

# “IS NOT THIS JOSEPH'S SON?”

unit 22 | session 2



## CHRIST CONNECTION

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote of God’s plan to send someone to bring good news and redeem His captive people. Jesus proclaimed that He was the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy—the promised Messiah. Jesus was rejected by the people, but it was through that very rejection—the cross—that He provided redemption from sin.

# REJECTING THE SAVIOR

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

## Luke 4

### JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECY

#### LUKE 4:16-23

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well."

### JESUS WAS REJECTED

#### LUKE 4:24-30

24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

## MAIN POINT.

We can expect rejection for following Jesus.



## THEOLOGY CONNECTION

### THE WORLD OPPOSED TO GOD

Sometimes in Scripture the term “world” refers to more than the physical planet Earth or the collective human population. In many instances, the term refers to an active and evil spiritual force that is in direct conflict with God and His kingdom. This evil world force operates under Satan’s control (Eph. 2:2; John 14:30), displaying the same self-centeredness and deceit that is found within his character. Christians are called to overcome this world of spiritual evil by faith in the Son of God (1 John 5:4-5).

# DISCUSSION

## JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECY

LUKE 4:16-23

- How did the people in Jesus’s hometown look at Him? Why did they ask if He was Joseph’s son?
- Jesus claimed to fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy for the Messiah. How did Jesus display this in His ministry?
- Many people had doubts about Jesus. When are you most tempted to doubt who Jesus says He is?

## JESUS WAS REJECTED

LUKE 4:24-30

- What was Jesus’s message to the people of Nazareth? Why were they offended?
- Why do people you know continue to reject Jesus’s message today?
- How did God use Jesus’s rejection to bring salvation to the world? What can this show us about our own rejection?



**WHERE IS THE FEAR OF REJECTION KEEPING YOU FROM OBEYING GOD? HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS FACED REJECTION GIVE YOU STRENGTH?**

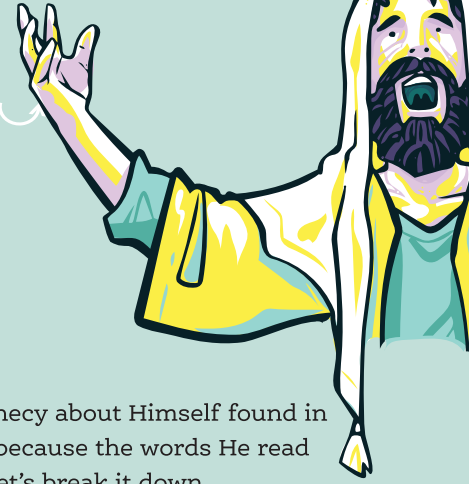
## CULTURAL CONNECTION

We are surrounded by voices that tell us how we should act, dress, speak, and think if we want people to accept us. We may feel pressure from our family, friends, classmates, or social media to conform to what’s popular to fit in. We want to be well-liked, so much that we compromise our beliefs to avoid rejection. Maybe you go along with the majority opinion, even if it means agreeing with something sinful. Maybe you participate in behavior you know is wrong because you’re more concerned with fitting in than obeying God. We worry that taking a godly stance will cause others to tease us, accuse us of ruining the fun, or label us intolerant or hateful. However, avoiding rejection robs us of living obediently to God’s Word. As Christians, we certainly shouldn’t go out of our way to offend people or cause chaos. We can disagree with others and still show love and respect (Rom. 12:18), even if the world opposes our biblical values. Though we may face rejection, we must be open to talking with people about our Christian convictions in the hope that they will come to know the Lord.



DAY ONE

## ISAIAH 61:1-3



In this week's lesson, we discussed Luke 4:16-30. Jesus read a prophecy about Himself found in Isaiah 61:1-3. This scandalous moment was vital to Jesus's mission because the words He read were very specific to the sacrifice that He made for our salvation. Let's break it down.

When Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me," He declared that He was the One sent by God as a sacrifice for our sins. When Jesus said that He was sent to "proclaim good news to the poor," "to proclaim liberty to the captives," and to "[recover] sight to the blind," He revealed that He had been sent to set people free from their sins, as well as give sight spiritually and physically. We read about these things in John 9, when Jesus gave sight to a blind man by mixing His spit with dirt to create mud as a healing balm for his eyes. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus fulfill Old Testament prophecy, like the one in today's passage. Why does this matter? If God fulfilled His promise to send a Savior and did, if Jesus did what He said He would do (and He did), then we can absolutely trust God's promises to us. We can believe the truth of His Word and rest in His faithfulness.

Certainly, Jesus fulfilled God's promise to the Israelites to send someone who would set them free from the consequences of their sin. The better news is that Jesus not only came for the Israelites but for everyone, including you today. Jesus came as a fulfillment of God's grace to save us all from the destruction of our sins, to liberate us, to give us spiritual sight.

