

Go Deeper 23 October 2022 - Luke 4 - Jesus at a distance

There is more than enough here for groups, so please pick the parts that will work best for your group.

Q1. "Spot the Similarity" - Chapter 4 has been likened to the Gospel in miniature, as many themes in the gospel weave through this chapter. How many can you spot?

Hints - Think about:

- Elements of the story: places, events, objects, people, etc.
- Doctrines (what we believe): Authority of Old Testament, who Jesus is, the kingdom of God, life, death and resurrection, prophecy, etc.

Q2. Jesus Manifesto - Spend most of your time together focussing on Jesus incredible manifesto in v18 and 19. Discuss each line in turn and use it to ask questions like:

1. What does this mean?
2. What is it saying to you? Are there areas where you are holding Jesus at arms length, for your own reasons? Looking at these verses, recognise God's love and goodness in these verses. Are you prepared to let him be good news for you in that area?
3. What do I feel prompted to respond to for others – what am I going to do about it? For example, 'good news to the poor, might be encouraging someone who is struggling a bit currently (poor in spirit), it might be stacking shelves at the Foodbank, or supporting a charity working with vulnerable people.

As part of this discussion, you can include some time of quiet reflection, taking time to meditate on the lines from Isaiah in v18 and 19 for 5 mins and then feedback what struck you. You could even play the **Jesus at a distance** song by the band Casting Crowns (available on various websites, like you tube [YouTube - Jesus at a distance with lyrics](#) and Spotify [Spotify.Jesus at distance](#))

Go Deeper – Further reading (Optional)

"Jesus returned to Nazareth"

The butt of regional jokes, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" That question by Nathaniel seems to imply this is a place of self-doubt and economic backwardness. So, Jesus moves to bring faith and hope to a place of doubt and unbelief. Are you open to him doing this with you? Are there other people you could do this for this week, help bring faith to places of doubt?

"As was his custom"

He went to church on his rest day – it was a habit, part of his routine. If Jesus did it, that speaks powerfully to us too. He went to church and got involved. He used His gifts, he allowed himself to be led by the spirit and so shared messages of hope and transformation. He wasn't there just to 'look and listen'. That speaks to us about how we can be blessed by serving others and also of healthy habits that promote health, wellbeing and closeness to God.

"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Jesus is fully God and fully man - The third straight piece of evidence in Luke that he is the Son of God in three stories in a row. 1st the boy Jesus about his Father's business. Then the baptism, where people hear the voice of God saying, "This is my son, in whom I'm well pleased". Now, he takes a scripture from the Old Testament and points to the messianic prophecy saying, "That's me."

"Unrolling it, he found the place"

Each time Jesus engages with scripture powerful things happened. Debating scripture as a boy in the temple – confounding religious leaders. Here in Nazareth, as we're looking at. Another time is on the Road to Emmaus – "And he opened the scriptures to them..." and they later testified, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as we talked on the Road?!" In revelation scrolls and books of judgement and justice are opened. One day a book will be opened in heaven – the Lambs book of life. The names of those who God is calling to heaven are written there. Is your name written there?