

A Community for All People

Community = redeemed people, living restored lives, and enjoying God's Kingdom in their midst.

"He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸"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 freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:16-21 (NIV)

Jesus is the redeemer and restorer of all people. (see Isaiah 58:6-12 and 61:1-7)

- Jesus frees the captives.
- Jesus gives us new eyes. (see Mark 8:17-25)
- Jesus sends the broken to the broken.

²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. ²³Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way."

Jesus is the originator of His Community. (see Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:20-22)

Small Group Questions

- 1) When Jesus reads the Scriptures in Luke 4, he is quoting and referencing two passages from Isaiah. Read them and answer the questions below. (Isaiah 58:6-12 and 61:1-7)
 - a) What characteristics do the passages share about the community of God?
 - b) Which description is the one that you think best describes a change that has already happened in your life? Why?
 - c) Which description is the one that you think best describes a change that you desire in your life? Why?
- 2) Read Mark 8:17-25. Jesus is talking about spiritual blindness and then physically heals someone who is blind. What do think is the significance of his teaching and moment of healing / how does it relate to our spiritual lives?
- 3) In the sermon, we talked about the community of God realizing that they are sent to the broken as broken people. What does this mean and how does it challenge or encourage your view of evangelism?
- 4) Read Genesis 12:1-3. How does this apply to how God forms his community and what that community's role is?
- 5) In the sermon, we discussed that you are probably either "alone, in need of a both spiritual healing and a home" or "need to reach out to someone who is". Which one are you and what do you think your next steps are?