

THE Way



Jesus-centred, *Spirit-led*
hope revealed



MISSION
BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

*In this series, we are exploring what it looks like to walk in **The Way** of Jesus. Today's passages help us to understand God's mission and our part in it. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus announces what his mission is about - bringing good news, freedom, healing and hope. Then in John 20, just before ascending to Heaven, Jesus passes this mission on to his disciples, sending them out just as he was first sent by the Father.*



Share

Can you think of a book, movie or real-life character who had a mission? What was their mission?

When someone is on a mission, how does this shape their behaviour or thinking?



Before we read today's Scripture, let's pray together.

Lord, as we open your Word now, please speak to us.

May your Holy Spirit reveal truth to us.

*Lead us to a deeper understanding of your mission
and our part in it. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



*Read Luke 4:16-21 and John 20:21. You might like to
read the passages in a couple of different translations*

¹⁶ "He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

Luke 4:16-21 (New International Version)

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

¹⁸ 'The Lord's Spirit
has come to me,
because he has chosen me
to tell the good news
to the poor.
The Lord has sent me
to announce freedom
for prisoners,
to give sight to the blind,
to free everyone
who suffers,
¹⁹ and to say, 'This is the year
the Lord has chosen.'

²⁰ Jesus closed the book, then handed it back to the man in charge and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue looked straight at Jesus.

²¹ Then Jesus said to them, ‘What you have just heard me read has come true today.’”

Luke 4:16-21 (Contemporary English Version)

²¹ “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’”

John 20:21 (New International Version)

²¹ “After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, ‘I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.’”

John 20:21 (Contemporary English Version)



- In Luke Chapter 4, Jesus reads the words of the prophet Isaiah, written hundreds of years earlier. Why do you think Jesus chose to begin his public ministry by reading this passage and sharing that he was the fulfilment of this prophesy?
- Read Verse 18 again, slowly. What stands out for you? Share about a time when Jesus did one of those things in Verse 18 for you or someone you know.

- What do these verses tell us about God's heart for the poor, the captive, the blind and the oppressed?
- Where do you see God's mission being fulfilled today? Can you give any specific examples?
- In practical terms, what do you think it looks like to "proclaim good news to the poor?"
- When Jesus talks about "freedom for prisoners" he is referring to releasing people from whatever binds them – whether that is injustice, oppression, sin, fear or shame. In what ways do people need freedom in our world today?
- In Verse 18, Jesus mentions "recovery of sight for the blind". Do you think he was referring to physical healing, spiritual healing or both?
- In Verse 19 Jesus says that he has been sent "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor", a reference to the Old Testament concept of the 'Year of Jubilee' – a year when slaves were set free, debts were cancelled, and things reset for a new start. What do you think Jesus means when he declares that this time has come through him?
- In John 20:21 Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." How do you think these two Scriptures – Luke 4:16-21 and John 20:21 – relate to each other?
- Christian teacher, Philip Yancey, compares Jesus sending his disciples to blowing on a dandelion. It seems to disappear, but, in reality, it spreads seeds far and wide. How does this deepen your understanding of our part in God's mission?

- What difference would it make to see ourselves as ‘sent’ people, on mission in every area of our lives? How do you think we can embrace this mindset?
- If God is already at work in the world, and we just need to join in, how does this shape how we think about ministry and mission?
- When Jesus says, “Peace be with you!” do you think it is simply a greeting, or is he offering something deeper? How might his peace equip us for the mission?
- As we’ve discussed these passages today, what has stood out to you or challenged you?



Spend some time encouraging and praying for each other about the things you shared

[Optional] Take a prayer walk around your community. Watch, listen and pray for wisdom to know how you can be part of God’s mission in your community.

