

## Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 4:14-30

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus said God's Word is about Him.

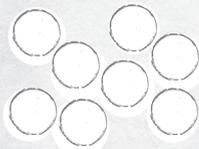
**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

### SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15-20 MINUTES)

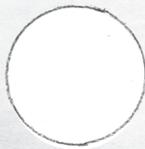
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### LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10-15 MINUTES)

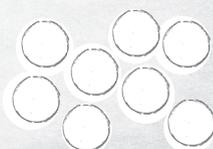
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### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20-25 MINUTES)

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## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His 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.

Jesus began teaching in the synagogues. He went to the town of Nazareth. Nazareth was a small village in the hills between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. This was where Jesus grew up.

On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue. 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." What was Jesus saying? Jesus was saying, *It's Me*. The words Jesus read were coming true. Some of the people might have 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. 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.



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# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use a podium:** Stand at a podium to tell the story or invite volunteers to stand at the podium and act out the story as you tell it. Encourage a few preschoolers to smile and be happy about Jesus' words, but most of the group should make faces to show anger.
- **Visit the worship center:** Visit the sanctuary or worship center if it is not in use. Take turns standing on the stage or at the pulpit. Hold a Bible and say the key passage before telling the Bible story.

## Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

*Luke 4:14-30*

**Jesus went to the town of Nazareth.** Nazareth was special to Jesus. **He grew up there as 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 special building where Jews met together to pray, worship, and learn about the Scriptures. **The Sabbath was a special day when God's people would rest. On that day, all the Jews went to the synagogue to worship God. One of the ways people worshiped God was by listening to God's Word.**

At the synagogue, **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 the words: "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 the scroll 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 Jesus to earth. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting. Jesus read Isaiah’s words. Jesus said that He is the One God promised to send.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Jesus read the scroll as usual (Luke 4:16), and Jesus told the people that they had witnessed the prophecy’s fulfillment. (Luke 4:21) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 4:14-30

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus said God's Word is about Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

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## Welcome time

- "That's What Jesus Did" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit 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

- "Match the Bibles" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Invite preschoolers to look carefully at the pictures of Bibles. Guide them to draw lines to connect matching Bibles.

**SAY** • In today's Bible story, Jesus read a Bible scroll at the synagogue, or church. The words in the Bible scroll are some of the same words that are in our Bibles today. Jesus told the people that the words He read in the Bible scroll were about Him. Listen to find out what people thought when they heard what Jesus said.

A circular icon with a dark background and a white border. Inside the circle, the words "LOW PREP" are written in white, uppercase letters. The icon is tilted slightly to the right.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Posters from previous sessions
- "That's What Jesus Did" song (optional)
- "John 14:6" song (optional)

## Pass the Bible

Gather preschoolers to sit in a circle. Play the unit theme song or the key passage song as preschoolers pass a Bible around the circle. Pause the music. Invite the child holding

the Bible when the music stops to tell the group something he remembers about Jesus. Review previous sessions' Bible stories. Show Bible story pictures to help a child recall previous weeks' information or simply ask a child to repeat the big picture question and answer. Continue playing as time permits.

**SAY** • What great memories you all have! You remembered many things about Jesus. *Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.*

## Create a class Bible scroll

Give each child a sheet of paper and markers. Encourage boys and girls to draw pictures of Bible stories that they can recall. Suggest stories as needed and praise efforts. For younger preschoolers, consider providing past Bible story pictures preschoolers may glue to the scroll. Tape papers together end-to-end and create a large Bible scroll. Roll up the scroll. Save it for use during large group Bible study.

**SAY** • Every story in the Bible is true. Every part of the Bible helps us understand God's plan to send Jesus to earth. Jesus read from a Bible scroll in the synagogue, or church. Some of the people were happy to hear Jesus' words, but other people became angry.

- paper
- markers
- tape
- past Bible story pictures (optional)
- glue stick (optional)

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Suggest preschoolers smile as they move to Bible study like some of the people did when they heard Jesus' words.

- countdown video (optional)

# Large Group LEADER

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## Introduce the Bible story

- scroll from small group opening

Gather preschoolers and unroll the Bible scroll created earlier, identifying different Bible stories drawn by the boys and girls. Point to the timeline map and review the Bible stories preschoolers have learned in previous weeks.

**SAY** • All of these stories from the Bible help us understand that God sent His Son, Jesus. In today's Bible story, Jesus went to the synagogue, or church. He stood in front of the people and He read from a Bible scroll.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- bookmark
- Bible
- "Jesus Rejected in Nazareth" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

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

**SAY** • We will read from the Bible today like Jesus did. The Bible is the most important book there is because it has God's true words. Today's Bible story is from Luke. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Turn in the Bible to Isaiah 61:1 Invite a child to touch it.

**SAY** • This is the place in our Bible that is the same as the Bible scroll that Jesus read to the people. He was talking about Himself when He read these words.

