

## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

### Rejection at Nazareth

*Luke 4:16-30*

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His 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.

Jesus began teaching in the synagogues. He went to the town of Nazareth. Nazareth was a small village in the hills between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. This was the place Jesus grew up.

On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue. 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." What was Jesus saying? Jesus was saying, *It's Me*. The words Jesus read were coming true. Some of the people might have 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. The people were angry. They drove Jesus away, intending to kill Him, but Jesus escaped through the crowd.

Jesus came to give sight to the blind and to set the captives free. He came preaching good news. Finally, the Messiah had come! Jesus is God's plan to save sinners.

## OLDER KIDS BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** Rejection at Nazareth

**Bible Passage:** Luke 4:16-30

**Big Picture Question:** What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.

**Key Passage:** John 3:16-17

**Unit Christ Connection:** Jesus was revealed as the fulfillment of Scripture, the promised Savior.

## Small Group Time

Welcome time  
Activity page (5 minutes)  
Session starter (10 minutes)  
Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review (10 minutes)  
Activity choice (10 minutes)  
Journal (5 minutes)  
Prayer (5 minutes)

## THE BIBLE STORY

### Rejection at Nazareth

*Luke 4:16-30*

**Jesus went to Nazareth. Nazareth was Jesus' hometown;** He grew up there. **On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue** like He usually did.

The Sabbath day was a holy day of rest. On that day, the Jews gathered in the synagogue to worship God. The synagogue was a special building where Jews met together to pray, worship, and learn about the Scriptures.

**Jesus stood up to read Scripture. He unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Then He read from the place where these words were written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me. He has chosen Me to tell good news to the poor. He has sent Me to tell the captives that they are free, to tell the blind that they can see, to free people who have been treated badly, and to announce that the Lord's favor is on us." Then Jesus rolled up the scroll. He gave it back to the attendant and sat down.**

Everyone who was in the synagogue stared at Jesus. They watched Him closely, and **Jesus said, "Today as you listened to Me reading these words, they came true."**

**The people said good things about Jesus,** and they were amazed to hear Him say such wonderful things. **But some of the people** in Nazareth had known Jesus from His youth. They **wondered how this was possible. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.**

Jesus was Joseph's son, but He was far from ordinary. **Even though Jesus' earthly father was Joseph, His true Father is God.**

**Then Jesus said to them, "You will probably say this old proverb: 'Doctor, heal yourself.' You've heard about the miracles I performed in Capernaum, and you want me to do them here in My hometown too."**

Jesus also said, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown." **Jesus reminded the people of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. When there was a terrible famine in Israel,** and no rain fell there for three and a half years, plenty of widows in the country needed help.

**But** Elijah did not help the widows in Israel. Instead, **God sent Elijah to help a widow in another**

**land.** And **when Elisha was a prophet**, many people in Israel had leprosy.

They wanted to be healed, but Elisha did not heal them. Instead, **he healed** a man named **Naaman** (NAY muhn), and **Naaman was from Syria**—a country that did not get along with God’s people.

**The people listening to Jesus in the synagogue were angry. They got up and forced Jesus out of town. They wanted to throw Him off a cliff, but Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on His way.**

*Christ Connection: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about God’s plan to send a Messiah. He would bring good news and redeem people who were broken and hurting. Jesus read Isaiah’s words and told everyone who was listening that He is the promised Messiah.*

## SMALL GROUP OPENING

**Session Title:** Rejection at Nazareth

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### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share some facts about their hometowns. If a kid’s family has moved away from his hometown, ask if he has ever gone back to visit.

### Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Good News Word Ladder” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Allow kids to work in pairs or small groups to complete the “Good News Word Ladder” activity page. Kids will begin at the bottom. To move up the ladder, read each clue and follow the steps to create new words. Assist kids if needed. (*good, mood, moo, boo, boot, foot, dot, net, new, news*)

**Say •** How do you react when you hear good news? Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about the good news Jesus brought to people on earth.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### Option 1: Good words

- large pieces of paper
- marker

Play a synonym game. Invite the kids to work together or form groups for a competition. Provide each group with a marker and piece of paper. One kid in each group will be the writer. The writer should list the letters A through T on the paper. At your signal, teams will list for each letter a word that relates to *good*. If teams struggle to think of synonyms, invite them to list people, places, or things that they think of when they hear the word *good*.

