

DISLOCATED READING

A CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE OF READING SCRIPTURE



SUNDAY, JANUARY 17TH

Text: Luke 4: 14 - 30

INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

Biblical stories often sound different to us when we read them in unusual places. Think about reading Genesis 1 beside the ocean, or in the forest. The context enables us to see and hear differently: the Scripture comes alive. Today's Scripture passage from Luke 4 is about Jesus' return to his hometown. While we cannot take you to Nazareth to read the text, we can offer you an image of Nazareth (above). As you read the passage, invite the group to ponder this image. Then discuss the following questions:

1. What **stuck out** to you in the story, or in the image, as the passage was read?

2. Jesus returns to Nazareth to share his sense of purpose in his hometown. **What is your relationship with your hometown like?** Do you resonate with Jesus' experience in any way?

3. Jesus' words were good news for the poor, the prisoner, the blind, and the oppressed. Do you think this was **literal or metaphorical?** Or both? Who are the "poor" the "blind" and the "oppressed" among us?

4. The people were angry, but Jesus simply "goes on his way." How do you think he was able to **let go of others' anger and fear?**