### **Jesus said God's Word is about Him.**

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Where did all the Jews go to worship God on the Sabbath day? (*the synagogue*)
2. Jesus said Isaiah's words in the Bible scroll were about whom? (*Jesus, Himself*)
3. Some people were happy to hear Jesus' words; how did many other people who heard Jesus' words feel? (*Many people were angry.*)
4. Were the angry people able to hurt Jesus? (*No, Jesus walked away.*)

## **Learn the big picture question**

**SAY** • Isaiah the prophet talked about God's plan to send Jesus long before Jesus was born. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting. Jesus said that He is the One God promised to send. ***Who did Jesus say that He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.***

• Big Picture Question Poster

## **Practice the key passage**

Open your Bible to John 14:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "John 14:6" song.

• Key Passage Poster  
• "John 14:6" song

**SAY** • Jesus is the truth. The words Jesus read from the Bible scroll were about Him. Jesus showed that His coming made God's words happen.

## **Transition to small groups**

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

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• tape

## Play “Stop and Go”

Play this variation of “Red Light, Green Light.” Tape lines on the floor to indicate a starting and finish line. Gather preschoolers behind the starting line while you stand at the finish line. Instruct boys and girls to begin walking toward you whenever you show a happy, smiling face. Tell them to stop and freeze whenever you show an angry, frowning face. Play several times, allowing volunteers to be the leader as time permits.

**SAY** • After Jesus read God's words from Isaiah, some people were happy, but some of the people became angry when **Jesus said God's Word is about Him.** Jesus said that He is the One that God promised to send to help people who were hurting.

## Find the Bible

Gather an assortment of Bibles and place them in plain sight around the room. Choose one volunteer at a time to find a Bible matching a certain description. Assist preschoolers as needed. Return each Bible to where it was after following each direction. Use the following directions or create your own.

• Bibles

Tip: Make sure the Bibles match the descriptions in the directions.

- Find a Bible with a picture of Jesus inside. What is Jesus doing?
- Find the Bible we used while hearing the Bible story today. Who does the Bible tell us about?
- Find a Bible with some red letters inside. These show words that Jesus said.
- Find any Bible. Is this Bible true?
- Find a Bible with a bookmark in it. Say the key passage together.
- Find a Bible that is black. Show preschoolers where Isaiah 61:1-2 is in the Bible and read it aloud.
- Find a Bible that has many colors on the cover. Show preschoolers where Luke 4:14-30 is in the Bible and read verses 18 and 19 aloud.

**SAY** • The words that Jesus read from the Book of Isaiah in the Bible can be found in any of these Bibles! **Jesus said God's Word is about Him.** Jesus brought good news and helped people who were hurting. *Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.*

## Dig for words

Print *Jesus, Bible, scroll, Isaiah, good news* on index cards. Hide the cards in a plastic tub filled with a few inches of rice. Invite preschoolers to dig in the rice to find the hidden Bible story words. Read the cards and retell a portion of the Bible story using that word.

**SAY** • Jesus read words from the scroll that are in the Book of Isaiah in the Bible. God told Isaiah to write those words long before Jesus was born. God planned to send Jesus to earth. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting. **Jesus said God's Word is about Him.**

- index cards
- markers
- plastic tub
- rice

- musical instruments
- “That’s What Jesus Did” song

## Play instruments and sing

Distribute instruments to boys and girls. Play and sing to the tune of “London Bridge:”

“Who did Jesus say He is? Say He is? Say He is?”

Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He’s God’s Son.”

Play the unit theme song and guide preschoolers to listen for Jesus’ name in the lyrics.

**SAY** • Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah the prophet talked about God’s plan to send Jesus to earth. Jesus would bring good news and help people who were hurting. Jesus read Isaiah’s words. **Jesus said God’s Word is about Him.** Jesus said He is the One God promised to send.

## Create happy/angry masks

- paper plates
- washable markers
- yarn
- blunt-tipped scissors
- tape and/or glue
- large buttons

Provide paper plates, washable markers, and other crafting materials. Guide a child to create a mask with a happy face on one side and an angry face on the other. Assist a child as she cuts yarn strips for hair. Remind preschoolers that when we use scissors, we never cut hair or clothes. Draw or glue large buttons to represent eyes.

**SAY** • Jesus read words from the Bible scroll. **Jesus said God’s Word is about Him.** When the people heard the words that Isaiah wrote and listened to what Jesus said, some were happy, but others became angry with Jesus. Hold up the face that shows how some people felt when they heard Jesus’ words. [*Encourage preschoolers to hold up the happy face side of the mask.*] Hold up the face that shows how the people felt who wanted Jesus to leave. [*Encourage preschoolers to show the angry faced mask.*]

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve a snack. Talk about different types of food. As you mention a food item, ask preschoolers to make a happy face if they like to eat that food, or an angry face if they do not like to eat that food. Remind preschoolers that some people became angry about the things Jesus said and they made Him leave. Ask boys and girls to recall: ***Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.***

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and remind preschoolers that **Jesus said God's Word is about Him.** When the people heard what Jesus said, some were happy and others were angry. Invite a child to draw a picture of the way he feels whenever he hears about Jesus. Pray for the children.

**SAY** • God, thank You that so very long ago, Isaiah wrote words about Your Son, Jesus, long before He was born. Thank You that Jesus came to do Your plan. Help us to understand Your Word more. Amen.

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.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*