

## Small Group Meeting on Luke 4:14-30

### Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over Christmas. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship over Christmas? How has that gone? Share those experiences with your small group.

### Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### Luke 4:14-30

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### Setting the scene:

- Luke's gospel could be described as the 'gospel of the Spirit' as he explicitly mentions the Spirit more times than the other gospel writers. This may be because Luke sees his Volume 2 (Acts) as being a continuation of 'the things Jesus *began* to do and to preach' (Acts 1:1) through Spirit empowered disciples.

So the relationship between Jesus and the Spirit can be seen as a model for the relationship between disciples and the Spirit.

- In the run up to this passage Jesus has been anointed by the Spirit following his baptism (3:22), led by the Spirit into the wilderness (4:1) and then returns to Galilee 'in the power of the Spirit' (4:14) to preach in the synagogues.

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore one or more of these questions:

Q1. We read (4:22) that they were amazed at the *gracious* words that Jesus spoke. How was your speaking today? How might you hold each other accountable for the gracious use of the tongue?

Q2. The passage Jesus quotes from Isaiah covers both spiritual and physical aspects of life. A Spirit-empowered disciple will not split 'God activities' from 'normal activities', or 'secular' from 'sacred'. Where do you do this (e.g. are there habits you have got into which damage the integrity of your life as a disciple - see a list of examples in Gal 5:19-21)? Pray together for forgiveness and for ways through.

Q3. Work your way through one or more of the activities listed in the Isaiah passage and ask the question 'How am I, how is Christ Church, living this out?' See additional note below.

## Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you live more like Jesus? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

### Some new challenge ideas

#### 1. Daily Praying and Listening

Commit yourself over the next few weeks to daily spend a little longer than you currently do in prayer

- Asking God to fill you afresh with His Spirit for the day
- Committing the (known and unknown) events of the day to God (maybe have your diary open before you)
- Quietly listening for God’s guidance or prompts

#### 2. Responding to the actions in the Isaiah passage

Consider how you might live out one of the areas that is highlighted over the coming weeks – again the additional list might be helpful

## Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore a life more empowered by the Spirit and more in step with the Spirit.

Pray for the vacancy process at Christ Church and for spiritual protection on us as a community.

## Reading for next Sunday

Luke chapter 5

## Additional Note

Some suggestions to think about for the elements of the Isaiah 61 quote – you will undoubtedly come up with others:

Proclaiming good news to the poor:

- Does my purchasing power enable or disable producers of goods – do I look for ethically traded goods or the cheapest?
- What political pressure might be brought to bear to reduce the growing inequalities in income in our own country?
- Are there people you know who need debt or benefits advice? Put them in touch with our Frontline volunteers (07502 432410)

Proclaiming freedom for the prisoners:

- Would you be able to be part of our existing prison ministry? (contact Brian Wakelin if you want more details)
- Do you have skills to walk alongside someone with addiction problems?
- Are any of your neighbours or work colleagues trapped by their circumstances? How might you walk alongside them?

Proclaiming recovery of sight to the blind:

- What charities might you support in this area?
- At a spiritual level, who can you invite to Alpha starting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February?

Setting the oppressed free:

- Consider the work that organisations such as Tearfund and Christian Aid engage in and get behind it.