

Luke 4:14-21

Good news for everybody

After surviving being tempted in the wilderness, Jesus returns in the power of the Spirit to Galilee and goes to his home synagogue in Nazareth. He reads out some verses from the scroll of Isaiah to the people present and tells them that this Scripture is coming true today.



Bible notes



We meet Jesus on his way from Galilee to Nazareth and the Temple there. Here is the Jewish teacher standing in the place of worship on the Sabbath. He quotes from Isaiah 61:1-2 and Isaiah 58:6. This great liberation call that Jesus gives in the Temple is the reply to his mother Mary's own words in the

Magnificat. Jesus proclaims that the freedom foreseen by Isaiah has arrived in his own person. This is an identifying moment in the Gospel, in keeping with the Epiphany theme of the person of Jesus being revealed to us anew. Jesus is the one who is meeting the hopes and expectations of the prophets of old. The year of the Lord was one of great eschatological promise and is now here, as Jesus begins his ministry. Those who are on the outside, on the margins, are being brought in. Those who might typically be excluded are welcomed by Jesus. We see this embodied in his ministry as he eats and drinks with socially unacceptable people. This Gospel is topsy-turvy – the things that we think we should value, the power structures of the world and the values of society – are questioned.

First impressions

- When did you last experience a 'mic drop' moment (one that completely astounded you)?
- Why do people sometimes not like positive news stories?
- Who most needs to hear Jesus' good news right now?



Make a list of words which might describe those on the margins of society, e.g. Autistic, disabled, etc. Write a 10-word definition for each word you've listed. Compare your answers with others in your family and discuss any differences which emerge. How is Jesus good news for everyone, even those on the margins?

Read

Read *Elmer the Elephant* by David McKee, a story that celebrates our diversity and uniqueness.

WATCH

Watch the *Dr Who* episode, 'The Giggle', looking out for when the Doctor notices that his language isn't quite as inclusive as it could be, when speaking to Shirley Bingham.

Pray



Lord Jesus, we pray for those who feel that they are the least, the last and the lost. Help us to speak up for people when their voices are not heard. We know that when one suffers, we suffer too. Help us find ways to care for our environment and to cause less damage. We pray that leaders will work creatively to make your good news a reality. Amen.

Sing



Singing and chanting have played a key part in various social justice protest movements through the years; many of which have been inspired by Scripture, such as today's passage in Luke. Write a chant, protest song, poem or rap based around a social justice related theme that you're passionate about; whether it be climate change, poverty, homelessness, etc. Could you share it at church or on social media? Click on the QR code for an example of a protest song by Fischy Music, commissioned by Christian Aid.