- **WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU STRUGGLE WITH BEING SPIRITUALLY BLIND—UNAWARE OF YOUR SIN?**
- **HOW CAN YOU TRUST GOD ON A DAILY BASIS, KNOWING THAT HE IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES?**

PRAY

**GOD, THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING ME AS A RECIPIENT OF YOUR GRACE. IF I HAVE ANY SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS TODAY, PLEASE REVEAL IT TO ME SO THAT I CAN WALK CONFIDENTLY INTO WHAT YOU HAVE FOR ME TO DO.**



## DAY TWO

# 1 KINGS 17:8-24

Let's set the stage for today's Scripture. The widow lived in a place called Zarephath. At first glance, this does not seem significant, but the reality is that Zarephath was a region deeply rooted in worshipping false gods. God's work wasn't always evident there, but He wasn't absent. Now, if you were to read the Scripture again with that knowledge, the significance changes a bit, right? The widow, a worshiper of a false god, fed Elijah, a follower of God, in a time of famine, when food was hard to obtain. Though she didn't follow Yahweh, she took a big step of faith to feed Elijah the last of her bread. God rewarded her by ensuring that the jar of ingredients to make bread for her son didn't run out until the drought and famine were over. Something more amazing? When her son later got sick and stopped breathing, Elijah begged for God to restore his life. And God did! As a result, the woman knew God's words were true.

In our main passage this week, Jesus used this story from 1 Kings to show the Jewish listeners that God accepts and takes care of everyone who surrenders to Him, even the ones they despised—the Gentiles. If God called this widow in Zarephath to faith and raised her son from death, then He cares for all people. As outsiders looking in, we can easily judge the Jews for not accepting Gentiles. If you examine your own thoughts and actions about other people, you might find that you also have a hard time accepting someone who is different from you. Have you ever had classmates that you do not like visit your church? How did you react to them being there? Did you invite them to sit with you, or did you give them the cold shoulder? Today's Scripture shows us that if God can forgive and accept outsiders and the worst of sinners, then we must do the same.

- **IS IT HARD FOR YOU TO ACCEPT PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **WHAT PART OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE CAN YOU USE AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO LOVE AND WELCOME EVERYONE INTO GOD'S FAMILY?**

## PRAY

**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR FORGIVING AND ACCEPTING PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. AS SOMEONE WHO IS ALSO UNWORTHY OF YOUR GRACE AND LOVE, I AM SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU GIVE IT FREELY.**



## DAY THREE

# 2 KINGS 5:1-14

Today's passage is another story that Jesus referenced in the main lesson this week. When the people heard this story, they were angry—similar to the way we get mad when something good happens to someone we don't like. Maybe this person used to be mean as a kid, but now he or she is one of the most-liked people at school. Or maybe teachers praise someone else's work and overlook your hard work. What does it reveal about your heart when you feel anger toward someone in this situation? Well, in most cases we feel jealousy, and though we don't like admitting it, jealousy is a sin. When you're jealous of what someone else has, you think you're missing out on getting it for yourself. The truth is that God has enough love and grace for everyone. When He heals or blesses someone else, He doesn't take from you to bless them. Jesus used the example in today's passage to reveal to the people of Galilee that their hearts were rooted in prideful sin. If you were there listening to Jesus, would you agree with the crowd's feelings?

Romans 2:11 reminds us that God does not choose favorites. We are all made in His image (Gen. 1:27), and He desires to take care of us. He works all things for our good and His glory when we turn to Him (Rom. 8:28). You can rest in your situation today, fully trusting that God is taking care of you in the same way that He is taking care of those around you. If you struggle with jealousy, repent and ask God to help you be excited for the ways God blesses, accepts, and transforms others for His glory.

- **WHAT MAKES YOU JEALOUS OF OTHER PEOPLE?**
- **HOW OFTEN DO YOU PRAY FOR THE GOOD OF SOMEONE YOU STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT?**

## PRAY

**THANK YOU, GOD, THAT YOUR GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR EVERYONE AND YOU DO NOT CHOOSE FAVORITES. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THE TIMES THAT I AM JEALOUS OF OTHERS. HELP ME FEEL JOY WHEN YOU BLESS OTHERS.**



