

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 God made us in His own image.

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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

Jesus was about 30 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 lived when He was a young boy. Now Jesus was grown up. He traveled all around and taught people about God.

On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue.

The synagogue was a building where Jews met together to pray, worship God, and learn about the Scriptures. One of the

ways people worshiped God was by listening to God's Word.

Jesus stood up to read God's Word. He opened a scroll. The scroll had words on it from the prophet Isaiah long ago. Jesus read: "God's Spirit 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 help the blind people see, to free people who have been treated badly, and to announce that God's favor is on us."

Then Jesus rolled up the scroll.

He gave it to a man who worked in the synagogue, and then He sat down. The

people in the synagogue stared at Jesus, waiting for Him to say something. Jesus said, "These words came true today."

Yes, Isaiah's words came true because Isaiah's words were about Jesus! God was with Jesus, and God had chosen Jesus to tell people good



news. Many of the people in the synagogue were happy. Jesus was saying wonderful things!

Jesus knew the people in Nazareth would not accept Him. “No prophet is accepted in his hometown,” He said. Jesus told the people about times when God used prophets to help people who were not Jews. **When Jesus was done talking, the people were angry. They made Jesus leave Nazareth.** They wanted to hurt Jesus, but Jesus walked away.

Christ Connection: Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet talked about God’s plan to send a Messiah to earth. Jesus is the One God promised to send. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Sign Jesus:** Show preschoolers how to sign *Jesus* by tapping the middle finger of one hand to the center palm of the other hand, and vice versa. Encourage children to listen for the name *Jesus* in the Bible story and sign it every time they hear it.
- **Read from a scroll:** Print the Bible story on a long piece of paper before the session. Open and unroll the scroll and read the story.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.

Welcome time

- “Take It to the Lord” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “The Name of Jesus” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Write the letters *J-E-S-U-S* where everyone can see. Help children find these letters in the scroll and color them in.
SAY • Good job finding the letters *J-E-S-U-S* on the scroll! That spells *Jesus*. In our Bible story today, Jesus read from a scroll of the Bible that was about Him, even though His name was not actually written in it. We’ll learn more in our Bible story today!

LOW PREP

- Bible
- offering basket (optional)

Play church

Encourage preschoolers to act out a worship service. Give each child a job such as welcoming others, “reading” the Bible, singing, praying, “preaching,” taking up offering, and so forth. Provide guidance as necessary, but encourage independent role-playing.

SAY • Thank you for leading that worship service for us! Meeting together to worship God is the best part of

my week. Did you know that Jesus met with other Jews to worship God once a week, too? He even helped in the service by reading Scripture!

Remember when ...

Print and cut apart the “Matching Cards” printable. Lay the pictures in a grid: facedown for older preschoolers, faceup for younger preschoolers. Allow children to take turns choosing two cards to find a match. Read the Bible story description on each card as matches are found.

- “Matching Cards” printable
- scissors (adult use)

SAY • Do you remember when we learned about Isaiah the prophet? That was a long time ago! Isaiah wrote about Jesus a long time before Jesus was born. But God showed Isaiah that Jesus would heal people, which we heard a little about last week. Jesus grew up listening to God’s Word read from scrolls, like Isaiah’s prophecies and the story about Elijah helping a widow in another country. But when Jesus was grown and reminded people in His hometown about these stories, they got mad. We will learn why in our Bible story today!

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Challenge preschoolers to close their eyes and be led by the hand to Bible study. Children who do not wish to walk blindly may help guide others.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Luke 4 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Who's ready for another true story from God's Word? Where do we read God's words? In the Bible! Today's story about Jesus' life comes from the Gospel of Luke. Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jesus Taught in Nazareth" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Jesus traveled around to teach people about God. When He got to the town where He grew up, **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.** *Messiah* means anointed one. Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet talked about God's plan to send a Messiah to earth. Jesus is the one God promised to send. People in Nazareth were angry at some of the things Jesus said. They didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah, but Jesus brings good news to all people.

Practice the key passage

Before the session, write each phrase of the key passage on a strip of paper. Place the strips all throughout a Bible. Place the key passage marker at John 3:16. Invite a child to open the Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Allow children to take turns removing the strips from your Bible. Place the strips in order as preschoolers find them.

SAY • The whole Bible teaches us about God’s plan to send a Messiah. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah**, the one God promised to send. Our key passage explains how Jesus saves us like God promised!

Sing the key passage song, “For God Loved the World,” and the theme song, “Take It to the Lord.”

- Bible
- paper
- scissors (adult use)
- marker
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “For God Loved the World (John 3:16)” song
- “Take It to the Lord” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Jesus brought good news and helped people who were hurting. *What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.* Our sin messes up God’s image in us, but **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah** who came to make us look like God again!

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Display the “Las Vegas” pictures. Invite children to pretend to take a trip to see the city of Las Vegas, Nevada.

