



**Sunday Activity
Pages**

January 23, 2022
Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

1 Gospel

Gospel – Adapted from Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Since many people have written about the events that have occurred among us, just as the eyewitnesses told them to us, I have also decided, after investigating everything, to write it down for you, Theophilus, so that you may realize that the teachings you have received are true.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread through the whole area. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day. When it was his turn to read, he found the place where Isaiah wrote:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, freedom to those who are in chains, to give sight to the blind, and to announce the year of the Lord.

When he finished reading, Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. Everyone was looking at him, and he said, “Today this passage has come true in front of you.”

2 Reflection

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus returned to the town where He grew up, Nazareth. He went to the synagogue. When it was His turn to read, He was expected to proclaim a passage of Scripture and then to speak about it. He chose a passage from the prophet Isaiah, which spoke about the coming of the Messiah, God's chosen one.

Jesus read the passage describing the Messiah and then, when He was to speak about it, He said one simple sentence: "Today this passage has come true in front of you." His meaning was clear: Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah that Isaiah had been speaking about.

One of the powerful things about the Old Testament is how much it speaks about Jesus. The Old Testament contains more than 300 prophecies about the coming Messiah: who He would be, where He would be from, what He would teach, even how He would die. God had told the people, hundreds of years before, how to recognize the Savior, and yet, so many people did not recognize Him.

We may think they were foolish, but do we always recognize Him? Sure, we know who Jesus is, but do we recognize Him acting in our lives? Do we respond to His call to follow Him? Or do we just figure that since we know who Jesus is, that's enough? Jesus calls us to a deep, intimate relationship with Him, and to follow Him. Do we recognize it and respond, or are we as deaf to God's clear signs as some of those in ancient Israel were?

3 Discussion Questions

Why do you think many people did not believe Jesus was the promised Savior even though He fulfilled so many Old Testament prophecies?

In what ways are we sometimes deaf to God's Word in our lives? How can we respond to Him more faithfully?

4

Vocabulary

- **Messiah** – A term for the Savior that God had promised.
- **Nazareth** – The town where Jesus grew up. Many of the people there had known Jesus since He was a child, and so would not believe He was the Savior.
- **Prophet** – Isaiah was an Old Testament prophet. The prophets spoke God's words to the people. Many prophets made prophecies about the promised Savior, many years before Jesus came.
- **Synagogue** – A Jewish house of prayer, where the people come together to worship God. It was a town's center of the Jewish community.

5

Fill in the Blank

- 1) Jesus spoke in the _____ in Nazareth, in today's Gospel.
- 2) Jesus grew up in the town of _____.
- 3) The people of His hometown thought they knew who Jesus was, so they couldn't accept that He is the _____.
- 4) Jesus read from the _____ Isaiah.

- 1) Where was Jesus when He read the Scripture passage in today's Gospel?
 - A) Jerusalem
 - B) Nazareth
 - C) Bethlehem
 - D) Rome

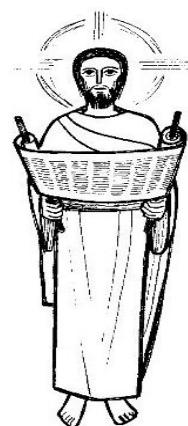
- 2) Which prophet did Jesus read from?
 - A) Isaiah
 - B) Jeremiah
 - C) Ezekiel
 - D) Jonah

