

(1) An Opening THOUGHT

⁹“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
¹⁰and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
¹¹The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
¹²Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings (Isaiah 58:9b-12).

(3) Key POINTS

- Jesus' ministry is a fulfillment of God's promises.
- The nature of Jesus' mission is to truly help those with deep and real needs.
- Jesus identifies categories of brokenness that have both literal and figurative meanings.
- Jesus came to announce and to personally usher in the new era of God's favour.
- Our mission together is an extension of Jesus' mission.
- Participating in Jesus' mission begins with welcoming the Spirit's transformation in our lives.

(2) Read the TEXT Together

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

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,

¹⁹to 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 4:14-21).

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?
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GROUPS RESOURCE

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER

(4) Looking to the WORD

Read Luke 4:14-21 and Isaiah 61.

- What does Luke 4 tell us about the beginning of Jesus' ministry?
- What does Jesus say he had come to do? How was Jesus going to truly help people with real and deep needs?
- Look at Luke 4 carefully. Try putting yourself in the listeners' shoes. How do you think people responded to what Jesus said? What might have been the atmosphere as Jesus spoke? What do you think was going through people's minds?

(5) Looking at our WORLD

- Where do you see justice – setting things right – happening in the world today?
- Where is healing needed? Where is the kind of freedom that God desires lacking? Where in your neighbourhood, workplace, city do people need to hear God's Good News?
- What are natural places today that followers of Jesus can participate in His mission?

(6) Looking at our LIVES

- Think of people in your life right now who need to know that there actually is Good News. That there is freedom. That there is true life found in Jesus. How is God calling you to mission in their lives?
- Where do you see brokenness around you personally? How do you think God wants to use you to help set things right?
- Is there a bold step of obedience that you believe God is calling you to take? How can your GROUP pray for you and encourage you towards this?

(7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

Here are this week's On-Ramps:

- Ask God to show you your real needs.
- Invite him to speak his Good News and minister to you.
- Ask God to show you how he's on mission around you in your life.
- Invite him to fill you up with his Spirit and use you to proclaim and demonstrate his Good News.

In what ways might you take action on these? Include this in your prayer time.