

This week we are learning about

Jesus Goes to Nazareth



READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Jesus Goes to Nazareth
from Luke 4:14-30

God's love and grace is for everyone!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Nazareth
- Jesus
- Synagogue
- Grumbling
- God

Although there was only one temple in Jesus' time, there were many synagogues. The synagogue was the local gathering place for study, prayer and sometimes even meals.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 252-253

Spark Bible pages 1133-1134

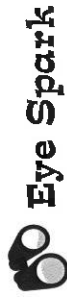
Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for always loving us, no matter what. Thanks for sending Jesus to tell us this over and over. In his name we pray... AMEN

TALK ABOUT IT

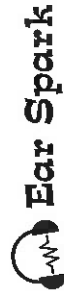
Family Conversations

- 1 Whom does God love?
- 2 When does God love us?
- 3 People in Jesus' time studied and prayed and ate at the synagogue. What kinds of things do you do at your church?
- 4 Play a game where you throw a ball to each other (like hot potato) and when you catch it, list a person or group of people whom God loves. See how fast you can go!



Eye Spark

When you see a picture of Jesus, remember his message: God loves everyone!



Ear Spark

Next time you hear someone say "I love you," remember that God loves you, too.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Send "God Valentines"! Make simple valentines with messages like "Jesus Loves You!" and "God Loves You Always & No Matter What!" and "God Loves Everybody!" Have fun mailing or delivering them anonymously so that the recipients feel the real surprise of the message.

For younger kids

Page through your Spark Story Bible and find pictures of people loving each other in God's name.

For older kids

Jesus read the words from Isaiah from a scroll. See if you can find them in your Bible or by using a computer search engine. When you find the reference, make a scroll of your own!



Jesus Goes to Nazareth



Luke 4:14-30

Name _____

God's way is love for all people.

Here Is the Synagogue

Jesus went to synagogues all over, including Nazareth. He wanted to teach people about God in these holy places where people worshiped. Use your fingers and hands to help tell this Bible story about Jesus:

Here is the synagogue *(make a fist)*

On top is a dome. *(cup the other hand on top)*

Open the doors *(open hands like two doors)*

And come into God's home. *(hands the way you pray)*



God

O-Oh! They are grumbling and angry today; *(wiggle fingers quickly)*

They're shouting at Jesus to leave right away! *(point toward the door)*

But Jesus says this as he walks out the door: *(walk fingers away)*

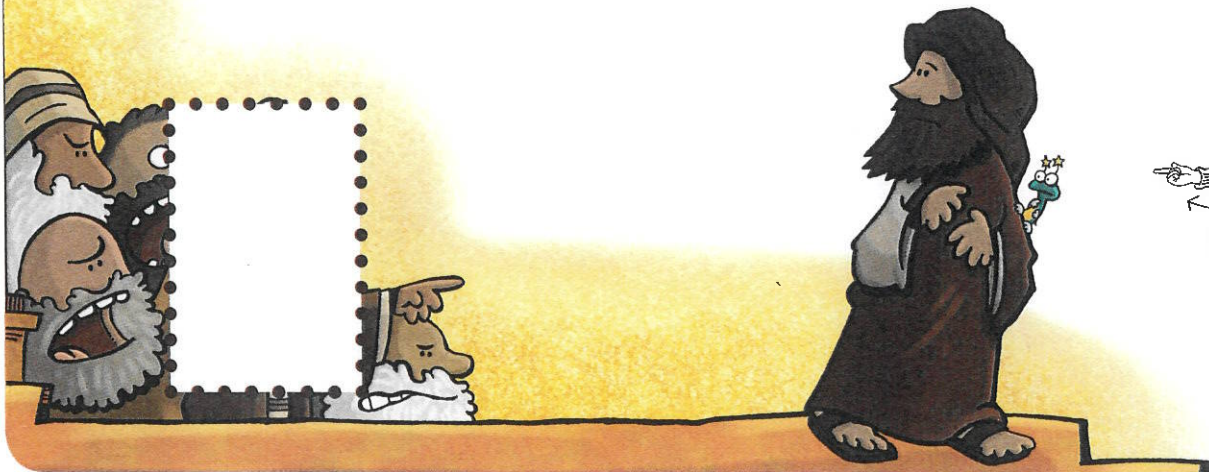
"God loves everyone—even sick, jailed, or poor." *(motion the signs for the words: God, love, everyone)*



Love



Everyone



Today's Bible story, **Jesus Goes to Nazareth**, is from the Gospel of **Luke**.