## DAY FOUR

# JOHN 15:18-21

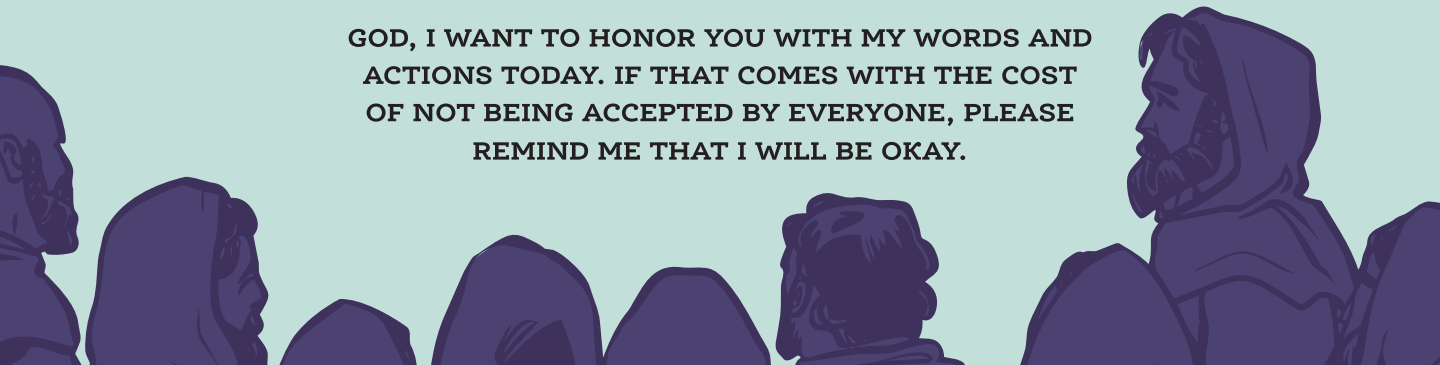
Jesus's words in today's passage are a difficult reminder: The darkness of the world is at war with the Light inside of you—with Jesus. The world rejected Jesus when He was on earth. As Christians, we are the dwelling place for the Holy Spirit of God, so we know the world will sometimes reject us too. The good news is that you will be okay—more than okay. In a world full of social media presence and acceptance, that statement feels countercultural. Your feeds are filled with “influencers” telling you what to buy, what style to mimic or filters to use, with a promise of guaranteed acceptance and praise from your peers. This promise of acceptance is difficult to ignore; most of us desire acceptance from the people we are around every day. We're easily discouraged when we don't fit in.

The reality for Christians is that we are called to be in the world but not a part of the world. God wants us to be present and to make an impact, but He doesn't want us to become wrapped up in what matters to the world. The good news is that God is on our side. He accepts us and loves us! If you look back at John 15:16, Jesus explained that though we didn't naturally choose Him, He chose us. He made this statement right before saying His followers would be rejected by the world. Jesus wanted His followers to know that we are chosen by the One who matters the most. Let this be an encouragement to you today, as you go into the world and live for God. People won't always like or agree with your choices. The Light within you may offend those living in darkness, but go—shine in the dark world. You're already loved and accepted by God.

- **HOW HAVE YOU RECENTLY BEEN LIVING FOR GOD INSTEAD OF THE WORLD?**
- **WHEN HAVE YOU LOOKED FOR ACCEPTANCE FROM THE WORLD INSTEAD OF SEEKING TO PLEASE GOD? WHAT WAS THE RESULT?**

## PRAY

**GOD, I WANT TO HONOR YOU WITH MY WORDS AND ACTIONS TODAY. IF THAT COMES WITH THE COST OF NOT BEING ACCEPTED BY EVERYONE, PLEASE REMIND ME THAT I WILL BE OKAY.**





## DAY FIVE

# ISAIAH 53:1-3

Isaiah prophesied that the world would despise and reject Jesus. Jesus came to earth fully aware of what He would endure, yet He came for us anyway. Jesus had no beauty that we should desire Him, and He was born into a poor family. The question is not if we would be in the crowd of those who rejected Jesus, but how many times have we been in the crowd protesting against Him?

Judging other people for rejecting Jesus is easy—forgetting that we sometimes reject Him as well with our lifestyle, our words, our actions, our priorities. Sin looks fun, so you give in just one time. Your parents don't seem to understand your life, so you lash out at them in disrespect. A friend makes an inappropriate joke, and because you want to fit in, you laugh when you should stay quiet or walk away. We rebel against God and give in to temptations that don't honor Him. Paul urged Timothy to “flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22). Make a commitment to be aware of your thoughts and actions so that you can turn—so that you can flee—from temptations instead of getting as close to the line as possible. Before Jesus left earth, He said that He was sending a Helper for all who follow Him. That helper is the Holy Spirit, who dwells within everyone who believes and calls on the Lord for salvation. You are not alone in your decision to walk away from the crowd; the Holy Spirit goes with you when you face rejection from the world.

- **WHAT SIN DO YOU HOLD ON TO SO THAT YOU STAY PART OF THE CROWD AND AVOID REJECTION? WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR YOU TO TURN FROM IT?**
- **SCRIPTURE SAYS TO FLEE FROM SIN. WHAT DO YOU DO TO KEEP FROM FALLING INTO SIN? IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO SIN INSTEAD OF RUNNING FROM IT?**

## PRAY

**FATHER, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ALL THE TIMES I HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE CROWD THAT REJECTED YOUR SON. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND YOUR GRACE. HELP ME HONOR YOU WITH MY WORDS AND ACTIONS.**