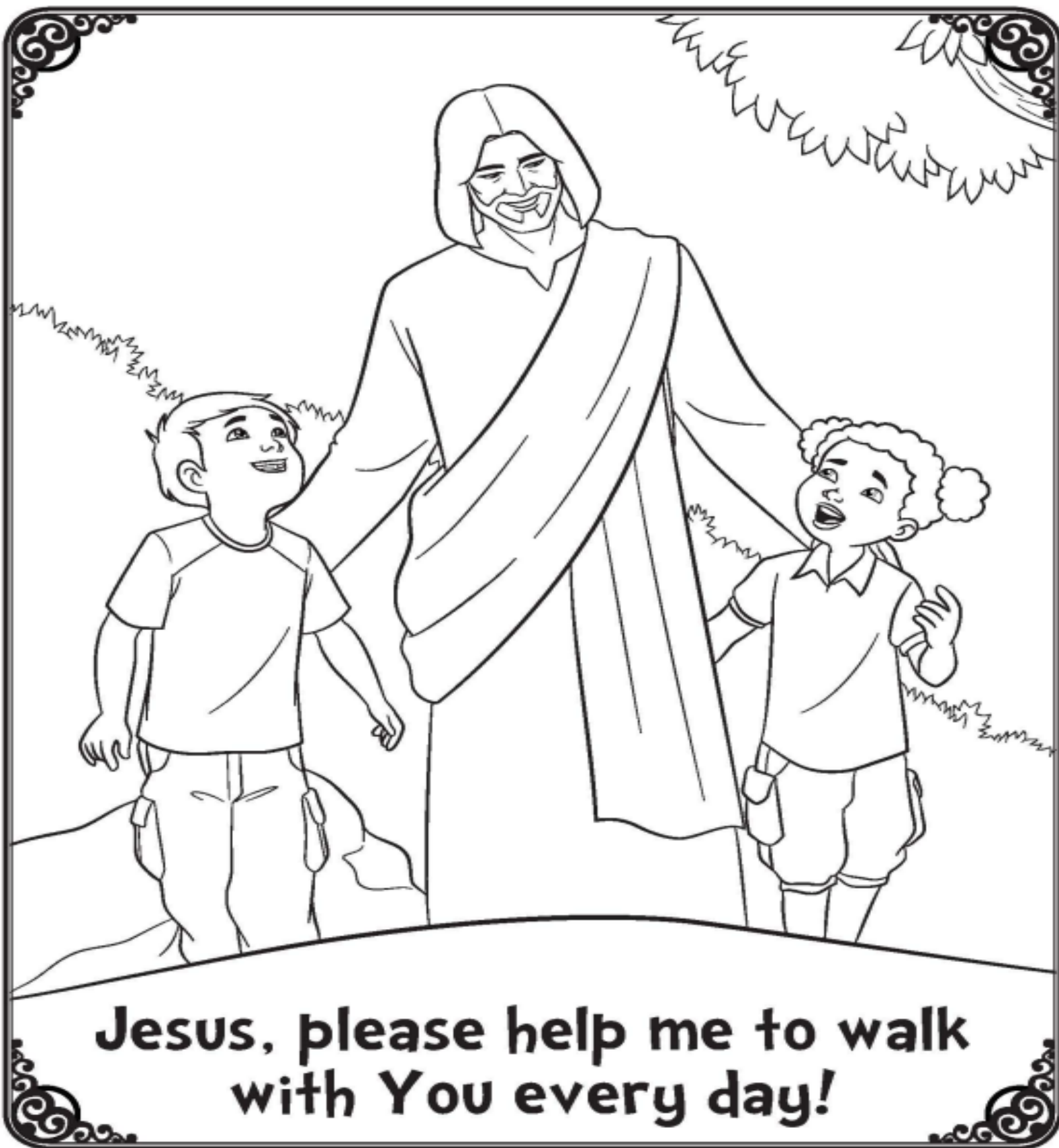
- 3) True/False: The people in Jesus's hometown all believed in Him.
 - A) True
 - B) False

Sunday January 23

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ISAIAH
 JESUS
 MESSIAH
 NAZARETH
 PROPHET
 SYNAGOGUE





Fill in the Blank

- 1) Synagogue
- 2) Nazareth
- 3) Messiah
- 4) Prophet

Quiz:

- 1) B – Nazareth
- 2) A – Isaiah
- 3) B – False