

# Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

## Notes on Lesson Four: Spirit of the Lord

### Lesson Four: Spirit of the Lord

Luke 4: 14-21, 31-44

#### Central Message

Jesus shocked his hometown when he said that Isaiah's words spoke about him, yet his miracles were well known. The people were asking, "Who is this man?"

Jesus taught the Word of God with authority, and healed everyone who came to him. However, he was not just a healer. His goal was to do what God sent him to do, to "preach the Good News about the Kingdom of God."

#### Life Application

The people were asking, "Who is this man?" They will ask this question again and again. Jesus was either telling the truth, or he was crazy, or he was evil. The people had to decide, and you also have to decide. Think about this as you read the gospel.

#### Community-Building Activity and Introduction<sup>31</sup>

##### Goals

**Preparation:** Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

**Instructions:** "Please tell me three things you will do today." "Which one is the most important?" "Please tell me three things you want to do this year," "Which one is the most important?"

**Teaching Notes:** It may be helpful for them to make notes before they speak. They can do this on the cover page. Whether they make notes or not, they can discuss the three most important things, or perhaps just the most important things in the two categories above, "What is the most important activity you will do today?" "What is the most important thing you will do this year?" The discussion can take place in pairs, talking lines,<sup>32</sup> small groups of three or four, or as a large group. When you are finished with the community-building activity, read the introduction in the workbook together. Go over the footnote on "demons."

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<sup>31</sup> The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

<sup>32</sup> See the explanation on page 20.

# **Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus**

## **Notes on Lesson Four: Spirit of the Lord**

### **Lesson Notes**

#### **Part One: Jesus Reads Scripture**

**Luke 4: 14 – 21**

#### **Preparation:**

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook. Have a big map of Galilee available.

#### **Note:**

One way to help them with the context is to show them the Jesus film segment. This time, show it first with no sound. Show only the scene in the synagogue. Go over the vocabulary for synagogue and scroll. If there is time at the end, you can show the entire sequence with sound.

1. This first question asks them to read the first sentence of each paragraph. There is a lot that happens in this story, and reading the first sentences will give them the general flow. Ask them to do this individually. Some will not have time to finish.
2. Take turns reading the text together. Decide which footnotes you want to read together.
3. Ask them to work with someone sitting next to them. They are to mark the text first, then find the places on the map.
4. The question asks for a paraphrase. They may not be able to do this, in which case they can quote the passage. The important thing is to observe the actions.

LINK Jesus stood up to read, and when he sat down, he said, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read." In other words, he was giving his own interpretation. Jesus was implying that these words were about him, that they were coming true because the Spirit of the Lord was on HIM. The text in the workbook does not include the reaction from the people of Nazareth. It is important to note that reaction, as the workbook does, but not to read about it during class time.

#### **Part Two: A Day in the Life of Jesus Luke 4: 31-44**

#### **Preparation:**

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

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1. Ask them for their ideas about what they are going to read, based on the first sentences.
2. Read the text together.
3. Be sure they see that the answers fit into the grid on the next page.

<b>What does he do?</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
He casts out a demon	in the synagogue	on the Sabbath.
He heals Simon's mother-in-law	in Simon's house	on the Sabbath.
He placed hands on everyone and healed them	after sunset.	
OR		
He healed everyone who came to him and cast out more demons	after sunset.	
(Note: Any part of this is correct. They do not need the exact words.)		
He left the town and went off to a lonely place	at daybreak.	

4. Luke 4: 43
5. Notice that these questions are slightly different from the text you have. Use these questions to clarify the ones in the workbook. "Discuss the things that Jesus does in Luke 4: 31-44. How do they show his authority and power? Compare Jesus' actions in Luke 31-44 with the text in Luke 4: 38 and 39?" Help them see that Jesus is doing what the prophet Isaiah wrote about. His actions are fulfilling the prophecy about the Messiah.
6. There are many ways to answer these questions. The Good News is that the prophecy has come true; the Messiah is here. Jesus has come to heal the sick and to cast out demons. The Good News is also that Jesus came to take this message to "other towns." Jesus' message is for all of us.

LINK Luke 4:31-44 does not tell us that Jesus did all of these things, but he did many of them. Perhaps "set the captives free" could include the demon-possessed people.

LIVE Choose one of the questions. The first does not look spiritual, but if you have any Christian students in the group, this would be a good chance for them to share how their purpose in life fits in with God's purpose. (You can pray for this. You can also ask your small group leaders to prepare to say something here.) The second question will help them think about something that is a

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barrier for many. If they have always believed that the natural world is all there is, they will not believe in these miracles.

Be sure to finish by reading the "Consider" section or summarizing the central message. If they enjoyed the discussion on miracles, you might want to read the "Final Word" in class.

There is no background paper with this lesson.

# Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

## Workbook One: Exploring the Identity of Jesus

### Spirit of the Lord

**In the last lesson**, we learned that Jesus was stronger than Satan, the great enemy of God. Saying “no” to Satan helped to prepare Jesus for his public work.

**In this lesson**, Jesus meets new temptations as he teaches in public. He needs to remember what is most important in his life.

### Community Time



### Plans and Goals

Write down three things you will do today.  
Put a star ☆ next to the most important activity.

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Write down three things you want to do this year,  
and mark the most important one with a star.  
Share your answers.

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## Lesson Four: Spirit of the Lord

### Plans and Goals

"Please tell me three things you will do today."

"Which one is the most important?"

"Please tell me three things you want to do this year."

"Which one is the most important?"

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