



Small Group Bible Study

WK 2: Our Captivity – His Proclamation

Based on sermon from Jan 27, 2019

Luke 4:14-21

WARM UP

1. Do you use facebook? Why or why not? If you do, what types of things do you post? If you don't, why are you hesitant to share with others what's going on in your life? _____

INTO THE TEXT

2. Jesus read in the synagogue from Isaiah 61, which is a reference to the work of the Messiah. Imagine you have to explain the phrases of vs 18-19 to a 5th grader. What would you say? _____

3. What do you think the people were thinking when he says what he says in vs. 21? _____

DIGGING DEEPER

4. Read Leviticus 25:8-17; 39-43. Imagine you lived at the time when people followed the year of Jubilee.
 - a. How would this have a blessing for many? How could people take advantage of it? (see the warnings at vs. 14, 17, 43, 53) _____

Commented [OD1]: This question is simply meant to get people talking. Guide the conversation to the thoughts in the sermon, which speak about how we only want to share an edited version of who we are with others. This is true whether or not you post on facebook. In our conversations with friends, we never share the whole picture, only an edited version. Why is that? Jesus unveils the truth of who we are, both the negative (our sin) and the positive (who we are through Christ's proclamation).

Commented [OD2]: Anointed me – he was chosen/set apart for this special task as the Christ (Christ means anointed one);
Poor has nothing to do with poverty but with your relationship with God. He has good news for us regarding our relationship with him.
We are prisoners to sin, but Christ came to give us real freedom. (oddly enough many people think that freedom is doing whatever we want without God watching over us, but real freedom is simply being what God created us to be – his children who do his will not because we have to but because we want to.);
Blind – just as Jesus gave sight to the blind, he gives us spiritual sight to see with eyes of faith. I believe in heaven, God, the angels, not because I can see it with eyes, but with faith.
Oppressed – the hopeless now have hope – like a prisoner of war who thought he would never escape, our Savior rescued us.

Commented [OD3]: They knew Jesus as a child, so it was more difficult for them to believe that Jesus was in fact the Christ. Jesus himself says in Luke 4:24 "No prophet is accepted in his hometown." We will talk more about this next week so don't talk too much about this. But they understood it to mean that they had a major problem, that they couldn't solve on their own. And that he was the one who was sent by God to fix it. Next week we will study the next section where they try to throw Jesus off the cliff.

Commented [OD4]: This would prevent the rich from taking advantage of the poor. It was in a sense a bankruptcy/get out of jail free card that would be available once in a lifetime. If they fell on hard times this would help. See the warnings from God. If people were going to sell land the year before the year of Jubilee it would be worth far less than someone who bought it the year after the Jubilee, because they would be able to keep it longer. People would probably not try to pay back their debts. They would just wait until the year of jubilee even if they could pay it back. People would probably want to hold on to land, slaves and money regardless of the year of jubilee. If people gave crippled animals for sacrifices at different times of the Old Testament they could have also either not followed this, or followed this year of jubilee only when it benefitted them.

b. How is the proclamation of free, unconditional forgiveness a blessing for many? How do people take advantage of it?

Commented [OD5]: It's a relief to know that your sins are forgiven, and to know that God doesn't hold anything against us and that we will be with him in heaven. There is nothing more important that people need to know. However, some people figure that if God is so loving and forgiving they can do whatever they want and God will forgive them. This isn't the way a believer thinks who is a forgiven child of God. (That's what the whole book of James is about – see James 2:26) Think of the parable of the unmerciful servant. If God has forgiven us so much wouldn't we want to forgive others. In the same way, we also withhold forgiveness from others for one sin, even if God has forgiven us for countless sins. Some people use conditions to forgive people, "I'll forgive you if you never do it again." That's not unconditional forgiveness.

5. Satan's one tool that he uses against us is to lie about the freedom that we have in Christ. Share with the group a specific bible passage that has been an incredible promise for you when faced with the lies of the devil?

Commented [OD6]: There are many. Here are a few examples. For those struggling with loneliness, Mt 28:19-20. For those struggling with guilt – Titus 3:3-5. For those who think too much about how they look (remember I have 5 girls), 1 Peter 3:3-4. Do a quick google search for "Bible Yellow pages" and some great tools come up.

NOW WHAT?

6. List as many ways as you can that our worship service proclaims the Year of Jubilee (aka. that your debt of sins is forgiven). Why is this so important for us?

Commented [OD7]: Confession/absolution, baptism, communion, sermon, hymns. Even the creed will remind us of what Christ has done for us. All of this is meant to scream out to us that Christ forgives our sins, which all of us already know, but that we need to hear over and over again. More people than you think in and outside of church struggle with guilt, wondering if they died today if they would actually be in heaven. Hearing that we are forgiven unconditionally also gives us the motivation and reason to forgive others.

7. Just as Christ declares a year of Jubilee for us and forgives us all our sins, so also, we do the same for others and forgive them when we are wronged. Share an experience where you have seen either someone offering forgiveness or withholding it. What were the consequences?

Commented [OD8]: Answers will vary. You may want to have your own personal experience ready. The ending thought for this question/bible study should be, how can I proclaim the year of Jubilee (forgiveness) to my other relationships just as Christ has proclaimed it to me.