Give kids several minutes to work. Then call on kids to share their lists. Invite the class to fill in any blanks on their lists. Suggest words as needed: *awesome, cool, excellent, favorable, great, marvelous, positive, super*, and so forth.

**Say •** The Bible says that God is good. (Ps. 100:5) In our Bible story today, Jesus brought some good news to the people in His hometown, but not everyone thought the news was good.

### Option 2: Newspaper sculptures

- newspapers
- masking tape
- wet wipes (optional)

Invite kids to work in small groups to create newspaper sculptures. Provide each group with masking tape and several pages of newspaper. Demonstrate how to crumple and twist the newspaper to form different shapes. Explain that kids can use the masking tape to hold their newspaper pieces together. Give kids several minutes to sculpt whatever they desire.

Lead each group to share its creation with the rest of the kids and to describe any difficulties they encountered while sculpting. Provide wet wipes to clean up any ink from the newspaper that may have dirtied kids' hands.

**Say •** Many people read newspapers to find out the news. Newspapers are filled with good news and bad news. Today's Bible story is about some good news Jesus shared with the people in His hometown.



## SMALL GROUP LEADER

**Session Title:** Rejection at Nazareth

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### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- marker

Write words or phrases of the key passage on separate index cards. Make two sets. Scatter each set on the floor. Form two groups of kids and guide them to line up several feet from their group's set of key passage cards.

When you say go, the first kid in each group should run to the cards and pick up the first word or phrase of the key passage. When she returns to her group, the next player will go pick up the second card. Continue until kids pick up the entire key passage in order. Then read the passage aloud.

**Say •** Our key passage tells us the gospel. The word *gospel* means “good news.” ***What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.***

### Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

**Say •** Open your Bibles to the Book of Luke.

Can anyone tell me what book comes before Luke? (*Mark*)

What book comes after Luke? (*John*) Great job.

Remember, the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John— all tell us about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Review the timeline in the small group visual pack. Form three groups of kids. Assign each group a different passage: Luke 4:16-19; Luke 4:20-24; and Luke 4:25-30.

Ask each group three of the following review questions corresponding to its passage. Kids should use their Bibles to find the answers. When kids answer, prompt them to tell you which verse or verses they read to find the answer.

1. In what town did Jesus grow up? (*Nazareth, Luke 4:16*)
2. Where did Jesus go on the Sabbath day? (*to the synagogue, Luke 4:16*)
3. From which part of Scripture did Jesus read? (*Isaiah, Luke 4:17*)
4. What did Jesus say after He read the Scripture? (*"Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled"; Luke 4:21*)
5. The people knew Jesus was whose son? (*Joseph's, Luke 4:22*)
6. Where did Jesus say no prophet is accepted? (*in his hometown, Luke 4:24*)
7. What two prophets did Jesus talk about? (*Elijah and Elisha, Luke 4:25-27*)
8. How did the people in the synagogue feel? (*angry, Luke 4:28*)
9. What did the people want to do to Jesus? (*throw Him off a cliff, Luke 4:29*)

**Say •What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.**

If you choose to review with boys and girls how to become a Christian, explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- **God rules.** God created and is in charge of everything. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16-17)
- **We sinned.** Since Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
- **God provided.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
- **Jesus gives.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so we can be welcomed into God's family. (Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- **We respond.** Believe that Jesus alone saves you. Repent. Tell God that your faith is in Jesus. (Rom. 10:9-10,13)

### Activity choice (10 minutes)

#### Option 1: Shout it out!

- Gospel Plan Poster

Form five groups of kids. If your group is small, kids may work individually or in pairs. Assign each group one of the key statements from the gospel plan poster.

