



Use Week of:

Unit 21 • Session 2

Jesus Taught in Nazareth

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 4

STORY POINT:

Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What makes people special?
People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit ministrygrid.com/gospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His earthly 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.

After, Jesus went to the town of Nazareth, where He had grown up. Nazareth was a small village in the hills between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue to teach. 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." Jesus was saying, *It's Me*. The words Jesus read were coming true. Some people 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—even Gentiles. The people were angry about that last part. They drove Jesus away, intending to kill Him, but Jesus escaped through the crowd.

As you teach, explain that Jesus came to give sight to the blind and to set the captives free. He came preaching good news to all the people groups. Finally, the Messiah had come! Jesus was God's plan to save sinners.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Taught in Nazareth

Luke 4

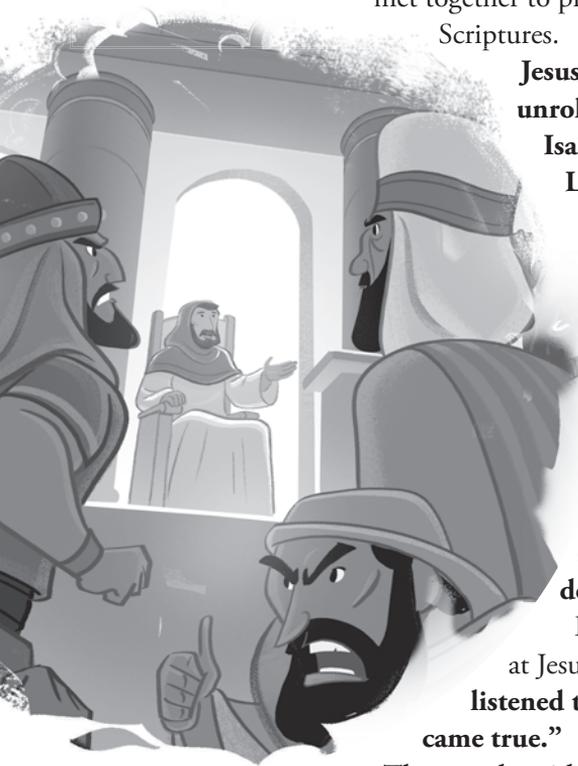
Jesus went to the town of Nazareth where He had lived when He was a boy. Now Jesus was grown. He traveled all around, teaching people about God. **On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth.** The synagogue was a special building where Jews met together to pray, worship, and learn about the Scriptures.

Jesus stood up to read Scripture. He unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and read: “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 to the attendant and sat down.

Everyone in the synagogue stared at Jesus. 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 at Him. But some of the people in Nazareth had known Jesus from His youth. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

Jesus said, “No prophet is accepted in his hometown.” Jesus told



the people about times when God used prophets to help people who were not Jews. He reminded them of 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 **the prophet 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 hated God's people.

The people in the synagogue were angry. They 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. The Messiah would bring good news and redeem people who were broken and hurting. Jesus read Isaiah's words and announced that He is the promised Messiah.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Stand and sit:** Begin the story seated. Stand when Jesus stands and sit back down when He sits.
- **Vary tone:** Speak boldly when speaking Jesus' words. Whisper the questions of the crowd.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Taught in Nazareth

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 4

STORY POINT: Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:16

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

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 about a favorite teacher they have had. What made that person a good teacher?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Who Is Jesus?" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete "Who Is Jesus?" on the activity page. Guide kids to color in the spaces with two dots to discover who Jesus said He is.

SAY • What name did you discover in the spaces? (*Messiah*)

Do you remember what the name *Messiah* means?

Explain that *Messiah* means "anointed one." In the Old Testament, prophets told about a Messiah who would come and rescue Israel. Jesus is the promised Messiah!

LOW PREP

- paper
- pencils

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Who is it?

Distribute paper and pencils. Tell kids to write their names at the bottom of their paper. Instruct each kid to write three to five sentences about herself. Consider giving prompts:

- Where were you born?
- How many people are in your family?
- What is your favorite color?
- What is your favorite thing to do?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?

Then collect the pages and read each one, allowing kids to guess who wrote the descriptions. After the group guesses, lead the kid who wrote the sentences to say, “It’s me!”

SAY • In the Bible story we will hear today, Jesus read some words from the Scriptures. Then He said that the words were about Him!

