

Life Group #3

Luke 4:16-21

Note for those leading discussions-

Key objectives for the night: We want to see Jesus' power and intention to transform lives--physically, spiritually, and emotionally. We want to find comfort in His compassion and care for all people. We want to encourage one another to move toward Jesus for freedom and healing.

Intro (use your own words)

Each week we want to be together in community and get to know Jesus through the Bible. Many people have opinions about who Jesus is and why he came to earth. Instead of our opinions, we want to look at how Jesus describes himself and his purpose. Our goal is simple- we are going to read one of those passages and seek to answer 2 questions: Who is Jesus? How do I relate to Him and follow Him?

Each week we are going to give a little background to the passage, read it and break into smaller groups for discussion. It doesn't matter if you know a lot about Jesus or a little, we want everyone to be able to engage in the discussion. Week one we learned that Jesus describes himself as gentle and lowly. Last week we read that he came seeking those who are lost. This week we are going to read a passage where Jesus reveals his purpose.

A core belief of Christianity is that Jesus is the creator of the universe (John 1:1-18), yet when he came to earth he chose to live in an unremarkable, poor village in Israel. Our passage for tonight takes place in the synagogue in his hometown. The people in Israel at this time were oppressed by the Romans and expectant that God will send his Messiah to rescue them. The passage Jesus was asked to read was Isaiah 61 which describes what it will be like when the Messiah comes to rescue His people.

Read Luke 4:16-21

If you have a TV, you may want to show this 1 minute video that will explain the context of this passage a little better. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k4GbvZUPuo&t=11s> *Start video at 1:56 end at 2:55.*

Small Group Discussion

- How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage?
- Using your own words, describe the types of people Jesus came to help.
- Jesus came to help the "poor," the "captive," the "blind," and the "oppressed." What are ways today in which people are poor, captive, blind, or oppressed?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus came specifically for the broken and marginalized people of society?
- Jesus claimed to be anointed to "proclaim good news." How is this passage good news for you?
- In what ways have you seen yourself as poor, captive, blind, or oppressed? This can be a physical, emotional, or spiritual reality.
- What is one way you have experienced the "good news" Jesus came to proclaim?
- In light of who Jesus is and what He came to do, what is one way you can respond to Him this week?
- Pray for each other