



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: Luke 4:14-30*

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14...Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, being praised by everyone. 16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord's favor. [Isaiah 61:1-2]

20 He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to tell them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled even as you heard it being read."

22 They were all speaking well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that came from his mouth; yet they said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

23 Then he said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. What we've heard that took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also.'"

24 He also said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 But I say to you, there were certainly many widows in Israel in Elijah's days, when the sky was shut up for 3 years and 6 months while a great famine came over all the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them except a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 And in the prophet Elisha's time, there were many in Israel who had leprosy, and yet not one of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

28 When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was enraged. 29 They got up, drove him out of town, and brought him to the edge of the hill that their town was built on, intending to hurl him over the cliff. 30 But he passed right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4:14-30)

**SUMMARY:**

In Luke's Gospel, the curtain rises on Jesus' ministry in his hometown of Nazareth. The local boy returns a hero, and the synagogue is packed for the occasion. He opens Isaiah's scroll, reads the prophecy, and declares, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." The crowd marvels at "Joseph's son," but Jesus challenges their expectations with proverbs that expose their hearts. What they hear is not a promise of hometown privilege, but a proclamation of God's sovereign grace. The people of Nazareth, certain they deserve the Messiah's favor, are confronted with a shocking truth: God's mercy is not inherited—it reaches whomever He chooses, even outsiders. Citing Elijah and Elisha, Jesus shatters their sense of entitlement. The homecoming celebration turns to fury; admiration to rage. They drive him to the cliff's edge, but God's prophet walks away untouched. Nazareth's rejection reveals Jesus' mission: to proclaim God's great Jubilee—salvation for all on an equal basis, not just a favored few.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Luke states that "As was his custom (habit), Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day" (4:16b). This was Jesus' practice, a 'spiritual discipline.' How is this an example for us today? How to apply it?
2. After reading the Isaiah passage Jesus declared, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled as...it was being read." What does that statement imply about Jesus – as the "me" –in that passage? Who is Jesus claiming to be?
3. What was the initial response (4:22) of Nazareth's townsfolk to this? Is it positive, neutral, negative, mixed? Discuss
4. Jesus detects an unhealthy attitude in the audience and he states: "you'll quote this proverb to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. What we heard took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also.'" (4:23)
  - a. What does Jesus mean by the proverb: "'Doctor, heal yourself (your family, your own people)'?"
  - b. Is it wrong to demand: "Jesus, what you did in Capernaum (miracles, healing), do here in Nazareth also!" Why?
  - c. As Christian believers if we become sick, can we demand that Jesus heal us? Why? Or why not?
5. After some interaction (4:23-27) "everyone...was enraged" (4:28). Why the sudden change from praise to rage? Why did they get mad? What was the catalyst?
6. What's the meaning behind Jesus' reference to the OT prophets Elijah and Elisha (Lk. 4:25-27)?
  - a. How did this challenge the people of Nazareth?
  - b. What does this show us about God's sovereign grace – "I'll show mercy to whom I'll show mercy" (Rom. 9:15)?
  - c. How can we apply this principle — God's sovereign grace – in our lives?
7. In what ways are we similar to the people of Nazareth? How do we sometimes resist or reject Jesus' message because it challenges our preconceived ideas, entitlements, or comforts?
8. What lessons can we learn from Jesus' experience of rejection in His hometown (Nazareth) about faithful witness amid opposition?