OPTION 2: Accept it or reject it

Give each kid a red and green plate. Read a statement. If kids accept the statement as true, they should hold up the green plate. If they reject it as false, they should hold up the red one. Consider adding your own statements:

- red paper plates,
1 per kid
- green paper plates,
1 per kid

- A cat spent four years serving as the ceremonial mayor of a town in Minnesota. (*false; a dog*)
- A man in Germany once grew a pumpkin that weighed more than 2,500 pounds. (*true*)
- A bat eats 3 million insects each night. (*false; 3,000*)
- Eating too many carrots can turn your skin orange. (*true*)
- Your body’s largest organ is your skin. (*true*)

SAY • When Jesus came to earth, He taught people the truth about God and His kingdom. Did everyone accept Jesus’ words as true? No. Today we will hear about a time Jesus was rejected in His hometown.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire
· disposable gloves
· stethoscope
· clipboard
· Bible

[Leader enters wearing dark pants, a solid-color shirt, disposable gloves, and a stethoscope. Leader carries a clipboard.]

LEADER • Hi there! I'm [*your name*], a paramedic within the local emergency medical system. Every day, people experience injuries or illness and need care right away. My job requires assessing and providing initial treatment for patients in various places and transporting them to the hospital when necessary. When I'm not "on the field," you might find me at a library or in a classroom, educating the public about how to prevent injuries or illnesses and what they should do in an emergency. Making the public aware of ways they can help themselves in an emergency increases their chance of survival and allows first responders to focus on the most critical patients.

Some days, being a paramedic makes me imagine what Jesus must have encountered when He was on

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

earth. He spent a lot of time healing people who were sick or injured, and He also spent a lot of time teaching people. Today, I want to tell you about something important Jesus taught about Himself.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Does anyone remember our big picture question? Here it is: *What makes people special?* Does anyone have any ideas? [Allow kids to respond.] *People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.* Now I'm going to ask the question again, and you say the answer together. *What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.* Psalm 100:3 says that the Lord made us, and we are His. God tells us who He is through His Word, the Bible.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

LEADER • The stories we've been learning about Jesus all happened early on in His ministry. Jesus came to earth and was born as a baby. **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.** We don't know a lot about Jesus when He was young but we know that **even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father's plan.**

Jesus was about 30 years old when His ministry began. **John the Baptist told people to follow Jesus.** Jesus began teaching people about God and His kingdom. In today's Bible story, Jesus taught in His hometown of Nazareth.

- Bibles
- “Jesus Taught in Nazareth” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 4. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Taught in Nazareth.”

LEADER • Nazareth was Jesus’ hometown. Remember, Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Mary and Joseph traveled there to be counted for a census. When Jesus was still young, Mary and Joseph took Him to Nazareth, and Jesus grew up there. (Matt. 2:19-22)

Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth to teach on the Sabbath. He read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. What were the words that Jesus read from the scroll? Look at Luke 4:18-19. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*]

When Jesus read these words, He said, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.” What did Jesus mean? Jesus was saying that those words Isaiah wrote were talking about Him! God chose Jesus to preach good news to the poor, to tell the captives that they are free, and to tell the blind that they can see. God promised throughout the Old Testament that a Messiah would come to rescue God’s people. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah!**

Jesus talked about the miracles some of the prophets, like Elijah and Elisha, did in the Old Testament. God had done good things for many people—not just the Jewish people. This made some of the people in the synagogue angry, and they rejected Jesus. They forced Him out of town and wanted to throw Jesus off a cliff, but Jesus walked away.

Christ connection

LEADER • Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about God’s plan to send a Messiah. The Messiah would bring good news and redeem people who were broken and hurting. Jesus read Isaiah’s words and announced that He is the promised Messiah.

Though Jesus was rejected, His ministry continued. He came to earth to save people from their sins. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment we deserve when He died on the cross. Jesus was rejected at the cross so that everyone who trusts in Him will never be rejected by God. Everyone who trusts in Him is declared righteous and has eternal life.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 189 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 21, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why Jesus was rejected in Nazareth and why people might reject Jesus today. Guide them to discuss what they love about Jesus and what questions they have about following Him.

• “Unit 21, Session 2” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Display the Las Vegas photos around the room or prepare to pass them around for kids to see. As they look, ask them to comment on some of the sites they see.

