

**Group discussion** *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for "the big question."*

Read Luke 4:14-30 aloud.

1. Where was Jesus when this event occurred?  
*His hometown, Nazareth.*

How do people in your hometown view you differently than you see yourself?

2. In verses 18-19, Jesus read from Isaiah 61. What does this passage say God wants to be doing in the world?

In ancient Rome, how would Jews have heard this passage? Who did they consider to be poor and oppressed?

*Isaiah 61 was a passage the Jews applied to themselves for hundreds of years, including during Roman occupation.*

3. How did the Jews of Nazareth respond to the sermon (22)?

What kind of expectations might this message create in the hearts of oppressed Jews? How did Jesus have something different in mind?

*Nazareth expectations: deliverance from Rome, God doing great things for the Jews.*

*Jesus expectations: deliverance from Rome, from sin, from selfishness, from greed, God doing great things for the world.*

*25-27 is clear that his good news was not limited to hometown folks. Along with the Jews, it was for Gentiles like Naaman.*

4. How do suppose the crowd's attitude related to Jesus performing no miracles in Nazareth (23)?

Would you say Jesus was unable to perform miracles in Nazareth or unwilling?

5. If you read verses 18-19 as a mission statement for Jesus, how well did he accomplish his mission?

What guidance does this passage offer for the mission of the church?

6. What are some reasons people are poor?

What are some ways a person can be blind?

What are some ways people become prisoners?

What are ways people are oppressed?

What are some ways that oppressors suffer when they mistreat other?

7. What kind of world is presented by Isaiah 61 and Luke 4?

Why is the church sometimes seen as a place where poor people come for assistance but not for worship?

If your group is looking for a service project, find "ideas to change the world" at [www.servantevangelism.com](http://www.servantevangelism.com).

† **The big question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It's okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

Look at the actions described by verses 18-19. Which of these items could you do in some way?

*Maybe you cannot give sight to the blind, but perhaps you could be part of a medical mission trip that brings unbelievable joy. Or maybe you could live in a way that shows a better lifestyle for people who are spiritually blind.*

## Resources

### **Bible notes**

- Without a little explanation, verse 20 will not make sense. In our culture, we think the speaker is finished when he or she sits down. In the Jewish synagogue, the reader stood out of respect for God's word, then sat to make comments. Jesus sat to deliver a message, and he probably said more than Luke records in verse 21.

### **Prayer ideas –**

Pray for the poor and oppressed.

Pray for ways that your group and our church can do and be more of the things God wants in the world.

Ask for boldness to follow in the steps of Jesus.

**Kid-friendly activity.** *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Prayer of praise for the good things God is doing.

Divide into pairs or families. Give each group a card with a basic human need or problem written on it. (Included in this lesson.) Play a game of charades.

How would it impact your life if you constantly had to face this problem?

Read Luke 4:14-21 aloud.

In this passage, Jesus read from Isaiah 61. What kinds of things are involved in the mission that God and Jesus want to accomplish in the world?

How is the church part of this mission of God? How are kids part of the mission of God?

Who is someone that our group could help?

*Discuss ideas for group service projects, especially projects where kids can participate.*



January 4, 2009

## **LIFE Group Guide**

### **Luke 4 – The Mission of Christ**

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this meeting: **Pursuing the mission of Jesus.**

As we start the new year, Kevin's sermon will deal with our vision of being a people devoted to compassion, outreach, and growth. Luke 4 is a great passage to show how Jesus saw similar themes as his calling.

Thanks for your responses to last week's letter. Keep those questions coming. Here is a reminder of important dates for the next few months:

- Jan. 4 LIFE groups meet
- Jan. 7 Leadership training – who could attend from your group?
- Jan. 14 Leadership training – Week 2
- Jan. 18 LIFE groups meet
- Jan. 21 Leadership training – Week 3
- Feb. 1 LIFE groups meet
- Feb. 15 LIFE groups meet -- Week 1 of campaign
- Feb. 22 LIFE groups meet -- Week 2 of campaign
- Mar. 1 LIFE groups meet -- Week 3 of campaign
- Mar. 5 Beans & Steak night celebration for LG leaders

We need to get a count for the meal on January 7. Please let me know how many you expect to attend from your group (adults & kids).

Leadership tip: We love the sound of laughter. Healthy families and healthy churches enjoy being together. A joyful, light-hearted spirit helps your group feel closer to one another and closer to God.

**Relate** *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ Something I do not miss from childhood is...
- ❖ What do you remember about your hometown?
- ❖ What made Jesus so disturbing that people wanted to kill Him?

Blindness

Being picked on

Selfishness

Controlling or abusing others

Disease

Lying

Death

Talking bad about others

Anger

Feeling left out

Crime

Prison

Poverty

Lonely