Encourage each group to create motions for their assigned statement. If kids struggle, suggest the following motions:

1. God rules. [*Hold hands to side of head like positioning a crown.*]
2. We sinned. [*Kneel down and cover hands with face.*]
3. God provided. [*Hold palms up in front of body as if offering a gift.*]
4. Jesus gives. [*Stretch arms outward to form the shape of a cross.*]
5. We respond. [*Fold hands and bow head as if praying.*]

After several minutes, invite each group to share its motions and shout its assigned statement. Explain that the gospel is good news! It is God's plan for saving people from sin. We can share the gospel with others and pray that they would trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**Say • *What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.***

#### Option 2: Welcome hunt

- sticky notes
- marker

Write the letters *W-E-L-C-O-M-E* on separate sticky notes. Prior to small group, place the sticky notes on small, random objects throughout the room. Invite kids to hunt for letters. Explain that there are seven letters scattered around the room. When a kid finds an object marked with a letter, he should bring that object to the center of the room.

After kids locate all seven letters, challenge them to work together to rearrange the letters to spell a word. (*welcome*) Ask kids to share some ways they can make others feel welcome in their homes or at church.

**Say •** Jesus was not welcome in His hometown of Nazareth, but He welcomes us into God's family. Jesus will never turn away anyone who comes to Him. (John 6:37) Jesus gives eternal life to those who trust in Him, and believers will live with Him forever in heaven.

• We can welcome others into our homes, church, and classrooms. We can share with them the gospel—the good news about Jesus. ***What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.***

### Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- pencils
- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- “Crack the Code” activity page, 1 per kid

**Say** • Draw in your journal a picture of your hometown, or write about some of your favorite memories in that town. Invite kids to share prayer requests. Close the group in prayer, thanking Jesus for welcoming everyone into God’s family even though people rejected Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete the activity page “Crack the Code.”

**Dismiss to parents – Make sure to check security tags when dismissing children.**





**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.  
For God did not send his Son into the  
world to condemn the world, but to  
save the world through him.**

**John 3:16-17**







# What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.



# Good News Word Ladder

**Instructions:** Read the clues, and then write the words in the blanks. Start at the bottom of the ladder and make your way to the top.

**A report or announcement.**

*Add one letter.*

**A device for catching fish.**

*Change two letters.*

**A unit of measurement,  
12 inches.**

*Change one letter.*

**To express disapproval.**

*Change one letter.*

**An emotion or feeling.**

*Change one letter.*

**Recent, not old.**

*Change one letter.*

**A small round mark.**

*Take away one letter and  
change one letter.*

**A covering for the  
foot in wet weather.**

*Add one letter.*

**The noise a cow makes.**

*Take away one letter.*

g o o d



# Crack the Code

**Instructions:** The people in Nazareth did not understand Jesus. Make sense of this code to fill in the words Jesus said.



A B C D  
E F G H  
I J K L  
M N O P  
Q R S T  
U V W X  
Y Z

# ALLERGY ALERT



Today we will be tasting/  
touching/sniffing:

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Please notify the leader  
if your child should not  
participate.

**Instructions:** Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.



the

# GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



### GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



### WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



### GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



### JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



### WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

## Jesus' Early Ministry

*Invite your kids to draw a picture below showing a time they were left out and how they felt. Open your Bible to Luke 4:16-30 and remind your kids that Jesus was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth. Lead your child to read John 6:37 aloud. Explain that people may reject us on earth, but when we go to Jesus for salvation, He will never reject us.*

### Rejection at Nazareth

Luke 4:16-30

### Preschool

**Key Passage:** John 3:16

**Big Picture Question:** What does the word gospel mean? Gospel means "good news."

**Christ Connection:** Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet talked about God's plan to send Jesus to earth. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting. Jesus read Isaiah's words. Jesus said that He is the One God promised to send.

### Kids

**Key Passage:** John 3:16-17

**Big Picture Question:** What is the good news about Jesus? Jesus died for our sins.

**Christ Connection:** Hundreds of years before

Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about God's plan to send a Messiah. He would bring good news and redeem people who were broken and hurting. Jesus read Isaiah's words and told everyone who was listening that He is the promised Messiah.

