

Two Reactions to Jesus

(Luke 4:14-40)

Introduction

Do you know anyone who has been rejected by others? People are disliked for many reasons. Can you think of a reason someone would be put down or disrespected? Have you ever been rejected by your friends? How did it feel? How did you react? Did you want to fight, argue, pout, feel sorry for yourself, get angry, withdraw, defend yourself or take revenge? What would Jesus do? (He would forgive and continue to love.) What's a way you could "stick up for" a person who has been rejected by others?

Opening Prayer

Lord, it must have been awfully hard when Your best friends and family in Nazareth rejected You. Yet You faced the pain and obediently walked forward. Thank You for enduring so much for me. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)

Lesson

God had promised to send the Messiah to the people of Israel. The Jewish people prayed for the day when He would come. However, when He got here some people didn't recognize who He was. Many people in Galilee believed He was the Messiah, but people back in His home town of Nazareth were not so easily convinced. [Teacher, point out the locals on the map.]

Luke 4:14-15

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. (15) He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

A synagogue is a place where Jewish families meet together to worship and study the Bible. Jesus went to synagogue every Sabbath, just like we go to church every Sunday.

Luke 4:16

When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.

It was customary for the leader of the synagogue to invite a visitor to read from the Scriptures and to teach.

Luke 4:17

The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

[Teacher, point to the book of Isaiah on the Books of The Bible chart.]

Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, (19) and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

Then, Jesus surprised everyone...

Luke 4:20

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently.

Jesus stopped reading in the middle of the passage and closed the Scriptures.

Luke 4:21

Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Jesus was saying, "I'm the One this scripture is talking about." He was proclaiming that He Himself was the One who would bring this good news to pass. Everyone in the Synagogue gazed at Him intently.

Luke 4:22

Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

Everyone was amazed by the beautiful words that came from his lips. But they wondered how a mere carpenter's son could speak so well.

Jesus was not taken seriously in his hometown. These people had known him since he was a child. They watched him grow up, and now he was telling people He was the Messiah. They just couldn't believe.

Then the people of Nazareth were filled with anger.

Luke 4:28-29

When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. (29) Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff,



These people rejected Jesus' message and wanted to throw Jesus over the cliff and kill Him. But Jesus slipped away...

Luke 4:30

but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

If you were there that day, what could you have said or done to "stick up for" Jesus?

After this, Jesus went about 20 miles away to Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee and began a ministry of healing and teaching. [Teacher, point out the locals on the map.]

Luke 4:31-32

Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. (32) There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.

Jesus was welcomed there.

One time Jesus met a man that was filled with demons.

Luke 4:33-34

Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—cried out, shouting, (34) "Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Demons are fallen angels who have joined Satan in rebellion against God. Demons can cause a person to become mute, deaf, blind, or insane. Jesus faced many demons during His time on earth, and He always exerted authority over them. Jesus' authority is greater than Satan's; where Jesus is present, demons cannot stay.

Luke 4:35

But Jesus reprimanded him. "Be quiet! Come out of the man," he ordered. At that, the demon threw the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further.

The people were amazed at Jesus' authority to drive out demons. Not only did the evil spirit leave this man, the man was not even injured.

Luke 4:36-37

Amazed, the people exclaimed, "What authority and power this man's words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!" (37) The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region.

Have you ever had bad dreams? Those could be thoughts that come to you from Satan's demons. Evil permeates our world, and it is no wonder that people are often fearful. But Jesus' power is far greater than Satan's. The first step toward conquering fear of evil is to recognize Jesus' authority and power. He has overcome all evil, including Satan himself. All you need to do is call upon the name of Jesus and the evil will flee!

Jesus not only has authority over demons, He has authority over disease.

Luke 4:38-39

After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged. (39) Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law so completely that not only did the fever leave, but her strength was restored, and immediately she got up and took care of other's needs. What a beautiful attitude of service she showed! God gives us health so that we may serve others.

Luke 4:40

As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one.

The people came with all kinds of diseases and Jesus healed each one.

People in the towns of Nazareth and Capernaum treated Jesus very differently. The people in Nazareth became very angry. They rejected Jesus' message and wanted to kill Him. But Jesus' masterful teachings and powerful miracles caused many people in Capernaum to believe that He was the Messiah, the Savior. They welcomed him and honored Him.

Even today people have different reactions to Jesus. They either accept Him as God and welcome Him into their lives; or they reject Him and refuse to believe the truth.

What about you? Do you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior? [Teacher, review the Memory Verse.]

Closing Prayer

Father, strengthen our faith in You so that we might be willing to stand up for You even when others don't believe what we're telling them. Give us compassion in our hearts to reach out to others and to keep on loving them, just like You did, no matter if they believe in You or not. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Scrolls

Students will make scrolls to remind them that Jesus read from a scroll in Nazareth.

- Cut 8 ½ x 11 paper in half horizontally.
- Glue "sticks" (pencils, dowels, popsicle sticks, straws) to both short ends.
- Have the child write today's Memory Verse on their "scrolls".
- Roll paper up from both sides.

Game Center

Release Tag

When Jesus read the scroll, he was telling the people that God had sent Him to set the captives free. The scripture didn't mean that Jesus

came to free people from a jail. It was talking about people who were caught in sin. Sin takes away our happiness and keeps us away from God.

Jesus came to take the punishment for sin so that anyone who believes in Him can be forgiven and be made right with God.

How to play:

Identify one child to be “Jesus”. Divide the children into two teams. One team will form pairs who will attempt to “capture” a child from the other team by joining hands around that person. When “Jesus” touches a child held inside the pair, the child is set free. Once a child is set free, he or she may free other children as well. Play again, identifying a new person as “Jesus”.

Game Center

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. How did people respond to Jesus’ teachings and miracles? (Some people rejected Him; others accepted Him.)
2. What is a synagogue? (A place where Jewish families meet together to worship and study the Bible, like a church)
3. What was the name of Jesus’ home town? (Nazareth)
4. What book of the Old Testament did Jesus read from in the synagogue in Nazareth? (Vr. 17: Isaiah)
5. What happened when Jesus stopped reading the passage in Isaiah? (Vr. 20: Everyone looked at Him.)
6. Why did the people in Nazareth, Jesus’ hometown, reject Jesus’ message? (Many of the people in Nazareth were not ready to believe that Jesus was God the Son.)
7. What were the people going to do because they were upset with Jesus? (They tried to throw Him off a cliff.)
8. If you had been in Nazareth the day the mob ran Him out of town, what could you have said or done to “stick up for” Jesus?
9. In which city, Nazareth or Capernaum, was Jesus treated well? (Jesus was treated well in Capernaum.)
10. When Jesus met a man who had a demon, what did the demon cry out? (Vr. 34: I know who you are—the Holy One of God!)
11. How did the evil spirit know who Jesus was? (They knew He was the Christ.)
12. Why are demons afraid of Jesus? (His authority is greater than Satan’s.)
13. Why do you think the people of Capernaum welcomed Jesus so warmly? (He taught with authority and did many miracles among the people.)
14. What miracle did Jesus perform at Simon Peter’s house? (He made his mother-in-law well.)
15. What did Peter’s mother-in-law do when she got healed? (She served them.)
16. How does Jesus want you to respond when others reject you? (God wants us to always love others—even though they may reject us.)

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