

**Good News!**

(based on Luke 4:14–21)

Jesus walked from one town to another. At each place, Jesus told people about God's love. He showed God's love in caring words and actions. He encouraged everyone to follow God's loving ways.

People everywhere started talking about Jesus and the things he was saying and doing. They told stories about sick people whom Jesus had healed. The news about Jesus quickly spread all over the countryside.

Whenever Jesus arrived at another town, he went to the synagogue (SIHN-uh-gahg) to teach. The synagogue was a special place where people went to worship and learn about God. Jesus stood up in the synagogues and taught everyone about God. Sometimes he told wonderful stories. People liked listening to Jesus' teaching.

One day, Jesus went to Nazareth, the town where he grew up. He knew many people there, and many of them had watched him grow from a little boy into a man.

On the Sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue as he usually did. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll. He read the words that the prophet Isaiah had spoken long ago. It was a promise from God, written hundreds of years before.

Jesus read:

God's Spirit is upon me.

God has chosen me to tell good news
to the poor,

to bring freedom to those who are in prison,

to help the blind see,

and set the captives free,

to proclaim that this is the year that God
will act.

Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was looking at him. Jesus took a deep breath and said, "Today the promise God made to Isaiah has come true, even as you listened."



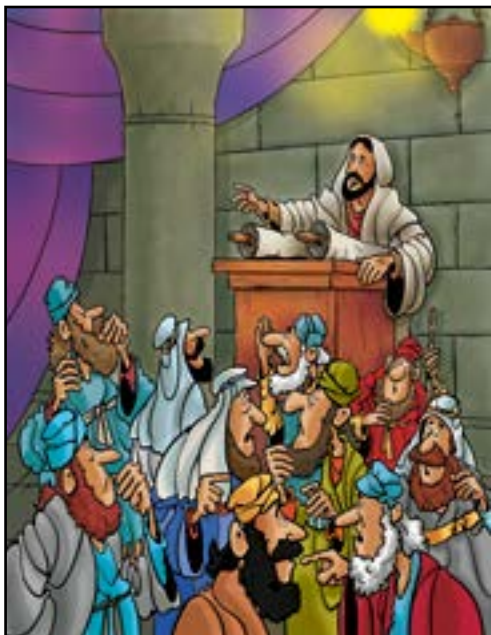
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your child—imagine and wonder.
- Read the story again, inviting everyone to shout, “Yay, Jesus!” with every action Jesus takes. Have someone count the number of shout-outs. How many actions did Jesus take?
- Read the story a third time, inviting people to imitate Jesus’ actions in the story by moving and pretending to do what Jesus did.
- Jesus read, “God’s Spirit is upon me.” Jesus claimed the promise of God’s help. Invite everyone to say, “God’s Spirit is upon me,” three times, louder each time, claiming the promise of God’s Spirit to help others.



Responding to God's Grace

- Make a miniature scroll. Cut two bamboo skewers to about 3" in length. Cut a strip of paper about 2" x 5". If you like, use a wet tea bag to dye the paper to make it look aged. Write “Good News,” or the message of your choice, on the paper. Glue each end of the paper to a skewer. Wait for the glue to dry. If you like, embellish the skewers by gluing beads to each end.
- If your children can read, help them find Luke 4:18–19 in the Bible. Read the verses in a round robin, where the first person reads the first word, the second person reads the next word, and so on till the verse has been read. Try again, seeing if you can smooth out the reading.
- Volunteer your family to serve as liturgist in your church’s worship service. Find a way each person can help with reading the Scriptures.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Learn about your church’s ministries outside your church’s walls, bringing good news, freedom, and sight. Give thanks for those who work in those ministries, and see if there are ways your family can support them.
- In celebration of God’s call to participate in Jesus’ ministry, sing an adapted verse from the song “Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the Morning.” (If you are unfamiliar with this song, listen to the tune on YouTube.)

Serve God, serve God, serve God in the morning;
serve God in the noontime;
serve God, serve God, serve God in the evening
time.

- Pray the following prayer each day this week:

*God, we thank you for good news for all of us.
Let us be grateful and share it with others.
Amen.*