



UNIT 21 | SESSION 2

PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY JESUS

LUKE 4

KEY PASSAGE:

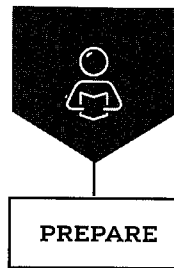
Hebrews 11:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

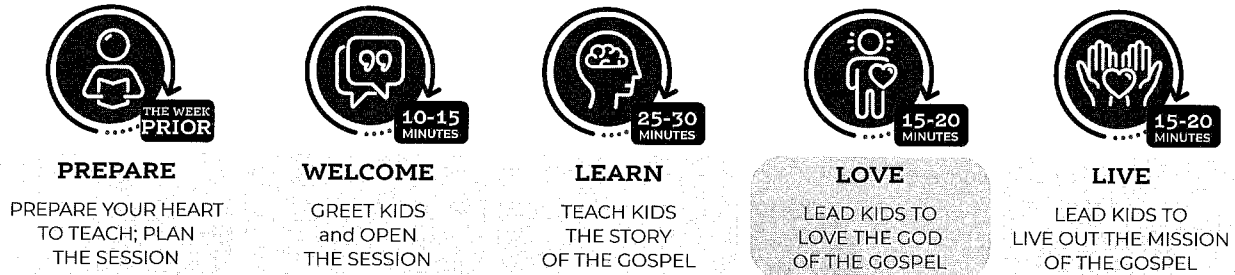
How can we be saved? We are only saved through faith in Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus' miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. His miracles strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

"I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how he could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean." These words from Charles Hutchinson Gabriel's classic hymn "My Savior's Love" have been sung and treasured for more than a century. When Gabriel first released this song in a 1905 hymnbook, it served as a reminder to the church of the deep love of God, His work through Christ, His presence in all circumstances, and their cause for celebration and amazement.

In all the rich truths of the five stanzas of this great hymn, the first line may be most striking: "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene." Why? Because it reminds us of the unfathomable reality that we are able to stand in the presence of God by no other means than God's gracious work through Jesus. Paul reinforced this idea in his Acts 17 address at the Areopagus: "For in him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.'" (Acts 17:28)

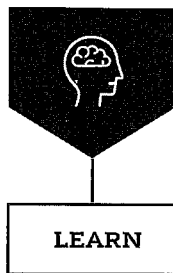
What causes you amazement? What brings a sense of awe? Are you guilty of being captivated by a sunset but being indifferent to the Savior? Are you left breathless by the miracle of new life, only to be largely unaware of the miracle of sustained life?

We rightly experience moments of wonder as we witness some of the incredible ways that God works in our lives; however, we often miss the everyday opportunities for amazement of the same degree.

This week, set your mind to remember that gift of God's grace found in being able to stand in the presence of God because of the work of Christ applied to you. Take time to remember the gracious gift of God's sustaining power in your life—keeping breath in your lungs, relationships in your life, and function to every other part of your being. Stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, who sustains your very life and has cast such incredible love on an undeserving sinner.

PLACES TO KNOW

Capernaum: city on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee that served as an economic center for fishing and farming



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "People Were Amazed by Jesus." Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY JESUS

Jesus traveled to Capernaum (kuh PUHR nay uhm) with His disciples Simon, Andrew, James, and John. He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. The people there were very surprised at His teaching. Jesus' teaching was not like the scribes' teaching. He spoke with authority.

Just then, a man with an unclean spirit shouted, "What do You have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus commanded the spirit to be quiet and come out of the man. The spirit yelled again and then came out.

Everyone was amazed! "Who is this Jesus?" they asked. "He teaches with authority, and the unclean spirits obey Him!" News about Jesus spread quickly throughout all of Galilee.

Next, Jesus and His disciples went to Simon and Andrew's house. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her hand, and healed her. She got up and began to serve them. That evening, large crowds of people came to the house with others who were sick or bothered by evil spirits, and Jesus healed them.

Early the next morning, Jesus went out by Himself to pray. Simon and the other disciples found Him and said, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus said, "Let's go on to the nearby villages so I can preach there too. This is why I have come."

Christ Connection: Jesus' miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. His miracles strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. ¶¶

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use expression: Consider using facial expressions while teaching the story to demonstrate and emphasize emotion.

Take a snapshot: Encourage kids to "take a photo" with their hands when they hear something in the story that was amazing.