



## THE GOSPEL OF JESUS WHAT THE SON OF GOD DID

### *The Rejection of Jesus* *Luke 4:16-29*

Before you begin discussing the text, ask these introductory questions to your group:

1. Share some details about your hometown: population, what it is known for, size of your high school, high school mascot, famous people from your town, etc.
2. What was the best part of your hometown?
3. As you perceive it, what was the worst part of your hometown?

This week, we see Jesus coming to Nazareth, His hometown. Though we know a decent amount about what He did during His ministry on earth, we don't know a lot about his growing up years. We know that He grew strong and in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52). We know that He stayed in Jerusalem to teach when He was 12, and His parents panicked and had to go and find Him. We know that He was the son of a carpenter (Matt. 13:55), that He had brothers, and that they all didn't believe in Him (John 7:1-5). Other than that, we don't have all the details about the how, when, and where of His childhood. However, this week we see a group of people from His hometown who were at least a bit more familiar with Jesus than many whom Jesus encountered. Yet, as we saw this morning, even some who are familiar with Jesus ended up rejecting Him.

Read Luke 4:16-30.

1. What is one thing about this passage of scripture that sticks out to you?
2. What is one question that you have about this passage of scripture?
3. What does this passage teach you about the identity of Jesus: who He is, why He came, the nature of His kingdom?

What truths about the gospel have become familiar to you? What is good about that familiarity? What is bad about that familiarity?

One connection that was made in the sermon this morning was that those who were familiar with Jesus often lacked obedience to Jesus. Specifically, Jesus contrasted the examples of Elijah and a widow and Naaman the Syrian (unfamiliar outsiders who obeyed God) to those in Nazareth (familiar insiders that did not obey God). This, not surprisingly, caused quite an outrage in Nazareth. As true disciples, we are not just "familiar with Jesus," but we are actively obedient toward him.

Read the stories of Elijah, the widow, and Naaman and see how their lives demonstrated obedience to God. (1 Kings 17:1-16, 2 Kings 5:1-19)

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## *Discussion*

1. Is there a biblical truth or verse in this passage that would be good for you or your group to memorize this week?
2. Is there a spiritual discipline you need to implement this week, such as a way you can use the gifts God has specifically given you, implementing Sabbath, more faithful and regular prayer, etc.?
3. Is there a sacrifice you need to make in order to live on mission for Jesus each day this week?
4. How can you claim your Identity in Christ and live it out this week?
5. How has this particular lesson encouraged, strengthened, confronted or challenged you?

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## *Our Corporate Prayer*

*God, today we are thankful for the opportunity to worship and to know you. This morning, we admit that at times we have become complacent and familiar with you, so today we ask that you re-align us with your priorities. May our agenda be your agenda. And might our listening and hearing be followed by obedience. Lord, we ask you for the Spirit's help for us to obey your Word. And might we live in such a way that demonstrates your love and grace to a broken and hurting world. And might we do it for the honor of your name. Amen!*