The word **gospel** means "good news." God sent Jesus to **share** good news with the world!

Extra! Extra!

Jesus had good news to share about God's love! He wanted everyone to hear all about it!

If I were a newspaper reporter, I would share this good news about God on the front page:



The Daily Times
TUESDAY

TRY IT!

The Crowd's Cross Words

The people in the synagogue didn't believe Jesus' words. They began to grumble and shout. They told Jesus to go away! Use this word puzzle to remember where this Bible story happened. It was Jesus' hometown, the place he grew up.

Part of our body between our head and shoulders



Jesus' first bed



God created this animal with stripes



A color NOT in the rainbow



Jesus' mother



He wanted to teach people about God



The planet we live on



This shape reminds us of God's love



The town where Jesus' grew up and today's story happened:

Faith on the Go!

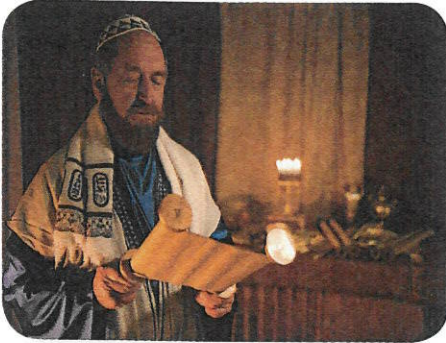
Today's Bible story, **Jesus Goes to** [] , is from

the Gospel of **Luke**. The word [] means "good

news." God sent Jesus to [] good news with the world!

A House of God

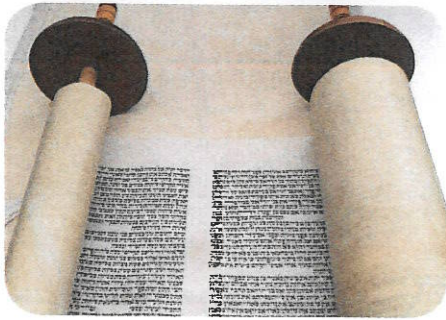
Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth. Synagogues are holy places where Jewish people worship God. Inside a synagogue, you can see these things:



A **Rabbi** is a Jewish leader who teaches and preaches. **Yarmulkes**, or "skull caps," are small hats worn by Jewish men to remind them of God.



A **menorah** is a "candelabra," a candle holder with branches to hold many candles.



The **Torah** scrolls include the words from the five holy books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

God's way is love for all people.

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

- Tell you about Jesus
- Share my good news about God
- Collect money for the poor
- Visit a synagogue
- Read a Bible story together

