

TODAY!



GROWTH GUIDE JANUARY 26, 2025

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people and gave a prominent place for women and shows Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels.

CONTEXT

Following Jesus' baptism, he was led by the Holy Spirit in the wilderness where he was Tempted by the devil for 40 days. In today's scripture passage, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee where word has spread about Him. According to the NLT Life Application Study Bible, "synagogues were very important in Jewish life. When the Jewish people were exiled and no longer had their Temple, synagogues were established as places of worship on the Sabbath and as schools for young boys during the week. After the Temple was rebuilt, synagogues continued to exist. A synagogue could be set up in any town with at least 10 Jewish families and was administered by one leader and an assistant. At the synagogue, the leader would often invite a visiting rabbi to read from the Scriptures and to teach. Itinerant rabbis, like Jesus, were always welcome to speak to those gathered each Sabbath in the synagogues.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 4:14-21. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What empowered Jesus?
3. How does the Holy Spirit empower you?
4. What was the people's reaction to Jesus teaching in the synagogues?
5. The synagogue in Jesus' time was the center of religious life for the Jewish people. What part has church played in your own faith journey?
6. Who has nurtured you in your faith? How might you nurture and encourage others in their faith?
7. Jesus attended synagogue weekly. He was a man of worship, prayer, and study. How do these practices influence or shape your faith?
8. When Jesus came to Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went to the synagogue and stood up to read the Scriptures. He read from the scroll of Isaiah. (Isaiah 61:1-2). What did the Lord anoint Jesus to do? How is the church (we) doing these things?
9. Read verse 21 again. What does Jesus tell the people in the synagogue? Jesus was proclaiming himself as the one who would bring this Good News to pass.
10. How are you proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ? What opportunities allow you to witness to others?

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