



# THE BOOKENDS OF JESUS' MINISTRY

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*We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.*

—Nelson Mandela

## WHAT'S THE BIG PICTURE?

Jesus boldly declared His reason for coming and fully supplied us with all we need to continue His work. It is important for us to understand how He established His ministry and how He completed it in precisely the way He did.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

At times we may be confused about our purpose in life. By understanding Jesus' blueprint, we can repurpose our lives to fit into His plan.

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Jesus gave us very clear directions regarding how to live and follow Him. When we understand His overall purpose for us, we can better understand how our lives can help transform a hurting world.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Luke 4:14-21: After his baptism by John, Jesus went

to the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the devil. This passage picks up from there.

Jesus first returned to Galilee and then went to Nazareth (where He had been brought up) in order to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath to read. While there, He stood and read from the Old Testament passage, Isaiah 61:1-2. His purpose in reading this particular passage was to make clear who He was and why He had come. Jesus launched his ministry with this passage because He, standing before them, was the fulfillment of it.

Matthew 28:18-20: Jesus had already been crucified, buried, and risen again. He had been spending time with the disciples and told them to meet Him in Galilee (where He first began His ministry). It was at this time that Jesus gave them His final earthly address – to go and make disciples and teach them to observe everything that He had commanded them. All of His years of ministry with them had built up to this monumental moment. Jesus had paid the penalty of sin and had defeated death. They were left with the charge to revolutionize the world through Christ's command of the Great Commission.

## LAUNCH QUESTIONS:

Think of a political campaign. Why is it important for the candidates to begin and end their speech well? What do they typically want people to remember?

Overall, what did Jesus want people to know about Himself? How did He live that out?

Did Jesus set a working model for college students? How?



## EXPLORE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 4:14-21

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to read from Isaiah 61:1-2?
2. In what ways in Scripture do you read about Jesus:
  - a. Preaching good news to the poor
  - b. Proclaiming freedom for the prisoners
  - c. Recovering sight for the blind
  - d. Releasing the oppressed

3. How can you relate these physical attributes (poverty, blindness, etc.) to spiritual issues? For example, a person can be physically blind but also spiritually blind. What does that mean, and how can Christ - through you - help bring sight and freedom to others?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

4. What does it mean to be a disciple?
5. Since Jesus instructed us to obey all that He commanded, how is helping the poor correlated with making disciples?

## APPLY QUESTIONS

6. Who today lives in the physical categories that Jesus described in Luke 4? Is there anyone you know and feel compelled to help? (People across the hall, across the street, or across the world.)
7. Jesus said that He came to proclaim freedom to prisoners and to set the oppressed free. What about those who are held captive by modern-day slavery and human trafficking? How do you think that Jesus came to release them? What is our role in that?
8. How can you explain to someone who does not know Christ why He came to preach good news to the poor?

## GOING DEEPER

A. Read through the book of Matthew. In what instances do you see Jesus preaching the good news to the poor? How is He opening the eyes of the blind? What were the disciples and His followers doing while He was ministering to others?

B. Read John 9. Compare the physical blindness that Jesus healed with the blindness of the Pharisees. Do you think you have blinders on your eyes in any way? What about the blindness of others? What do you think keeps your friends, family, classmates, professors, etc, from seeing Jesus?

C. Write a speech on human trafficking and slavery and why it matters to you. Spend time preparing your introduction and conclusion to the speech. Remember, how you start and how you finish is an enormous part of what people will recall.

### Luke 4:14-21 - 14

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him. <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth where He had been brought up[, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

### Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."