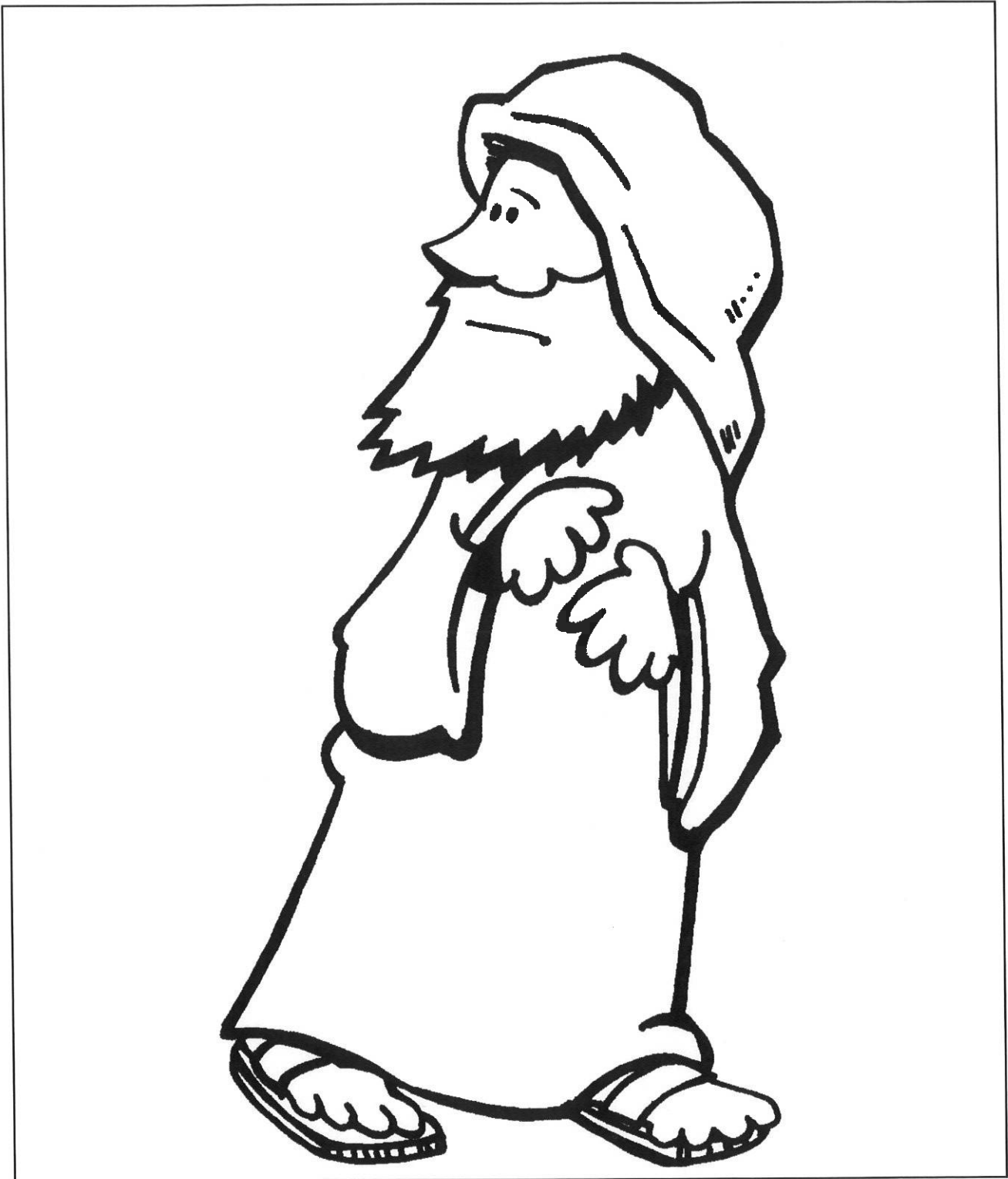
- Invite you to church
- Give you a big hug
- Say "I'm sorry"
- Pray for you
- My own idea: _____

Jesus Goes to Nazareth



“Go away, Jesus!”

Jesus Goes to Nazareth



“Go away, Jesus!”

Jesus' Clever Code

Jesus spoke to a crowd in the synagogue. What did he say? Crack the code to find out!



SECRET CODE

D	E	F	H	I	L	M
N	O	P	R	S	T	U



Jesus' Clever Code Solution

Jesus spoke to a crowd in the synagogue. What did he say? Crack the code to find out!

T H E S P I R I T O F
 ✕ ✚ 😊 ✨ ♥ ☀ 🌟 ☀ ✕ ★ 🌸

T H E L O R D I S
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U P O N M E
 ✨ ♥ ★ 🌸 ▲ 😊

SECRET CODE

□	😊	🌸	✚	☀	👁	▲
D	E	F	H	I	L	M
🌸	★	♥	🌟	☀	✕	✨
N	O	P	R	S	T	U



Luke 4:14-30

God's **love** is **for** all people.