SAY • Many people in Las Vegas do not choose to follow Jesus. They do not understand that He is the Messiah who came to forgive sin. Missionaries live in cities like Las Vegas so they can tell the people who live there about Jesus. Let’s pray for believers in the city.

- “Las Vegas” printable
- tape

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.

LOW PREP

- Bible
- paper
- marker

Decide true or false

Place a Bible at one end of the room and a large *X* drawn on paper at the other end. Tell preschoolers that you will say something, and if they think it is a truth from God's Word, they should move to the Bible. If they think you've said something false, they should move to the *X*. Encourage preschoolers to return to the middle of the room between statements. Use the following statements or create your own:

- Isaiah's words were not about Jesus. (*false*)
 - **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.** (*true*)
 - God sent Jesus to make poor people rich. (*false*)
 - Jesus came to tell good news to people who were hurting. (*true*)
 - Only good people are special to God. (*false*)
 - All ***people are special because God made us in His own image.*** (*true*)
- SAY** • Good job deciding what was true and what was false! Knowing what God's Word says is important so we can know when someone is saying something that is not true. When **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah**, people in Nazareth did not think He was telling the truth. But He was! Jesus is the one God promised to send.

Make a gospel necklace

Print enough copies of the “Gospel Necklace” printable, so each child has a set of the four icons. Cut or punch out one of each icon for each preschooler. Use a hole punch to punch out the black circles on either side of each icon. Cut 1 and 1/2-foot of yarn for each preschooler and wrap the ends with tape to prevent fraying. Help preschoolers thread each icon onto a strand of yarn as you explain that part of the gospel plan poster. Allow preschoolers to add beads to their necklace as desired. Tie the ends of the yarn together for children to wear their necklaces. Encourage them to practice explaining what each icon means.

SAY • Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet wrote that Jesus would bring good news to people who were hurting. The greatest news ever is that God sent Jesus to save us! Our key passage tells us so. [*Review the key passage briefly.*] This news is called the gospel, and it’s what we just learned as we made our necklaces. These necklaces can help us remember and share the gospel with other people! ***What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.*** Everyone needs to hear the good news of God’s love for them.

- Gospel Plan Poster
- “Gospel Necklace” printable, 1 for every 6 children
- scissors or 1 ½-inch circle punch (adult use)
- hole punch
- yarn
- clear tape
- beads (optional)

Guess the shadow

Hang or ask another leader to hold up a large white piece of paper or sheet in front of a bright light. Invite children to sit on the other side of the paper. Hold an object in front of the light, slowly moving the object closer to the screen to make the shadow more distinct. Encourage children to guess the object making the shadow. Reveal the object and play again. Allow children to create the shadows, if desired.

- large white piece of paper or sheet
- tape
- bright light, such as a flashlight or lamp
- classroom objects

SAY • When Isaiah heard God’s plan to send a Messiah, it was kind of like seeing a shadow from far away. Isaiah didn’t know exactly what Jesus would be like, but he still understood a lot about Him. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah** whom Isaiah had written about long before. Finally people could see clearly the one God had promised to send!

Browse biographies

- pictorial biographies
- Bible storybooks

Tip: Be sure to avoid fiction books.

Set out pictorial biographies and other children’s books with Bible storybooks. Consider checking out biographies from your local library if possible. Challenge preschoolers to find a book about themselves. After it becomes obvious that children will not find a book about themselves, challenge them to find a book about Jesus.

SAY • Wow, look at all the books we have about Jesus! Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet and many other people wrote about God’s plan to send a Messiah to earth. When Jesus read God’s Word in Isaiah’s scroll, He said the Scripture was about Himself. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**



Make neon signs

- “Las Vegas” printable
- neon chenille craft stems
- poster board
- glue or tape
- markers

Display the “Las Vegas” pictures. Point out the neon signs. Help preschoolers make crosses with neon chenille stems. Attach the crosses to poster board. Display the sign in your room or in a hallway at church.

SAY • Las Vegas is full of neon signs that tell people where they can find hotels and restaurants. Our neon signs tell people where they can find life with God forever! Let’s pray for missionaries who are telling people about Jesus in Las Vegas and around the world.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve tortillas or cheese singles for snack. Encourage children to roll up their snack like a scroll before eating. Talk about how Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah when He went to the synagogue in Nazareth. Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet wrote about God's plan to send a Messiah to earth. **Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Which Old Testament prophet wrote the scroll that Jesus read from? (*Isaiah*)
2. When did Isaiah write these words? (*long before Jesus was born*)
3. What did Jesus teach about the Messiah? (**Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.**)
4. How did the people of Nazareth respond to Jesus? (*They were angry.*)
5. ***What makes people special? People are special because God made us in His own image.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- tortillas (optional)
- cheese singles (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "For God Loved the World (John 3:16)" song
- "Take It to the Lord" song
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*