

# Study of Luke Ch. 4

*Let's Get This Thing Started!*

## **Opening**

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

The first day of school. Do you love it or hate it? First game/competition/performance? The first time staying home alone?

If you could redo any moment in your life, what would that moment be and why? How would you change it?

## **Study**

So far, we have had a lot of set up related to Jesus' life and ministry but we have yet to see what His ministry will be like. Luke takes the time to establish that Jesus is from God and meets many of the requirements of the Messiah.

Today, we are going to see Jesus' ministry get started. It might feel like a rocky start especially since we will see how His home town rejects Him. It's not fun to be rejected, to have a rough start, or deal with expectations of others yet Jesus handles it with confidence and mission. The start of His ministry launches from this deep connection to the Father and a firm understanding of His mission and identity. Let's dive in.

Read [Luke 4:14-30](#).

As Jesus starts His ministry, what things does He have going His way?

Where did Jesus start His ministry?

Here's a map of the districts in Israel at the time of Jesus to help you see where all of this is.

[Map](#)

Why is popularity a good thing for Jesus at that moment and after His death and resurrection?

Jesus regularly went to the synagogue to worship and teach. On this particular day, Jesus was the honored guest in His hometown to teach on the scripture of the day. The scripture Jesus read was from [Isaiah 61:1-2](#). Read the section header and verses 1-5. What is this about?

What does this mean?

As Jesus sat down to teach, what did He say about this passage of scripture (v.21)? How did the crowd feel about Jesus' words (v.22)?

In verse 23, Jesus says no proverb or wise saying exists saying, "Physician, heal yourself." Jesus communicates it is difficult for doctors to diagnose themselves let alone treat themselves especially with surgery or other things. It requires someone else to treat you and to do it well. This physical example frames a spiritual truth we cannot heal ourselves from sin or death but Jesus can.

What response do the people give in response to Jesus' words? What does this say about the reason they wanted to see Jesus?

Jesus knew the people who had come to hear Jesus had ulterior motives. Sometimes we have ulterior motives when we go to God in prayer. What are some of those motives someone might have?

The Jews of Jesus' day held this belief that the Messiah was only for the Jews. Jesus challenges this thought and their demand by speaking about the prophets Elijah and Elisha. What do you notice about where the two people these prophets helped are from? What point is Jesus making about healing and salvation?

Why do Jesus' words anger the people?

What did the people of Jesus' hometown try to do to Him? How did Jesus escape?

Sometimes the Bible can be vague in communicating the full picture of an event. This is one of those spots where it is empty of explanation. When we look back at the beginning of this event, we see that the Spirit of God empowers Jesus in a unique way to walk away untouched. Looking back at Jesus' third temptation, we see the Father fulfilling His promise to protect His Son in the correct way.

Jesus walked into His hometown of Nazareth popular with crowds ready to see and hear from Him. When Jesus left, they had tried to kill Him. Did losing popularity with the people hurt Jesus' ministry? What was Jesus most concerned about?

Jesus' mission did not always sit well with people. Many people did not like having their way of life challenged. Many did not like being called out on their sinful ways or having their idea of the Messiah changed. Some were afraid that Jesus was going to ruin their religion. Yet, many more yearned for the message of Jesus. People who were hurting and lost, connected with Jesus and His mission. How is this true today?

### **Mark of a Disciple: Live on Mission**

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." These are the words we say in the Lord's prayer. These words ask that God's mission and Will be carried out both on earth

and in heaven. This means in our lives too. Where do we struggle to let God's mission and Will be first in our lives?

God's mission has always stayed the same. He wants to redeem all peoples of the world. We are invited to be a part of that mission. Sometimes that mission is not very popular with others and sometimes with ourselves. What part of God's mission do you struggle with the most?

Disciples of Jesus stay on mission for Him. In other words, the reason they are on a mission is that it pleases Jesus. When we stay centered on Jesus' mission for His joy, our fears and doubts mean less and have less hold on our actions. Where is God calling you to be on a mission this week? Who has God placed in your life to be with on mission?

Share how God wants you to be on a mission this week. Then pray for each other at this time and pray for each other this week. Create a way to remind yourself each day that you are part of Jesus' mission to save the world.

### **Prayer Time**

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.