I wonder...

- Why everybody got so mad at Jesus.
- How the crowd acted after Jesus got away from them.
- If Jesus was sad or angry that people in his hometown didn't accept him.

Look Who's in Church

About five minutes before church started, Marcus slid in the pew beside me and whispered, "Don't look now, but The Giant is here."

"The Giant" is Randy Caspian, the meanest, and biggest, kid in fourth grade. I started to turn, but Marcus pushed my head back toward the front. "Don't look now. He'll see you."

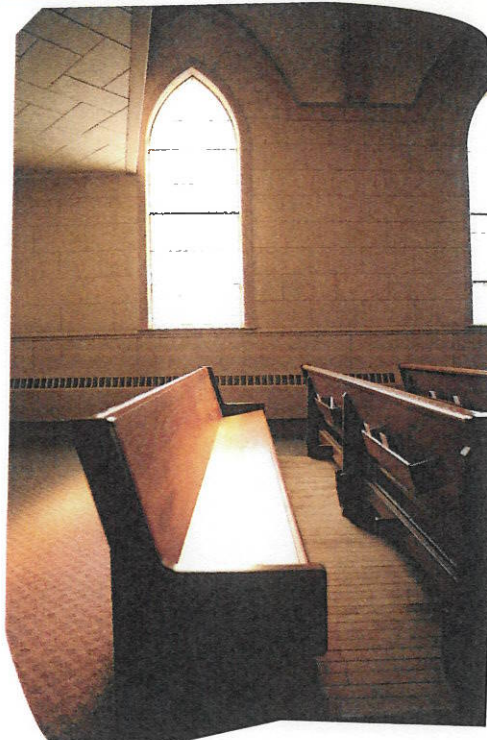
I waited till Marcus let his hand drop, and then I turned. Sure enough, The Giant was sitting in the back pew, chewing sunflower seeds and spitting the shells into a pop can.

"He must've gotten lost on the way to the Jerk Convention," Marcus said.

"More like the Beef Jerky Convention," I said, and we had to cover our mouths to keep from laughing too loud. My dad elbowed me in the ribs and handed me the bulletin.

"It's a good thing we start with this," he said, pointing to the page. "Randy's in the right place. And if you two pay attention, you'll see that you need to be here too."

The pastor got up in front and had us all stand. He directed us to the page in the bulletin my dad had pointed out. "We begin by asking God for forgiveness."



Six Letters Spell What?

Each of these 3-letter pieces can join up with another piece to make a word that comes from today's Bible story. Search the story if you need help joining them together.

SPI

AND

CUS

SCR

NAA

AMA

LEP

ELI

DOC

ZED

MAN

ERS

JAH

TOM

TOR

OLL

INT

RIT



Look It Up!

In this story, Jesus was reading from what we call the Old Testament. Look up the actual passage he was reading in **Isaiah 61:1-4**.



Memory Verse

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. **Luke 4:18a**

Fun Facts

Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew up in Nazareth.

As far as we know, this is the **first sermon** Jesus preached.

What we know as the Bible **did not exist** back then.

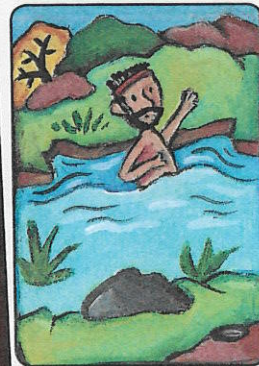
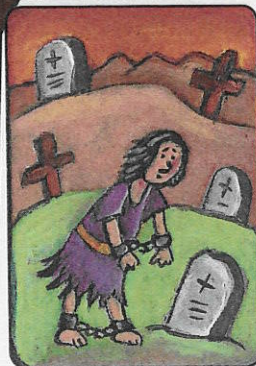
Jewish people had separate scrolls for each book of what we call the **Old Testament**.

