

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – year C

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### Preparation

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Read [Luke 4: 21-30](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/epiphc3.htm>

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452\\_115775\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115775_ENG_HTML.htm) :

scroll down to find the lesson for the day

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwjj.htm#ep03>: word puzzles

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/hometown-boy.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi4les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/4-c/F-4-c.html>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**Gracious God, bless our time together.**

**Loving Jesus, bless our learning together.**

**Faithful Spirit, bless our work together. Amen.**

Blow out the candles. If you can come up with an experience that you are willing to share, share with the children a time when someone you cared about a lot changed the way they behaved with you. *If you can't come up with your own experience share with them a story that expresses this.*

Tell them how you felt when the person changed their behaviour. Now ask the children if they can think of a story like that in their own live. *Give them a few moments to share this with you.*

Explain that today's story continues where last week's left off and the people who lived in Nazareth where about to get surprised by what Jesus had to say to them.

## Story Time

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Jesus was in the synagogue with his family. He had just read from the scroll of Isaiah. When he finished reading from the scroll, Jesus told those listening, “Today this word of God has become true in your hearing”.

Everyone who heard Jesus spoke good things about what he had just said. Then someone in the crowd said, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph and Mary?”

Jesus could hear the grumbling beginning to start. He knew that he had to answer them. Jesus wanted some of them at least to understand that he was speaking about God’s promises for the world.

Jesus said to the people in the synagogue, “I am sure you are about to remind me that I should do here in my hometown that we heard you did in Capernaum and Cana.”

Jesus looked around at the people in the synagogue. He knew everyone there. He had grown up with many of them. Played in the streets with them. Jesus knew that they were going to be angry about what he had to say.

Jesus reminded the people by telling them, “In the days of the prophet Elijah, there were lots of widows in Israel. There was also lots of hungry families because of the famine at that time. Elijah didn’t go to any of them. God sent Elijah to the widow living outside of Israel in Sidon. It was that widow and her son that God saved through Elijah.”

The people in the synagogue were starting get angry. Jesus went on and said, “In the days of the prophet Elisha there were many who were sick with leprosy (a skin disease) in Israel. Not one of them was healed. The only leper that God saved through Elisha was Naaman from Syria.”

Now everyone in the synagogue was angry with Jesus. They all got up and pushed him out of the synagogue. They decided that he needed to be run out of town. They led Jesus to the top of the hill that Nazareth was built up on. They wanted to throw him down the hill.

Jesus did an amazing thing. He passed through the middle of them and went safely on his way. Jesus knew that God still wanted him to share more about the promises with other people.

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Surprising Jesus Puppet

*The message of today's story is surprising and the children will find this a fun way to share that with their families by making these puppets.*

#### Materials needed

- disposable cups (paper or styrofoam)
- Jesus image at end of lesson
- craft sticks
- glue
- markers
- scissors
- white paper

#### Instructions

Copy the image at the end of the lesson making one for each child. For younger children cut the image out and cut a shape the same size out of the white paper. You can let older children do the same for themselves. Invite the children to colour in the Jesus image with the markers. Glue one the face to one side of the craft stick and glue the blank piece to the back of the image. With the scissors poke a hole into the bottom of the cup. Either print for the children or have them print for themselves “**Jesus surprises us**” on the outside of the cup with the markers. Place the craft through the hole in the cup from the inside of the cup so that the craft stick comes out the bottom. Practice with the children having ‘Jesus’ surprise us by popping the puppet up in the cup. Encourage the children to share with their families why Jesus surprises us with what he had to say in the story today.

### Project Idea 2: Surprising News Poster

*The stories from the last two weeks have been full of surprises both for the people of Jesus' day and for us today. This response will help the children to share their wonder at what Jesus did in his home synagogue.*

#### Materials needed

- newsprint
- poster board
- magazines
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- construction paper

#### Instructions

Print on the top of the poster board “**Jesus surprises us**”. Invite the children to think about the story from this week and last week. Ask them to name the actions/words that surprised the people with Jesus and the things that surprise us about the story. List the actions/words up on the newsprint. Invite the children to look through the magazines and cut out pictures that show the surprises that Jesus did/does. When they have their pictures have them glue onto the poster board – they may want to illustrate the picture with words that they identified earlier in the

response process. When they have completed the poster to their satisfaction work with the children to place the poster where others in the congregation can see it and learn more about the surprises that Jesus makes.

### **Project Idea 3: Open Response**

*Today's story is full of conflict and different emotions. This open response will give the children to express that conflict and emotions in a safe way.*

#### **Materials needed**

- construction paper
- scissors
- glue sticks
- craft sticks
- pipe cleaners
- stickers
- tissue paper
- streamers
- markers
- glitter
- crayons
- any other craft materials you have on hand

#### **Instructions**

Lay out the craft materials for the children. Let them take a look at what you have laid out. Ask them to think about the story that they have heard. Invite them to name the most important thing that happened in the story. Once they have each had a chance to respond invite them create a response to the story using the craft materials that are laid out. When they are finished have them share with each other their creations. Encourage the children to share their art with their families and explain how it is connected to today's story.

### **Closing**

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Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**For the coming of Jesus into the world, thank you God.**  
**For the gift of the Holy Spirit, thank you God.**  
**For the faith to serve, thank you God. Amen.**

## Jesus Image

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