

## Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

Luke 4

**Did Jesus ever sin?**  
No, Jesus never sinned.

"But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin."  
1 John 3:5

### Story Point:

Jesus taught that He is the Messiah.



### PREPARE HEARTS

- Welcome - Who Does Jesus Say He Is?
- Starter Activity - Build a Story



### ACTIVATE HEARTS

- 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- Review and discuss the Bible Story
- Reflection and Prayer
- Questions from Kids Video



### ENGAGE HEARTS

- Key Passage Activity - Scroll Challenge
- Group Craft - Scroll and Tell
- Group Activity - Find the Truth Challenge

## SHEPHERD GUIDE

At the beginning of this week's Bible story, the people's eyes were fixed on Jesus, hanging onto His every word. At the end of the story, however, they were so angry at Jesus they planned on throwing Him off a cliff to shut Him up. What happened to trigger such an abrupt change in the people's attitude toward Jesus?

For Jesus' neighbors in Nazareth, it was a mix of pride and disbelief. The Jews had no problem when Jesus followed their customs by reading a scroll in their synagogue on the Sabbath. But when Jesus began to show how the Old Testament pointed to Him, the people began to murmur and doubt. How could the man they had seen grow up on their streets be the expected Messiah?

What's more, Jesus began sharing scriptural examples of times when God's people rejected His blessings and when grace and mercy were applied to Gentiles (non-Jews). This was the tipping point for those listening to Jesus, as they were appalled at the idea that God's blessings were not theirs by default due to their ancestry.

This story offers two lessons to today's listeners. First, we are not in God's family because we go to church, live in a certain area, or have family members who love Jesus. Help kids see that each person must respond to the gospel individually with faith and repentance. It is only by grace through faith that we are saved.


Secondly, Jesus is a polarizing presence in a lost world. In today's story we quickly see a fascination with Jesus turn into hatred of Him. This echoes Jesus' words elsewhere in Scripture that "anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30). Help kids see that there is no neutral ground when it comes to considering Jesus. Every person must decide to either reject Him or worship Him as Lord.

Consider sharing with kids the turning point in your life when you saw Jesus for who He really is and responded in faith and repentance. Help kids see that Jesus really is the loving Messiah who came to redeem, forgive, and restore our relationship with God.

**REMINDER:** Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- \*KNOW that Jesus is the promised Messiah from the Old Testament.
- \*ACCEPT Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- \*SHARE Jesus' love with those around them.



*As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.*

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc. When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.  
\*Pen Pal Kit!!*



### PREPARE HEARTS

#### OPENING QUESTIONS:

### WELCOME

#### Word Search

- Activity page
- pencils
- markers

**In what city were you born? Do you still live there, or have you moved?**

Invite kids to complete the "Word Search" activity page.

You guys did a great job finding the words in the word search. Listen closely for those words in our session today as we learn that JESUS TAUGHT THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.



### STARTER

#### Build a Story

- Bible Timeline Cards

Pass out the Bible timeline cards to volunteers. Explain that together you will be creating the Big Story of the Bible.

Start by asking if anyone thinks they have the very beginning of the story (Creation). Have that child come up and hold their card to make the beginning of a line. Continue on seeing if the children can figure out which part of the story comes next. Line up the children/cards in order as you go until you get to Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

#### Cards and Order:

Creation

Fall

Noah and the Flood

Abraham Issac and Jacob

Slavery in Egypt

Exodus and Red Sea

Wilderness Wanderings

Joshua and the Promised Land Battles

Judges

First 3 Kings

Divided Kingdoms and Prophets

Exile and Return

400 Years of Silence

Jesus is Born

Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection

**SAY:** We each contributed part of one big story. All the stories in the Bible are part of one big story about our need for a Savior and Jesus coming to rescue people from sin. Today we will learn that JESUS TAUGHT THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.



## ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in LG2

### BIBLE STORY:

#### Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

**Did Jesus ever sin?** No, Jesus never sinned.

Open your Bible to Luke 4.

#### STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

**Read aloud:** Consider printing the words of Isaiah onto a piece of paper and roll it up like a scroll. As you read, pick a kid to stand and read the scroll aloud as Jesus would have done.

**Picture it:** Use a search-engine image search to find a picture to show the kids of the remains of a Jewish synagogue that have been recovered by archaeologists in the town of Gamla.

**Old Scrolls:** In Bible times, Scripture was written on scrolls, which were kept in places like synagogues. Leaders in the synagogue could read and teach from these scrolls. Consider using an online image search to show a picture of early biblical scrolls.

**Fickle Feelings:** In our lesson today, we will learn that the people were amazed by Jesus' message, but something also made them very angry. Challenge kids to listen carefully for the different emotions and show those emotions with their facial expressions.

