

Lesson #3-17

Jesus' Mission Revealed

Luke 4:14-30

PK-2nd

Key Verse:

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:21

The Point:

Jesus begins his ministry by telling people that his work will focus on those who have been ignored and treated badly. Not everyone likes this. Some people want special treatment.

Making Connections:

Revelation of the Son of Man

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Kingdom of God

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Story Centers (PK-K)

15 min.

Playing House

We play house and remember Jesus' home.

Travel Center

What are other ways to get around?

For Everyone

God's love is for everyone.

† Items to play house

† Transportation toys: cars, trucks, planes, trains

† Large cut-out hearts

† Discarded magazines

† Glue

† Scissors

Into the Story (PK-2nd)

Praise Through All the Country

Journey through the community basking in praise.

10 min.

† Signs of praise

† Optional: people with cue cards

Bible Nuts and Bolts (1st-2nd)

Kingdom of God

Create a mural of the Kingdom of God.

10 min.

† Bible

† Craft paper

† Markers or crayons

Learning the Story (PK-2nd)

Who is This Guy?

What does Jesus reveal about himself?

10 min.

† Bible

† Who Is This Guy? poster from #3-16

† Crayons or markers

Activities a la Carte

Living the Story (PK-2nd)

Scripture and Teaching

Worshipping together is learning together.

5 min.

- † Bulletins from today's (or recent) worship
- † Optional: worship leader outline

Singing the Story (PK-2nd)

The Spirit of the Lord

A piggy-back song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

5 min.

- † None

Additional Activities

His Custom (1st-2nd)

What is Jesus' background?

10 min.

- † Wood blocks, 6" x 2" x 4"
- † Markers

Stand Up, Sit Down (PK-2nd)

Explore identity.

5 min.

- † None

Scroll Snack (PK-2nd)

Make a delicious scroll to eat.

5 min.

- † Fruit snack sheets
- † Pretzel sticks
- † Paper plates

Sending the Story (PK-2nd)

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Story Connections

Last week, we saw Jesus recognized as the Messiah by Simeon, Anna, and John the Baptist. Jesus grew from an eight-day-old baby whose parents brought him to the temple to a man baptized in the Jordan River, recognized by the Holy Spirit as the beloved Son of God. In today's lesson, we see Jesus begin his ministry in the town where he grew up. As he reveals himself and his mission in his hometown, we see that this will not be an easy path for him.

Story Summary:

Jesus' Mission is Revealed

After spending forty days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, Jesus begins his ministry filled with the Spirit. At first, as he begins teaching in the synagogues, he is well received. He travels to his hometown of Nazareth, and there reads in the synagogue from the prophet Isaiah. He tells those gathered that he is the fulfillment of the Scripture. But by citing examples from Scripture, he tells them his ministry will be directed toward the margins of society and that his audience in the synagogue will not be given any favoritism. The Nazarenes are upset by Jesus' declaration. They are so upset that they drive him out of town, apparently with the intention to stone him. Jesus walks through the angry crowd and continues on his way.

The Point

Jesus begins his ministry telling people that his work will focus on those who have been ignored and treated badly. Not everyone likes this. Some people want special treatment. It is important for us to remember how significant it was that Jesus began his ministry with the declaration that it is for the poor, blind, and captive. These are people traditionally rejected by his society. In saying that they are deserving of God's love and salvation, Jesus turns the world upside down. In today's world, as we continue Jesus' ministry, we always need to remember that God's love is for everyone, especially those at the margins of society.

Bible Nuts and Bolts:

The Kingdom of God

Jesus' ministry is devoted to sharing the kingdom of God with us. He tells us the kingdom of God is when we all live together in a way that shows God's love. The Gospels remind us again and again that we are called to share God's love, to help bring the kingdom of God into fruition, even when it seems far off.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Today's Scripture makes it clear that Jesus considered it important to be in community, in the synagogue, on the Sabbath. Scripture was read there and lessons were taught. Why do we worship together? How does it help us in community? How does the practice of worshipping together help us grow closer to God?



Lesson Plan



Story Centers (PK-K; 15 minutes)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

Playing House

Bring in items for playing house. Give children freedom to assume roles, and to shape the direction of this play. The lesson will address how Nazareth is Jesus’ hometown, where he lived, ate, and learned when he was a young child.

Travel Center

Create an area to play with transportation toys such as cars, trains, and airplanes. The lesson will talk about Jesus’ travels throughout his ministry.