People from **Sidon and Syria** were enemies of Jews.

The phrase **"hometown prophet"** is used when someone isn't listened to or respected in the place where they're from.

Most Wanted

These are pictures of some of the people Most Wanted by Jesus. They are most wanted because Jesus loves them and wants them as his own. Cut out each picture and create a deck of cards with vital information about each person. Draw yourself on the blank card and put your information on back of it.





Tell this story to adults in your family. Ask them what they think about God helping enemies.

Pray for someone you dislike, asking Jesus to show them his love.

Watch evening news. Pray for people who are reported as "bad guys."

Go online to learn more about John Newton, the man who wrote "Amazing Grace."

Think of people in the news who are disliked by the rest of the world. Write a prayer that asks God to bless them.

Widow at Zarephath

Before: Was preparing to die from starvation, was not a Jewish woman.

After: Trusted God's call to feed Elijah, God gave enough for her and her son to survive.

1 Kings 17:3-14

Zacchaeus

Before: A cheater who stole money from people, then climbed a tree to see Jesus.

After: Jesus went to his house. He gave back 4 times what he stole and gave half of his possessions to the poor.

Luke 19:3-13

Woman Caught in Adultery

Before: Was guilty of breaking the sixth commandment. A crowd of men wanted to sentence her to death.

After: Jesus did not condemn her. The crowd of men left in shame.

John 8:2-12

Gerasene Demoniac

Before: Possessed by demons, lived in a cemetery.

After: Jesus freed him from demons. He told people about Jesus' healing power.

Mark 5:1-20

You

Before:

After:

Samaritan Woman at the Well

Before: Had many husbands, came to the well at noon when nobody else would be there.

After: Realized that Jesus is God's Son, Jesus turned her into a preacher.

John 4:4-42

Children

Before: Parents brought them to be blessed by Jesus, disciples spoke sternly to them.

After: Jesus got mad at the disciples, blessed the kids, and told the adults to receive God's kingdom like children.

Mark 10:13-16

Naaman

Before: A very important military officer with the serious skin disease leprosy, was not Jewish.

After: Trusted God, dipped in the Jordan 7 times, was cured.

2 Kings 5:1-11

It's Hard to Come Home

Jesus wasn't very well received when he went to teach at home. Solve this hidden message to find out what his neighbors and friends did to him. Hold your paper flat and very close to your face and you should be able to read the words. On the back of the page, make a secret message of your own!

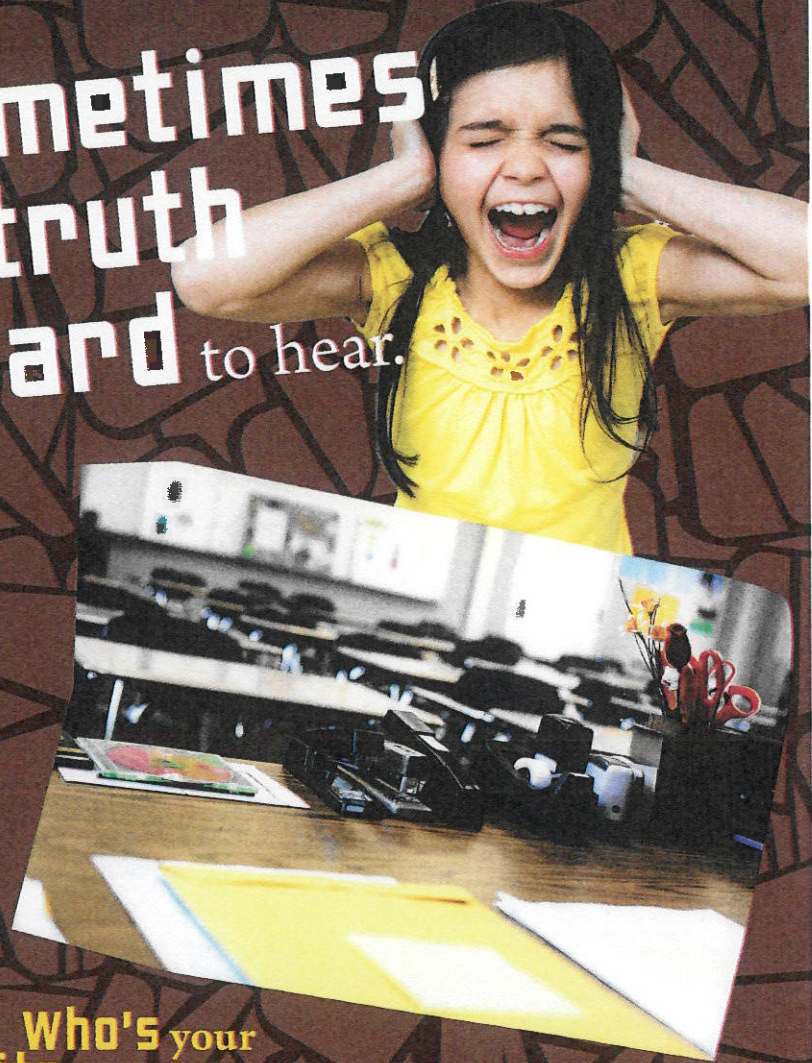
DO NOT COME HOME
DO NOT COME HOME
DO NOT COME HOME

