

Read Luke 4.21-30

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

It's hard sometimes to know when to speak out and when to remain silent. Have you ever wondered whether you should speak up about something that you feel is important? Perhaps you felt worried that you would be challenged or criticised if you spoke out. It can be very upsetting if someone criticises or mocks what you say – especially when it is something you feel strongly about.

Several young adults have recently made the news because they had the courage to speak out about something that they felt was important. Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban in Pakistan, spoke out about the right of girls to be educated. Greta Thunberg has spoken out about climate change. Marcus Rashford, the footballer, campaigned against food poverty in Britain. Can you find out a bit more about each of these people? What motivated them to speak out? did they face challenges or criticism for what they said?



In today's gospel reading Jesus faces criticism when he speaks in the synagogue in Nazareth. This is the place where he grew up, helping his father Joseph in his job as a carpenter. Jesus told them that God sometimes chooses Gentiles (non-Jews) rather than Jews to do his will. When the people in the synagogue heard these words from Jesus, they were angry with him. Was he a rabbi, or a prophet, or the Messiah? They couldn't accept what he was saying because to them he was just the local carpenter's son. They felt that he had no right to say such things. They were so angry that they chased him out of town.

How do you think Jesus felt when he was rejected by the people from his home village? Jesus walked away from this criticism and continued his ministry elsewhere. Do you think you would have had the courage to walk away but continue to speak out about what you believe in? How do you respond when people around you challenge what you say and do?

Activities

- When many worshippers were killed outside a mosque in New Zealand in 2019, Andrew Graystone went to stand outside his local mosque in Manchester with a card saying 'I will keep watch while you pray'. His photo went viral. Search 'Andrew Graystone mosque vigil' to find out more details, then consider: In what ways did Andrew's motives and actions reflect those of Jesus? Is there anything you can do to reflect God's justice in your community?

Prayer

God of love, help us to be loud,
to speak your word,
to spread your love,
to be a voice for the voiceless.

Help us to be quiet,
to listen to you,
to listen to those who most need to be heard. Amen