For Everyone

Precut large hearts. Provide child-appropriate magazines and have students cut out diverse pictures of people. Glue the images onto the hearts. We will be emphasizing throughout the lesson that God’s love is for everyone.

Into the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Praise Through All the Country

Journey through the community basking in praise.

You will need:

- † Signs of praise
- † Optional: people with cue cards

Before class:

1. Recruit volunteers from your congregation to be stationed at various places throughout your church space.
2. These volunteers will stop the children as they pass through, sharing with them some way in which the children are appreciated by the congregation. These should be sincere and specific.
3. If necessary, help volunteers come up with comments.
4. If there is no one available to help you with this task, write out some “Praise Cards” about your class and post them throughout the church.

During class:

1. Take a walk through the designated route where either your additional volunteers or signs are placed.
2. At each place of praise, have the students stop and listen or read carefully, remembering to thank the person.
3. When you return to the class, have students sit in a circle. **Wow! You are all sure appreciated! It is great to have you in our community** (share specifics). **I do not know about you, but it feels good to me to feel appreciated. When Jesus started his ministry, people let him know they appreciated him. He traveled throughout the country, and people praised him!**

Bible Nuts and Bolts (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

Kingdom of God

Create a mural showing what the Kingdom of God looks like.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Craft paper
- † Markers or crayons

Before class:

1. In the middle of the craft paper, write “The Kingdom of God” in large letters.

During class:

1. **We are going to spend a little bit of time today thinking about how Jesus said we should treat each other. I want you to think about what you have learned about this so far, and then write or draw your answer on this poster (“The Kingdom of God” craft paper).**
2. **Some things you can think about are: How can we share God’s love with each other? Where do we experience God’s love? How can we create new places for people to experience this amazing love?**
3. When students have had time to draw, look at their drawings together and talk about what things they included.
4. **Jesus taught us that when we live as he commanded, we are not only moving closer to the Kingdom of God, we are bringing the Kingdom of God here, all around us.**

Learning the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Who is This Guy?

What does Jesus reveal about himself?

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Who is this Guy? Poster from #3-16
- † Crayons or markers

Before class:

1. Get the “Who is this Guy?” poster from last week’s lesson. This is an outline of Jesus with comments added from the students.

During class:

1. **Today we are going to add to the picture of Jesus we started last week. Today’s scripture focuses more on what Jesus had to say about himself and his teaching.**
2. Have students sit around the poster (or papers if you are working in small groups) with markers and Bibles.
3. **As we read, we’re going to add to our poster from last week. As I read, listen for what you can learn about Jesus.**
4. **The story begins when Jesus is a grown-up. He’s started his ministry, teaching people all about God and God’s love. Jesus travels from town to town, sharing Scripture with people and teaching. What do we know about Jesus from these verses?** [*Jesus traveled a lot. He teaches people about God.*] Have students share (write or draw) some of this on the “Who is this Guy?” poster.
5. **In his hometown of Nazareth, the town where he was raised, people aren’t very kind to Jesus. They listen to what he says. At first, they say how smart he is. What do we know about Jesus from these verses?** [*Jesus was smart, and people are interested in what he is asked to say.*]
6. **Then they get mad at him. They get mad because Jesus says he is going to focus his work on the people in society who usually get ignored and treated unkindly. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses?** [*Not everyone loves Jesus; he is going to work with people who need help to get their basics covered.*]

Living the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Scripture and Teaching

Worshipping together gives us a chance to learn together.

You will need:

- † Bulletins from today's (or recent) worship
- † Optional: if your congregation does not use worship bulletins, ask a worship leader to print their outline

During class:

1. Pass out a worship bulletin to every student. Have younger children sit where they can see the bulletin.
2. **We are going to look for some things in this bulletin. First, everyone find one prayer. Once you have found it, put your finger on it and raise your hand.** Alternatively, point out for younger students how many prayers there are in the weekly service.
3. **Now, everyone find one song or hymn. Once you have found it, put your finger on it and raise your hand.** Alternatively, point out for younger students how many songs or hymns are sung in the weekly service.
4. **Now, let's find where the scripture is. Once you have found it, put your finger on it and raise your hand.** Alternatively, point out for younger students how many scriptures are read in the weekly service.
5. **Just like Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to hear scripture, we come together in worship to hear scripture, too. Jesus also went to the synagogue for teaching. Can anyone think where the teaching part of our service is?** *[The sermon or message might be the first response, but we are learning all throughout worship, so encourage conversation about how we learn in worship.]*

Singing the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

The Spirit of the Lord

To the tune of *‘If You’re Happy and You Know It’*

The Spirit of the Lord will help me, (will help me)

The Spirit of the Lord will help me, (will help me)

To spread the good news,

In everything I do,

The Spirit of the Lord will help me. (will help me)

Additional Activities

His Custom (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

What is Jesus' background?

