

## Discovering ways to share and be the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Being and sharing  
the good news

### REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

#### How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

#### Where and how did you experience God last week?

Read the passage several times through, read it slowly, use your imagination to picture the scene and soak it up. As you read, look out for one or two points that really impact you.

We call these 'shockers' and 'blockers'. Shockers - something from the text that stands out or surprises you. Blockers - something that raises questions or you find hard to understand.

### READ

#### † Luke 4.16 – 22

## The People of Nazareth Turn against Jesus

<sup>16</sup> Jesus went back to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and as usual he went to the meeting place on the Sabbath. When he stood up to read from the Scriptures, <sup>17</sup> he was given the book of Isaiah the prophet. He opened it and read,

"The Lord's Spirit has come to me,

because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers,

<sup>19</sup> and to say, 'This is the year the Lord has chosen.' "

<sup>20</sup> Jesus closed the book, then handed it back to the man in charge and sat down. Everyone in the meeting place looked straight at Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "What you have just heard me read has come true today."

<sup>22</sup> All the people started talking about Jesus and were amazed at the wonderful things he said. They kept on asking, "Isn't he Joseph's son?"

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

*'Our souls will never grow in God if we read the Bible solely to get ammunition to defend ourselves or defeat others. No. We read the Bible to be fed. We read to be converted, to be strengthened, to be taught, to be rebuked, to be counselled, to be comforted.'*

Richard J. Foster *Streams of Living Water*

### REFLECT

Take time to discuss what you've read and particularly the points that impacted you. Share your thoughts and listen carefully to one another. Use the questions to help you reflect.

Setting the scene:

- ▶ Nazareth was nowhere special but it was here among his friends and neighbours Jesus ministers. Here (in Nazareth) the village carpenter reads the Scriptures like no-one has heard before.
- ▶ 'The Scriptures' refers to much of what we now call the Old

Testament. The Jewish audience would have been familiar with these books and their prophecies.

- ▶ Through Jesus' words and actions, he implicitly claims to be the Messiah!
- ▶ No wonder they were amazed, many would have known Jesus as a kid in the town and now he is proclaiming God's kingdom and pointing to himself as the fulfilment of the passage from Isaiah 61.
- ▶ Jesus saw himself as coming with good news for the world's troubled people to bring

freedom and hope. 'This is the year' does not refer to a particular calendar year – but to a new time of salvation (rescue and deliverance).

- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ What amazes you most about Jesus?
- ▶ God uses three main ways to reveal himself – the Bible, Jesus, sharing of faith. In what way did you come to know about Jesus?

### RESPOND

As you have read and reflected on the passage, it's now time to consider how to respond.

**Word lyfe challenge:** As a group, create a challenge that will help you increase your engagement with the Bible this week.

**Challenge ideas:** If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

#### 01 Remember Remember

The Jewish educational system required young children to memorise large chunks of the Old Testament. By the age of 12 years, most children had learnt the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) by heart! Memorising Scripture allows God's word to permeate deep into our hearts. Why not write down some verses this week. You could

stick them to a mirror, the TV or on the fridge. Read them until you can recite them by heart. Try these verses to get you going:

Galatians 2.20, Romans 5.1, John 3.16, Psalm 1.1, Ephesians 2.8.

#### 02 Psalm a day

Meditate on a Psalm each day this week. The Psalms are wonderful, real-life prayers that help us to connect with God. Read them slowly, over and over and let them lead you into prayers for yourself and others.

#### 03 The Whole Truth

Commit some time this week to reading a whole book from the Bible, maybe one of the Gospels, or one of Paul's letters (including Galatians,

Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians). See what difference taking in the whole book makes relative to a verse here or there. In ancient times, Scripture would often be read out loud. If you can – try it for yourself. Maybe change your voice for different characters! Alternatively get yourself a copy of the Bible on CD or on your iPod. Over the week you could listen to a whole book on your way to work.

#### 04 Going Deeper

**Share your story** - see following page.

### Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

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### More resources on 'Word Lyfe'

- **Listen to video interview with Andy Croft**
- **Read article on 'Mission in a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Faith Society'**
- **Read 'lyfe story' biographies on Billy Graham and John Wesley**

### GOING DEEPER SHARE YOUR STORY

As this zone is also about sharing faith - take some time out this week to spend some quality time with a friend. Ask them about their life story and take the opportunity to appropriately share your own. If they are interested, tell them what difference your faith has made in your life. What God means to you and what you think he's like. Be careful not to force your story, don't pretend to have all the answers and try not to use religious jargon - which you may understand, but no-one else does. Some people will naturally find this easier to do than others, but it's good to be able to talk concisely and intelligently about faith.