

# **JESUS HEALED MANY**

Jesus proclaims the good news with the Spirit's power.



#### MONDAY

## **THE STORY: LUKE 4:14-20**

The "good news" is announced. Jesus arrived at the synagogue on the Sabbath, stood, and read from the prophet Isaiah. When he finished, all eyes were fixed on the carpenter's son. Having captured their attention with a stunning reading, Jesus announced that the Scripture He read was fulfilled. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him indeed. The one whom Isaiah had prophesied about was in their midst. Jesus did, in fact, go forth with the good news. He did set the captives free, pushing back the curse of sin and the work of the enemy. Jesus also freed people from oppression and sickness.

## **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What is the "good news"? (The "good news" is the gospel. In Acts 10:34-43 Peter tells us that the "good news" is the message that there is peace through Jesus Christ, Lord of all. Peter went on to explain the ministry of Christ, starting with His baptism, then His crucifixion, and finally His resurrection.

Can you point out the four major components of the gospel (good news)? (The four components are the ministry of Jesus in life, Jesus' substitutionary death, the resurrection of Jesus, and the forgiveness of sins for those who believe.)

## **PRAY:**

Thank God for sending us Jesus to release us from our captivity to sin.



# TUESDAY

#### THE STORY: LUKE 4:22-30

Upon hearing Jesus read the scroll of Isaiah and comment with authority, the people who knew Him as the carpenter's son marveled. But their amazement did not move them to faith. They only thought Jesus spoke graciously until He spoke of God's mercy to people outside Israel. The Israelites had come to believe they had God's exclusive favor simply by virtue of their heritage as children of Abraham. When Jesus reminded them that God sent Elijah to a Sidonian widow and a Syrian leper, rather than the widows and lepers of Israel, they were filled with wrath. They drove Jesus out of town to kill him, intending to throw him down a cliff. But Jesus simply passed through them and escaped easily.

#### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why didn't Jesus just allow them to kill him there? (Jesus didn't just need to die in order for sins to be atoned for; He needed to be cursed by God and receive His justified wrath for our sin. The cross was a symbol of God's curse. In addition, God Himself would determine the time and method of His sacrifice; that time had not come.)

How was Jesus like Elijah? (Both Jesus and Elijah were prophets. Both were rejected by Israel and ministered to people who were outside Israel.)

#### PRAY:

Praise God that the message of the gospel is for all men - Jews and Gentiles alike!



# WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

# THE STORY: LUKE 4:31-37

Through the mocking voices of the demons we discover Jesus' true identity. Jesus is no mere man; He is the Son of God, the Holy One of God, the Christ. Jesus was anointed by God as the next king - the last in the Davidic line. The demons mocked Jesus, but by going to the cross, Jesus gained the victory over all the powers of Satan. On the cross, the curse and wrath of God fell upon Jesus, yet brought freedom to the captives and released the chains of sin. Those who were demonized, like the man in the synagogue, were easily set free by Jesus. This demonstrated Jesus' power over Satan.

# **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What two things caused the people of Capernaum to be amazed? (According to Luke 4:32, 36, the people of Capernaum were amazed by Jesus' authority in word and deed.)

Ask your children to tell you what most amazes them about Jesus.

# **PRAY**

Have everyone praise the Lord and thank Jesus for those things that most amaze them about Him.



#### THURSDAY

#### THE STORY: LUKE 4:38-44

Jesus went on from the synagogue to Simon's house and healed Simon's mother-in-law. Later in the day He brought healing to everyone who was brought to

Him. Some demons cried out, "You are the Son of God," but Jesus rebuked them and would not let them continue speaking. The next day Jesus was followed by the crowd, who wanted keep Him there, but Jesus objected, saying He must preach the "good news" to other towns also.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

How is Jesus' refusal to remain in Capernaum an example for us? (As Christians we are not to keep Jesus to ourselves but to follow His example by taking the "good news" of the kingdom to everyone.)

When is a person old enough to preach the good news to others? (There is no age when a person is old enough. Even a three-year-old can share the "good news." We should remember to first preach the Gospel to ourselves. There is no need to preach to others until we have believed ourselves. It is not until we believe that we can receive the Holy Spirit to empower our witness.)

#### **PRAY:**

Ask God to help you believe the gospel and then have the courage to take the message of God's "good news" to others.



# FRIDAY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

#### THE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:25-28

Jesus is a king, in the line of David, who will reign forever. So Jesus is the prince forever Ezekiel refers to in Ezekiel 37:25. The everlasting covenant referred to in Ezekiel 37:26 is Jesus' covenant in His blood. Because the penalty of our sin is paid for by Jesus, our fellowship with God is restored. God places His Spirit in our hearts. This means that God's presence no longer dwells in a temple built by human hands. Now God's people are His temple. Because God gives us eternal life, He will live in us forever.

# **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why can't this passage be referring to David? (David died and gave up his throne to his son, Solomon.)

Which part of this prophecy are you most grateful for? (There is much in this prophecy to be grateful for so there is no single correct answer.)

# **PRAY:**

Pray a prayer of thanks for the part of this prophecy you are most grateful for.