to think about why Jesus was rejected in Nazareth and why people might reject Jesus today. Guide them to discuss what they love about Jesus and what questions they have about following Him.

### **Missions Moment**

Show the Las Vegas photos to kids. As they look, ask them to comment on some of the sites they see.

#### **What You Say:**

Las Vegas, Nevada, is a busy city and a popular spot for tourists. Like many cities across the country, it's also a city where many people choose not to follow Jesus and are living without hope. Jesus taught that He is the Messiah, but many people still don't accept Him. Some Christians have chosen to live in Las Vegas as missionaries to teach people the truth about the gospel and the hope that Jesus gives. God wants all people to turn from sin and turn to Him. Pray, asking God to bring hope to the people of Las Vegas.

### **Prayer**

Lord God, the gospel is good news! Thank You for Jesus—who releases the captives, gives sight to the blind, and frees the oppressed. We love You. Amen.

### **Craft Idea: Mother's Day – My Love Grows Craft (see template provided)**

### **OR TRY**

<https://www.freekidscrafts.com/holidays/mothers-day-crafts/>