Jesus Goes to Nazareth



Luke 4:14-30

sometimes
the truth
is hard to hear.



Who's your
favorite teacher?

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Good Teachers

Unscramble the traits of good teachers. Then use the circled letters to answer the question: Why are good teachers so great?

_____ C _____ E _____ H _____

A whiteboard with a wooden frame containing ten rows of words and letters. Each row has a set of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for writing. The words and letters are as follows:

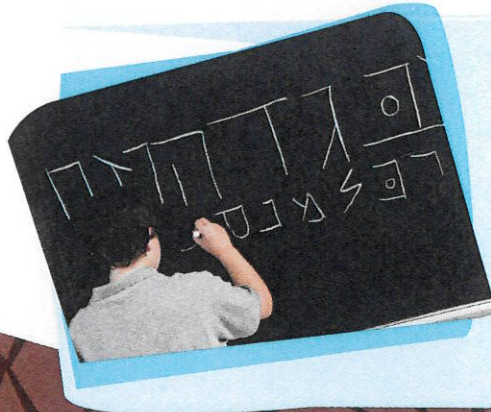
TPNEAIT									
NITIEGLETLN									
UNFNY									
CRISTEALI									
WOND OT THEAR									
TREECAIV									
EAVRB									
DROZIGANE									
NIDK									
TYWUSHORRTY									

The circled letters are: L (row 2, column 8), E (row 3, column 2), H (row 4, column 10), C (row 5, column 1), and D (row 7, column 10).

Did You Know?