You will need:

- † Wood block, 6" x 2" x 4" for each student
- † Markers

Before class:

1. Get pieces of wood that your students will be able to take home. Cutting six inch pieces off of a 2x4 plank is about the right size. Be sure to sand them to prevent splinters. You may want to recruit another member of your congregation to do this prep work.

During class:

1. **Long ago, when Jesus was born, he was born into a Jewish family. Mary and Joseph were devout Jews, and they raised Jesus to be one as well.**
2. **Part of the tradition of this time was that the oldest son learned the work of their father. Does anyone know what Joseph was? [*A carpenter.*]**
3. **A carpenter works with wood, so today I have a piece of wood for each of you. We are going to be decorating this wood with information about Jesus' childhood.**
4. Pass out the wood pieces and markers. Throughout the following exercise, move at the pace appropriate for your students. If they enjoy drawing and embellishing the words, allow them time to do so.
5. **We are going to think of the kinds of things that might have been a part of Jesus' life.**
 - **Many attend worship at church as part of recognition of a Christian Sabbath. Jesus also attended worship at the synagogue on the Sabbath. On the top of your wood piece, write "Sabbath". Rabbis would have led his worship service, just as pastors lead our worship service.**
 - **To learn about God and how God wants us to live, Christians look to the Holy Bible. Jesus also studied Scripture. The Jewish Scripture is called the Torah. On the bottom of your piece of wood, write "Torah." The Torah is located in our Bible, too. It can also be known as the Tankakh, and is part of our Old Testatment. Jesus learned many of the same stories, like the story of Abraham, which is found in Genesis; the story of Moses, which is found in**

- Exodus; and the story of Elijah and the Widow which is found in 1 Kings.
- Just as we have many important holidays in our faith tradition, so Jesus would have participated in many important Jewish holidays or festivals. In the spring, we celebrate Easter; Jesus would have celebrated Passover. On one side of your block, write “Passover.”
 - What is the symbol Christians use to identify themselves as Christian? *[Cross.]* The symbol associated with the Jewish tradition is the Star of David. Help students to draw a Star of David on another side of their block. *(If you are unfamiliar with a Star of David, many examples can be found online.)*
 - These are just some of the things that Jesus would have learned about when he was your age. These were the building blocks of his faith.

Stand Up, Sit Down (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Explore identity.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. Have everyone in your class sit in a straight line with an arm's length of space between them.
2. **I am going to read some statements. Stand up and sit down according to what I say. After each statement, we will take a minute to look around at who is standing and who is sitting. Then, you will sit back down and we will move to the next statement.**
3. Suggested statements follow. Adapt to your particular class.
 - Stand up if you are at Sunday School today.
 - Stand up if you have brothers or sisters or both.
 - Stand up if your house is in the same city as our church.
 - Stand up if you have ever been to the ocean.
 - Stand up if you like to draw.
 - Stand up if you like sports.
 - Stand up if you think you are a kind person.
 - Stand up if you think it is important to love each other.
 - Stand up if you like ice cream.
 - Stand up if you know where Jesus was born.
 - Stand up if you are wearing shoes.
4. As we learn about Jesus, we are not going to be able to answer all these questions about him, but we will be working to figure out as much as we can about his life. This helps us to understand him and his message. When we take time to get to know other people, it helps us have better relationships!

Scroll Snack (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Make a delicious scroll to eat.

You will need:

- † Paper plates
- † Fruit snack sheets
- † Pretzel sticks

Before class:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.
2. Depending on the type of fruit roll-ups you are able to find, you might need to do some work to prepare them. You need a rectangular piece of fruit roll-up, the width just smaller than the pretzel stick, and as long as is convenient.

During class:

1. Pass out paper plates to each student, followed by two pretzel sticks.
2. Before passing out the fruit roll-up pieces, demonstrate for the students what they will do:
 - Wrap one end of the fruit roll-up piece around one of the pretzel sticks
 - Wrap the other end of the fruit roll-up piece around the other pretzel stick
 - Roll the two ends toward each other, meeting in the middle.
3. This should look like a scroll. Explain to the children that **long before there were books, stories were written on scrolls of paper. When Jesus read scripture in the temple, he would have read it from a scroll.**
4. Pass out the fruit roll-ups, and have the children make and then eat their scrolls.