While Jesus was traveling through Galilee, He came to the city of Nazareth, where He had grown up. He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, as He did every week. He stood up to read and was given a scroll that contained the writings of the prophet Isaiah. Here is what He read:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because He has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me  
to proclaim release to those in prison  
and to give sight to the blind  
to set free those in oppression,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was looking at Jesus as He said, “Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled.” Jesus was claiming that Isaiah was talking about Him!

Everyone was amazed by the way Jesus was talking. But they also said, “Isn't He Joseph’s son?” The people had known Jesus since He was a boy, and they wondered how Isaiah’s words could be about Him.

Then Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown. But I say to you, there were many widows living during the time Elijah was serving God as a prophet. At that time, there was no rain for three years and six months, and many people were starving and in need of food. Yet Elijah was only sent to save one woman who was not from Israel.” Jesus also said, “And in the time of the prophet Elisha, many people suffered from leprosy. But only one man was cleansed: Naaman the Syrian.”

This made the people in the synagogue very angry. They chased Jesus out of town and planned on throwing Him over a cliff! But Jesus passed through the crowd and went on His way.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

All people sin and need a Savior, but not everyone will believe in Jesus. Only those who believe the good news about Jesus and repent will be rescued from sin and death.



### REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

As Jesus was traveling the region of Galilee, He went to His hometown to preach. **Where was Jesus' hometown?** [Allow responses.] Correct, Nazareth was Jesus' hometown. **What did Jesus tell the people as He taught in the synagogue?** [Allow responses.] Jesus taught the people that He is the Messiah, the long-awaited Savior the Old Testament prophets had spoken of.

**What happened when Jesus shared this message with His hometown community?** [Allow responses.] Jesus was rejected, and they attempted to kill Him. The people of Nazareth were very angry at the message Jesus brought. We shouldn't allow the fear of rejection to keep us from sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus. Even if we feel rejected, we must remember that people are really rejecting the message we are bringing. And even though rejection may happen, we have planted seeds of truth that may one day grow into belief.

All people sin and need a Savior, but not everyone will believe in Jesus. Only those who believe the good news about Jesus and repent will be rescued from sin and death.



## Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

*That God is faithful - he kept His promise to send a Savior. God is also loving and patient, even when people reject Him. Jesus is also brave and obedient, doing what is right even when it is hard.*

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

*That I can choose to follow Jesus or not. That I can choose to trust that Jesus is in control. That I can show my belief in Jesus by talking to him in prayer, worshiping with other Christians, and showing the love of Jesus in how I treat others and listen and obey His commands.*

**Pray together:** *Jesus, thank You for showing us that You are the Messiah. Help us believe in You, even when others don't. We praise You for Your power, love, and never-ending kingdom. Grow our faith and teach us to trust You more each day. You are worthy of all our worship. Amen.*



## Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 22, Session 2" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Why do some people believe in Jesus, but not others?
- What does it mean to repent of our sin?



## ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 John 3:5

### Key Passage Activity:

#### Scroll Challenge

- Key Passage Poster
- Scroll print-out
- Sticky notes with words from verse

**SAY:** Jesus revealed that He is the Messiah. Through His ministry, Jesus came to introduce a new kingdom that will never end! Let's learn more about this in our key passage.

Divide the class into groups of 4. Give each group a scroll print out and set of sticky notes. Have them arrange the sticky notes on their scroll in the correct order of the verse.



## Scroll and Tell

- Bibles
- Brown paper bags
- Markers
- String
- Stickers

Have each child get a Bible. Pass out a brown paper bag to each child. (Bags will be pre-cut to open up). Pass out markers and string.

Look up Isaiah 61:1-3 and write Isaiah 61:1 on the whiteboard. Talk about how the prophet Isaiah wrote these words about Jesus way before Jesus was actually born! Jesus was reading what was written about him but no one believed him. God had a plan to redeem His people and Jesus was teaching that He was and is the Messiah. God's plan of salvation was coming together as Jesus read this scroll.

Have the children make their own scroll. (Sample will be in the bin)

Have them open up their paper bag and copy the verse from the board onto the bag.

Once they write it, let them flip the bag over and decorate the other side with stickers, drawings, etc. Then have them roll up the scroll and tie it shut with the piece of string.



## Find the Truth Challenge

- Bibles
- Card with scrambled code
- Cards with scripture references
- Pencils
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Divide the class into small groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a scrambled code. Have them work together to unscramble the words to complete Psalm 33:4.

Scrambled Code - **For the word of the Lord is right and true. - Psalm 33:4**

orf het rdwo fo eht dolr si girht dan erut.  
mspal 33:4

Once they complete their code, have them raise their hand and trade it for a card with a scripture reference. Have them find the verse in their Bibles. Once everyone has found their verse, have them draw a picture of what it means on the back of their card.

Once every group is done, have a volunteer from each group read it aloud to the class. Discuss the meaning of each verse together.

**SAY:** Today we will learn about a man who was searching for truth and found the truth in Jesus. I cannot wait to share the rest of the story with you.