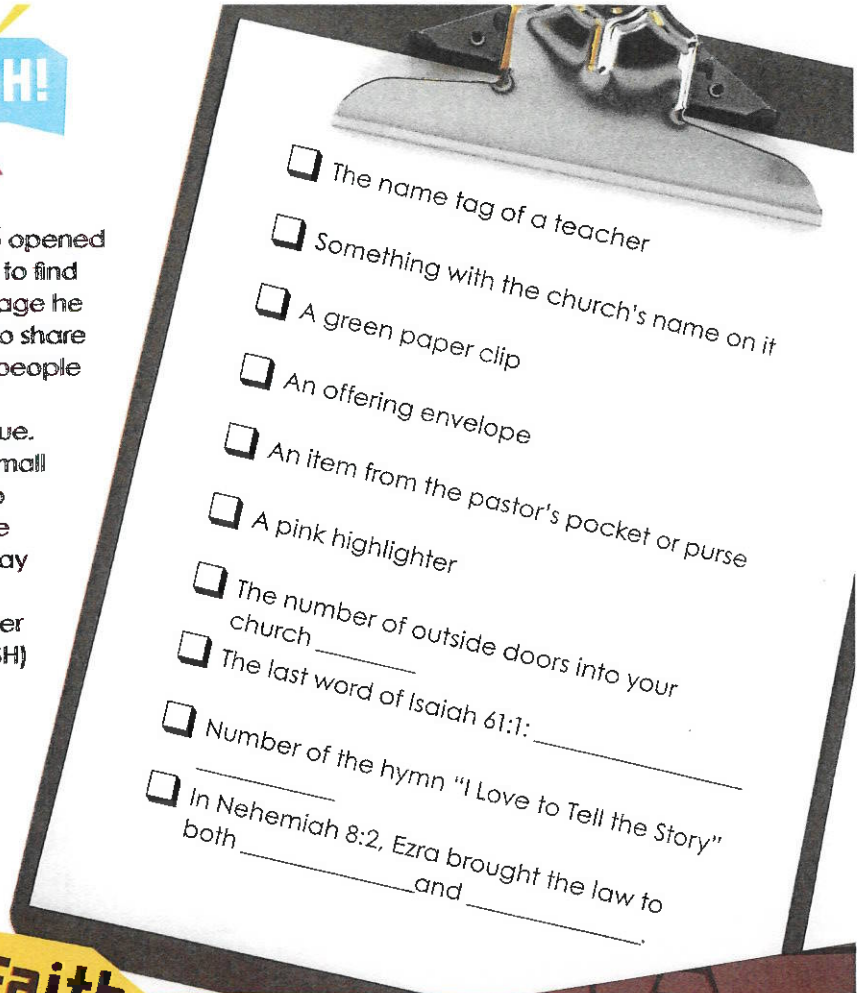
During Jesus' time, Jewish kids began going to school at the age of 4 or 5. By the time kids were 10, they had memorized long portions of the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible. The best students continued to attend school. Some of them became teachers, or rabbis, themselves.

In Bible time, being a teacher was one of the best and most respected jobs a person could have.





Jesus opened the scroll to find the message he wanted to share with the people in the synagogue. Work in small groups to complete this Sunday School Scavenger Hunt (SSSH) and see if you can find all the things on this list!



Faith on the Go!

Being a good teacher can be challenging! The people Jesus grew up with in his hometown didn't appreciate his good teaching. It is rewarding when people say they appreciate your hard work. This week, find a time to say thank you to a teacher who's doing a good job and who you think is pretty cool. You'll make your teacher's day!

Memory Verse



All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. Luke 4:22a

Don't Hurt the Messenger

The people in Jesus' hometown didn't really like his message. Using your Bible, look up these passages to discover other unpopular messengers. Label each message with the correct messenger from the word bank below. Some messengers may match with more than one message.

_____—declared that he was the Bread of Life, and that only when people ate of his flesh and drank of his blood would they receive eternal life (John 6:35-59)

_____—told King Saul that he'd lost favor with God because of his disobedience, stubbornness, and falling away from God. (1 Samuel 15:10-35)

_____—challenged the wealthy and those whose treasure is in material things by saying you'd have to lose your possessions and all earthly ties before you could be Jesus' disciple (Luke: 14:25-33)

_____—ordered Pharaoh to release the Israelites from their work so that they could worship God. (Exodus 5:1, 15-21)

_____—proclaimed that God was going to cut off Israel and let it be destroyed because of their faithlessness and evil-doings. (Zephaniah 3:1-13)

_____—said that anytime people ignored the hungry, homeless, sick, or imprisoned they ignored him and would be judged for it. (Matthew 25:31-46)

_____—confronted Jews by assuring them that just because they call themselves Jews doesn't mean they're protected from God's judgment if they are acting like hypocrites and not abiding by the law (Romans 2:17-24)

WORD BANK:

Jesus

Moses

Paul

Samuel

Zephaniah

Don't Hurt the Messenger Solution

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