

Application

In pairs:

9) Is there anything new/challenging that you have learnt tonight from this passage?

10) How should we respond to Jesus' message in this passage?

11) In which areas in your life are you 'accepting' Jesus like the Gentiles or 'rejecting' him like the Israelites?

Pray for each other.

Jesus Divides

Acceptance



Rejection



Luke 4: 14-30

Background

1) Look back over the first four chapters of Luke. Make a list as a group of the evidence that points to Jesus being the son of God.

2) Read Luke 4: 14-30 aloud. Are there any difficult words and concepts?

Luke 4: 14-15

3) How do the people feel about Jesus at the start of his ministry?

Luke 4: 16 - 21

4) Advanced: Read Isaiah 61: 1-3. Imagine you are a Jew listening to Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah, is what Jesus read significant for you? If yes how?

5) How does Jesus fulfil the scripture that he has just read? (v. 21)

a) what is the 'good news' that Jesus is preaching?

b) who are the 'poor' and the 'prisoners'?

Luke 4: 22 – 30

6) Jesus says that 'no prophet is accepted in his home town' (v. 24). Split into two groups to answer these questions and then report back to the group.

Group 1: The widow at Zarephath – 1 Kings 16 and 17

i) How did Israel reject God during Elijah's time? 16: 29 – 33.

ii) How does the widow show her acceptance of God?

Group 2: Naaman the Syrian -2 Kings 5

i) How did Israel reject God during Elisha's time? (2 Kings 3: 1-3)

ii) How does Naaman show that he accepts God? (v. 13-19)

7) Why are the people so 'furious' (v. 28) after hearing Jesus talk about the widow and Naaman?

8) Drawing on your own knowledge about Jesus' ministry, do the Israelites ultimately accept or reject Jesus?