

Third Sunday of Epiphany – 23rd January 2022

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



Read Luke 4.14-21

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

In today's reading we are told that Jesus went to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth. He was given a scroll from the prophet Isaiah and asked to read some of the verses. These verses said that the Spirit of God was upon a particular person, helping that person to bring good news to poor people and healing sick people. Jesus told the people that these words from Isaiah were coming true that day. He was implying that God had sent him to do these things. The people in the synagogue were shocked by this. They had known Jesus since he was a small boy, helping Joseph in his workshop. They found it hard to believe that Jesus was this special person sent by God.



Do you know what a scroll is? We often have Bible readings in church services, but we read from a book rather than a scroll. Isaiah was a Jewish prophet who told people about God. There is a book in the Bible full of things that Isaiah said or wrote. Can you find out anything more about Isaiah?

The people in the synagogue were surprised and shocked by what Jesus said. Have you ever felt shocked by something that Jesus said? Is there anything in this reading that surprises or shocks you?

Jesus was saying that he would help and serve people who were in need. Do you think you could follow Jesus' example? Do you know of anyone who needs help at the moment? Are there ways in which you could help and serve other people?

Activities

- Use the hymn 'Brother, sister, let me serve you' as a daily prayer this week. (The words of the song are written below) Sing or say a different verse each morning, and commit to behaving that way to everyone you meet during the day. Think about it again at the end of the day. How did you get on? How did you respond to each person you met during the day?
- Make a scroll. Take a sheet of A4 paper and a stick, and tape the short end of the paper onto the stick. Write or draw on the scroll any actions you could do this week to help people in your community. Roll up your scroll and tie it with a piece of string. You could open the scroll each day to remind you of things you could do to help other people.

Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the chance to serve you every day by helping other people.
Help us to be your hands, your eyes and your heart in this world;
to do your will and share your love with others. Amen

Song: Brother, Sister, let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.