

UNIT 21 | SESSION 1

PEOPLE REJECTED JESUS

LUKE 4

KEY PASSAGE:

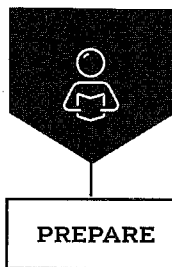
Hebrews 11:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus read Isaiah's words and announced that He is the promised Messiah. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus because of their unbelief. God invites us to trust in His Son, Jesus. Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS and OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

Some have described the journey of walking with Jesus as one of highs and lows, mountain tops and valleys. Even as a believer, there are good days and bad days. There are times when remaining faithful comes easy. There are days when doors open for sharing the gospel and other days when a door is slammed shut.

Two truths remain in every moment of every day for the believer: God remains faithful, and Jesus has been there.

In the highs and the lows, God is faithful. He is present and active in all circumstances. He is involved and working out His plans in all things. There is not a moment of past, present, or future that God is not intricately involved in. And in addition to this, He is working for our good and His glory in all things. He has promised to not leave or forsake those who trust in Him.

The believer can also find great hope in knowing that when we are tempted, rejected, or discouraged, Jesus Himself has been there. In Luke 4, we find Jesus experiencing the high of widescale praise and affirmation at His teaching followed immediately by a gut-wrenching dismissal by those in His own hometown.

After Jesus taught in the synagogues of Galilee, news of His teaching spread and

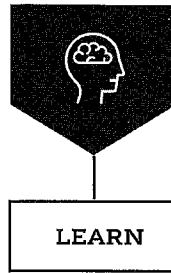
people gathered to hear from Him. They praised Him as He read from the Scriptures. But the response He found upon entering Nazareth was quite different.

Jesus stood up to read from the scroll of Isaiah and teach how the Scriptures pointed to Himself. Rather than being received with praise, He was questioned. Though they were amazed at the power of Jesus' words, they doubted that Jesus—the son of Joseph who had grown up among them—could be the Savior of the world. They became even more enraged by His claims as Jesus confronted their unbelief with His unwillingness to perform signs, and His desire to take the good news to all people. Jesus' next stop? Capernaum to share the same message.

Some people will accept Jesus, but many will reject Him. Regardless of how people respond to the gospel, believers can find encouragement in knowing Jesus remains faithful to His purpose and plan. In our highs and in our lows, we can find comfort in the Lord's presence with us.

PLACES TO KNOW

Nazareth: a small village located in lower Galilee about halfway between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. This hometown of Jesus did not have a good reputation. (John 1:46)



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 Rejected Jesus.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

PEOPLE REJECTED JESUS

☞ Jesus went to the town of Nazareth where He had lived when He was a boy. 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. They expected the Messiah to be someone else.**

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: Jesus read Isaiah’s words and announced that He is the promised Messiah. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus because of their unbelief. God invites us to trust in His Son, Jesus. Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners. ☞

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use movement: Act out the movements of Jesus as you tell the story such as walking to the synagogue, unrolling the scroll standing up to read, rolling up the scroll, etc.

Display emotions: Draw an amazed face on one side of a piece of paper and an angry face on the other side. Hold up the amazed face when you tell how the people were first amazed at Jesus’ words. Then hold up the angry face when they reject Jesus.