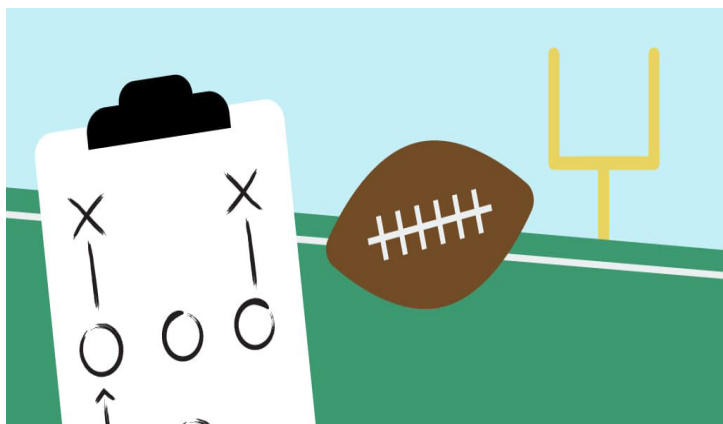


Community
Group
study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

Pregame series
2nd February 2020



This afternoon is the Super Bowl and the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs will face off against each other. Everything leading up to his game is secondary although not unimportant. If they hadn't done well enough in the regular season and won their playoff games they wouldn't be here. But the Super Bowl is what it is all about for a professional football player, and everyone tuning in wants to see who will come out on top.

For Kansas City and San Francisco they will be expecting their teams to represent them well, and there will be no mistaking whose side they are on.

As Jesus returns to His hometown of Nazareth all eyes are on Him. For those of us who have been reading Luke's account and were not actually present we have read the lead up to this point, and Luke has emphasised the importance of it, but this is it; the launch of Jesus' ministry. For the people of Nazareth Jesus is one of their own, and they expect Jesus will be fully on board playing for them, but is that what Jesus does?

THE KICKOFF

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him

and marvelled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.' " 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

Luke 4:14–30 (ESV)

Iudaea Province in the First Century



Commentary

Luke begins his narrative of Jesus' ministry in Nazareth, although he knew that Jesus had first gone to Capernaum and spent some time there teaching and healing, all he says about it is in verse 14; "a report about Him went out through all the surrounding country."

Each Gospel writer has an audience in mind; Luke Theophilus a Greek, for Matthew it was more Jewish, and in their telling of account of Jesus, just like a modern biographer, they are not necessarily interested in chronological order if they can group parts together thematically. So far in Luke's Gospel we have heard what other people have to say about Him. The angel Gabriel speaking to Mary about the child she will carry, and again when Gabriel talks to the shepherds announcing Jesus' birth. We had Simeon in the temple at Jesus dedication prophesying over Him, and John also. The devil has just tried to tempt Jesus to act in a way which would deny what angels and people have been saying about Him, but now it is Jesus' turn to speak for Himself. He is going to declare who He is.

Jesus arrives back at Nazareth, and on the Sabbath He goes to the synagogue as was His custom. The synagogue in Israel was a development from the days of exile, when Jerusalem fell in 587 BC to Nebuchadnezzar and the temple was destroyed and the Jews hauled off to Babylon. Without a homeland or temple they developed these houses of worship, and when seventy years later a group of Jews returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple they also built synagogues in the towns they settled in. The order of worship in the synagogue went something like this although we do not know for certain.



The singing of a psalm

Reciting the Shema, (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21)

Repetition of the Eighteen blessings (Shemoneh Esreh)

A reading from the law

A reading from the prophets

A Translation from the Targum

Someone invited to comment on the text (Acts 13:15)

Final blessing by the ruler of the synagogue.

The scriptures were written on scrolls kept in a box, and were written in Hebrew and recited in Hebrew, but not many people spoke Hebrew so they would be translated into Aramaic after the reading.

The text Jesus chooses to read from is Isaiah 61:1-2, and after reading the text as He sits back down He announces His arrival by telling them this scripture had been fulfilled in their hearing.”The text is about reversal of fortune, which can be

taken metaphorically but should also include a literal interpretation as well. Jesus' fellow towns people were impressed with Jesus' words but and yet the questioned how He could fulfil them, this after all was only Joseph's son. Yes, they had heard what He had done at Capernaum, but He would need to prove it first hand to them.

Jesus then goes onto speak about Elijah and Elisha being sent respectively to minister outside of Israel, and thus Jesus has come to do the same. His hometown people have no special claim on Him and His Good News.

As Jesus predicted, this hometown will not accept this "prophet," although much more than a prophet; the Son of God and they try and kill Him, but Jesus escapes unscathed, because as John would say in His Gospel, "His time had not come."

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Describe a time when you went back to a place you had spent time at in the past, (where you grew up, school reunion, former work place). How did it feel? What did you notice that was different? How did people receive you? Did you feel you still fitted in?

If you have had a life changing experience, how easy is to go back and resume life again?

When you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, what difference did that make to you fitting in?

Are you ever tempted not to say something so you fit in?

Often we are tempted to not say things so we fit in with the world around us, but here Jesus isn't fitting in with God's people. Why?

How is this a portent of what is to come in Jerusalem? (read Matthew 23:37-39.

Jesus reads from Isaiah 61, read the excerpt below from Psalm 146 and talk about How Jesus fulfils these scriptures.

Read the following:

5 *Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

6 *who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;*

7 *who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.*

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8 *the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.*

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.*

9 *The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,*

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

Psalms 146:5–9 (ESV)

James says;

*15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,
16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and
filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what
good is that?*

James 2:15–16 (ESV)

What is the relationship between the Gospel, the Good News of salvation from sin and Good News in the physical world?

What would be Good News for you right now?

Who is someone your group could bring Good News to?

Personal study time

Read the following passage and consider, What has to happen in order for someone to hear the Good News, and what your part is.

34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 10:34–48 (ESV)

My part in fulfilling the Good News

Lined area for writing the response.

KIDS CORNER



God's Good Challenges

1. What's something really hard that you've done before?

Sometimes our parents make us do hard things. Maybe you have to eat vegetables you don't like, or try things that seem scary at first. It can be challenging when someone we trust encourages us toward accomplishing something difficult. However, despite how unpleasant it can feel at the time, those nudges and pushes we experience in our lives actually end up growing us into better people!

God is our perfect heavenly parent, so sometimes He gives us spiritual nudges and pushes. He does this because He loves us! He wants us to be the best that we can be! So, when we know that the Lord is calling us to do something hard - like loving our siblings, obeying our parents, or choosing kind and honorable words, - we can be grateful that He loves us enough to challenge

us! It might be easy to get grumpy over it, just like the Nazarenes were when Jesus challenged them. They were frustrated about the unpleasantness and difficulty. Instead, they could have rejoiced that the Lord was encouraging them toward growth and goodness. Hopefully we will embrace the Lord's tough callings and remember to be thankful for His loving guidance!

2. Are you grateful when God calls you to do hard things, or do you grumble about it?