Sending the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Have students repeat after you in prayer:

**God, send your Spirit to us,
Help us share your love, and
to bring the Kingdom of God to each moment! Amen.**



PK-2nd

The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2016-2017)

Lesson #3-17
Luke 4:14-30

The Point

Jesus begins his ministry by telling people that his work will focus on those who have been ignored and treated badly. Not everyone likes this. Some people want special treatment. Today's story is important because we are reminded that Jesus begins his ministry with the declaration that it is for poor, blind, and captive – these are the people traditionally rejected by his society. In saying that they are deserving of God's love and salvation, Jesus turns the world upside down. In today's world, as we continue Jesus' ministry, we always need to remember God's love is for everyone.

Story Summary: *Jesus' Mission is Revealed*

After spending forty days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, Jesus begins his ministry filled with the Spirit. At first, as he begins teaching in the synagogues, he is well received. He travels to his hometown of Nazareth, and there reads in the synagogue from the prophet Isaiah. He tells those gathered that he is the fulfillment of the Scripture. But by citing examples from Scripture, he tells them his

ministry will be directed toward the margins of society, that his audience in the synagogue will not be given any favoritism. The Nazarenes are upset by Jesus' declaration. They are so upset that they drive him out of town, apparently with the intention to stone him. Jesus walks through the angry crowd and continues on his way.

Spiritual Practice: **Worship**

Today's Scripture makes it clear that Jesus considered it important to be in community, in the synagogue, on the Sabbath. Scripture was read there and lessons were taught. Why do we worship together? How does it help us in community? How does the practice of worshipping together help us grow closer to God? Think about these questions as a family, and set an intention to worship together.

Last Week/Next Week

Last week, we saw Jesus recognized as the messiah by Simeon, Anna, and John the Baptist. He grew from an eight-day-old baby whose parents brought him to the temple to a man baptized in the Jordan River, recognized by the Holy Spirit as the beloved Son of God. Next week we hear how Jesus began to gather disciples and grow his ministry.

Bible Nuts and Bolts: *The Kingdom of God*

Jesus' ministry is devoted to sharing the kingdom of God with us. He tells us the kingdom of God is when we all live together in a way that shows God's love. The Gospels remind us again and again that we are called to share God's love, to help bring the kingdom of God into fruition, even when it seems far off.

Family Discussions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. Help your children to imagine what it would have been like to be the people contained in the stories. What is God's message to them—and to us?

- ✚ Jesus says that his ministry is for the poor, blind, and captive. How would you describe the people on the margins of our society today?
- ✚ How can we help each other when we feel like other people stand in the way of sharing God's love?
- ✚ Why do you think it was so hard for people in Jesus' hometown to accept his message?

Family Devotions

Pick a time each day to gather together and read the following excerpts that share stories from a variety of geographical locations. It would be a great opportunity to find a map in the back of a Bible to further explore the world during biblical times. Engage in a few activities that help you better understand God's message of love to people living in those places as well as where you live today.

Sunday—Read Luke 4:14-30 —Jesus' Mission is Revealed

Jesus begins his ministry in his hometown of Nazareth, declaring that his work will be for the poor, blind, and oppressed. Write a list of different ways that your family can minister to those on the margins of society.

Monday—Read Isaiah 58:6-12 —Loosing Bonds of Injustice

This looks more specifically at how we can be a light to the oppressed and hungry. Look at your list from Sunday, and pick one of these to complete together as a family in the near future.

Tuesday—Read 1 Kings 17:8-14 —Elijah and the Widow

God provides sustenance for the widow of Zarepath in the midst of a drought. Make bread or biscuits together as a family, considering the resources that are necessary to get all the ingredients in your home.

Wednesday—Read 2 Kings 5:1-17 —The Healing of Naaman

Naaman is healed from leprosy by Elisha and proclaims the power of God. Make cards for people in your family, community, or congregation who are currently sick or in the hospital.

Thursday—Read Luke 4:31-37 —Healings at Simon's House

In Capernum, Jesus casts an unclean spirit out of a man and everyone is amazed. Have each member of your family share one thing that has amazed them this past week.

Friday—Read Luke 4:38-41 —Jesus Preaches in the Synagogues

Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, in addition to a number of other sick people. In your evening prayers, say a prayer for all those in the world who need healing.

Saturday—Read Luke 4:42-44 —Loosing Bonds of Injustice

Crowds try to keep Jesus with them, but he reminds them that he must continue to share the good news with other people and in other places. Go for an evening walk. While walking, answer the question: How will we take the good news to other places?