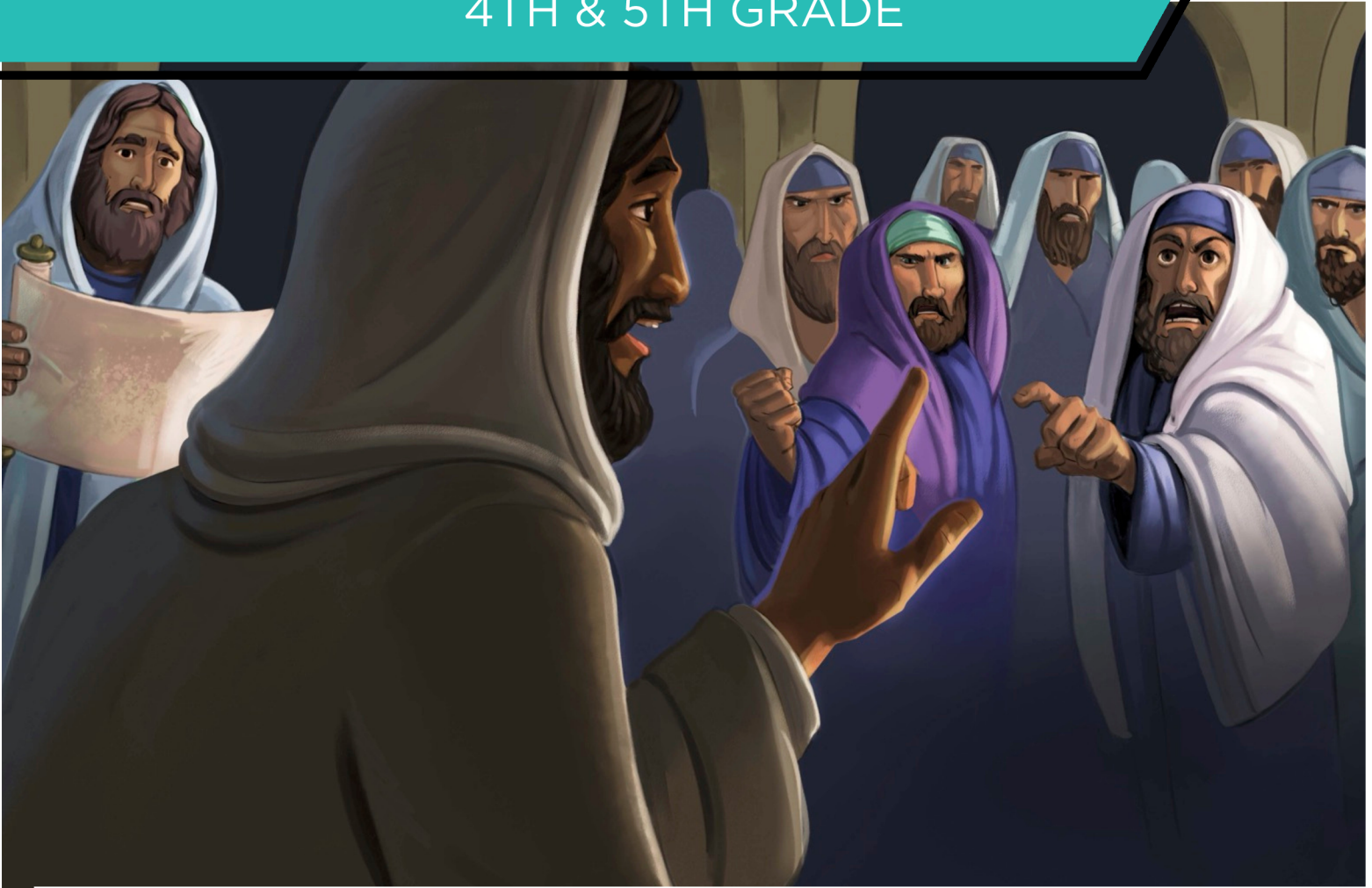


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



JUNE 14, 2026

JESUS REJECTED IN NAZARETH

LUKE 4

CHRIST CONNECTION

All people sin and need a Savior, but not everyone will believe in Jesus. Only those who believe the good news about Jesus and repent will be rescued from sin and death.