LEADER • Las Vegas, Nevada, is a busy city and a popular spot for tourists. Like many cities across the country, it’s also a city where many people choose not to follow Jesus and are living without hope. Jesus taught that He is the Messiah, but many people still don’t accept Him. Some Christians have chosen to live in

• “Las Vegas Photos” printable

Note: Kids will hear about specific missionaries in Nevada during session 3.

Las Vegas as missionaries to teach people the truth about the gospel and the hope that Jesus gives. God wants all people to turn from sin and turn to Him. Pray, asking God to bring hope to the people of Las Vegas.

Key passage (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- “In This Way (John 3:16)” song

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 3:16.

LEADER • God knew that sending His only Son to His enemies was going to be a costly mission. God loved the world, so He sent Jesus because His plan would use the death of His Son, Jesus, to rescue sinners. You see, the goal of God’s plan is to take enemies and make them His friends forever. Let’s sing. Lead boys and girls in singing “In This Way (John 3:16).”

Sing (4 minutes)

- “Jesus Messiah” song
- Bible

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 96:1-3.

LEADER • **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.** Jesus didn’t come to bring salvation only to the Jews but to all people. *What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God’s image, as male and female, to know Him.* Let’s sing. Sing together “Jesus Messiah.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, the gospel is good news! Thank You for Jesus—who releases the captives, gives sight to the blind, and frees the oppressed. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, 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. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus 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! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: 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.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes people special? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Option: Search online for motions using sign language.

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 3:16 together. Invite kids to choose motions for key words. You might suggest the following:

- *God*—point upward
- *loved*—hug yourself
- *world*—form a circle with your arms
- *gave*—hold out hands, palms upward
- *one*—hold up one finger
- *everyone*—point to other people
- *eternal life*—stretch arms outward

Practice performing the motions as you say the key passage. Practice several times.

SAY • When He came to earth, **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.** Jesus brings good news and redeems people who are broken and hurting. God loves us and wants us to know and love Him.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Story Point Poster
• Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 4. Explain that more than half of the stories found in Luke are not found in Matthew; Mark; or John. Luke

was a doctor who wrote from eyewitness testimony to show that Jesus is both fully God and fully man, and He came to save all people—both Jews and Gentiles. Choose a volunteer to read Luke 4:21-22.

SAY • Jesus was in His hometown of Nazareth. [*Point to Nazareth (E5) on the New Testament Israel Map.*] Some of the people in the synagogue remembered Jesus from when He was a boy. They were surprised by Jesus' teaching. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What made Jesus different than other religious teachers? *Lead kids to recall that Jesus spoke with authority. He is the Word (John 1:1) and did not rely on tradition or other people to explain Scripture. Jesus came from heaven and is Lord over all things. He is God the Son and the promised Messiah.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 28:18.)
2. Jesus' promise to help everyone, no matter where they were from, upset the people in Nazareth. What does this tell you about God's heart and man's heart? *Help kids recognize that God loves all people. God's heart is full of mercy and love. Apart from Jesus, man's heart is full of envy, pride, and selfishness.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:3-4.)
3. Will Jesus always answer our prayers for healing? Why or why not? *Acknowledge that sin causes pain and suffering. Sometimes God chooses to answer our prayers for healing and restoration; other times He seems silent. We don't always understand God's plan, but He is good and one day He will make all things right.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Dan. 3:17-18.)

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

- “Las Vegas Photos” printable
- poster board (cut into smaller pieces) or construction paper
- colorful chenille stems (preferably in neon colors)
- glue

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

LOW PREP

- sticky notes
- marker

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Make a sign

Show the Las Vegas photos to kids. Point out the neon signs and colorful lights in the city.

SAY • Las Vegas is full of neon signs that mark popular tourist spots, restaurants, and hotels. Missionaries go into this busy city with all the neon lights to tell people about Jesus and start churches. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.** Let’s make our own neon sign to let others know that we follow Jesus!

Distribute the supplies and direct kids to form the letters for *JESUS* with chenille stems and glue it to poster board or construction paper. Encourage them to hang their “neon sign” in their room or in a window. They might also ask their parents if they can display it in the car window this week. Encourage kids to share the love of Jesus every day.

OPTION 2: *Welcome* hunt

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.

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

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking Jesus for inviting everyone into God’s family even though people rejected Jesus.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “Trace the Travels” on the activity page. Kids should look up each Bible reference to find where Jesus traveled. Then mark Jesus’ journey on the map.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- “Trace the Travels” activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week’s *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.