LEADER DEVO

At the beginning of this week's Bible passage, the people's eyes were fixed on Jesus, hanging onto His every word. At the end of the story, however, they were so angry at Jesus they planned on throwing Him off a cliff to shut Him up. What happened to trigger such an abrupt change in the people's attitude toward Jesus?

For Jesus' neighbors in Nazareth, it was a mix of pride and disbelief. The Jews had no problem when Jesus followed their customs by reading a scroll in their synagogue on the Sabbath. But when Jesus began to show how the Old Testament pointed to Him, the people began to murmur and doubt. How could the man they had seen grow up on their streets be the expected Messiah?

What's more, Jesus began sharing scriptural examples of times when God's people rejected His blessings and when grace and mercy were applied to Gentiles (non-Jews). This was the tipping point for those listening to Jesus, as they were appalled at the idea that God's blessings were not theirs by default due to their ancestry.

This story offers two lessons to today's listeners. First, we are not in God's family because we go to church, live in a certain area, or have family members who love Jesus. Help kids see that each person must respond to the gospel individually with faith and repentance. It is only by grace through faith that we are saved.

Secondly, Jesus is a polarizing presence in a lost world. In today's story we quickly see a fascination with Jesus turn into hatred of Him. This echoes Jesus' words elsewhere in Scripture that "anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30). Help kids see that there is no neutral ground when it comes to considering Jesus. Every person must decide to either reject Him or worship Him as Lord.

Consider sharing with kids the turning point in your life when you saw Jesus for who He really is and responded in faith and repentance. Help kids see that Jesus really is the loving Messiah who came to redeem, forgive, and restore our relationship with God.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:3



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

JUNE 28

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: POST-IT NOTES

Write the verse out on a Post-it note and put that note somewhere you'll see often, such as a bathroom mirror, the fridge door, etc. Every time you see the note, read the verse aloud 2-3 times.

LESSON

While Jesus was traveling through Galilee, He came to the city of Nazareth, where He had grown up. He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, as He did every week. He stood up to read and was given a scroll that contained the writings of the prophet Isaiah. Here is what He read:

***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because He has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me
to proclaim release to those in prison
and to give sight to the blind
to set free those in oppression,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”***

Then Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was looking at Jesus as He said, “Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled.” Jesus was claiming that Isaiah was talking about Him!

Everyone was amazed by the way Jesus was talking. But they also said, “Isn’t He Joseph’s son?” The people had known Jesus since He was a boy, and they wondered how Isaiah’s words could be about Him.

Then Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown. But I say to you, there were many widows living during the time Elijah was serving God as a prophet. At that time, there was no rain for three years and six months, and many people were starving and in need of food. Yet Elijah was only sent to save one woman who was not from Israel.”

Jesus also said, “And in the time of the prophet Elisha, many people suffered from leprosy. But only one man was cleansed: Naaman the Syrian.”

This made the people in the synagogue very angry. They chased Jesus out of town and planned on throwing Him over a cliff! But Jesus passed through the crowd and went on His way.

CHRIST CONNECTION

We all are dead in our sins, but Jesus provided the way to save us by dying for our sin and rising again. Everyone who repents and trusts in Him is saved from death and will live forever with God.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) What observations can you make about this passage? (what stands out to you, surprises you, or tells you something new?)
- 2) We know that the Jews had certain expectations regarding the Messiah. They expected the Messiah to come and be a conquering warrior who defeated their enemies and saved Israel. Reread the passage of Isaiah that Jesus chose. What is Jesus saying He truly came to do?
- 3) Jesus continued by speaking of Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was sent to save a woman from Sidon from the drought. Elisha healed only one person, a Syrian. What detail in these two stories does Jesus emphasize?
Neither of the people who were helped/saved were from Israel! They were gentiles, or non-Jewish people.
- 4) What is Jesus' purpose in telling about gentiles being saved instead of Jews?
God cares about saving everyone, not just the Jewish people. The Messiah would come to save ALL people.
- 5) Is there someone who comes to mind who would be encouraged to hear that Jesus loves them? How can you share that with them this week?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!