

# Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading  
Giving Time, Talents & Resources  
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

## of Discipleship

January 16, 2022

### Day 1: Luke 4:14

***Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.***

At the end of His fasting and temptation, Jesus was both hungry and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. The fasting may have made Him physically weaker but His Spirit was ready to take on the evil one. The Temptation gave him the assurance that the power that comes from God can overcome anything the evil one might throw at Him. It is true for us as it was for Jesus, the more we depend on God the more our spirit becomes stronger.

**Question:** What would someone who knows you say about your character?

**Challenge:** Ask God in prayer to give you what you need to grow spiritually.

**Scripture:** I Peter 1:22 - 2:10

### Day 2: Luke 4:15

***He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.***

The synagogue was a place of teaching as well as worship. At first Jesus' teaching was welcomed. He taught with authority and touched people's hearts. In His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7, Luke 6:17-49) we see Jesus teaching using images of hope, as well as giving instruction. He knew it was not enough to just give instruction. He knew we needed hope.

**Question:** Think of someone who was a great teacher. Why were they great?

**Challenge:** Look around you for the rest of the week and write down images of hope you see in everyday life.

**Scripture:** I Peter 3:8-22

### Day 3: Luke 4:16

***When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read.***

Jesus grew up in a community that was very pious and one that knew their scripture. The town had about 250 residents and most of them were related. The town stood on a hillside and could be seen from a distance. Jesus was eager to tell those who helped raise Him that all the things He had experienced in the wilderness. The modern city is much larger, but you can still visit the well, where Mary was visited by the angel. The village at that time it had one well from which everybody drew their water.

**Question:** What 4 or 5 things would you like to pass on to someone else that you have learned about life?

**Challenge:** Write down in a little note book things that you really believe. From time to time add to this list.

**Scripture:** Psalm 8

### Day 4: Luke 4:17

***The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written ...***

What a section of scripture for Jesus to use as a text for a sermon. Isaiah is the book that contains the Servant Songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-11 and 52:13-53:12). Isaiah, in his book, combines the consequences of disobeying God's law, hope for redemption, and a vision of new life for the community that returns to God's law. Israel's main sin was idolatry. Their idolatry resulted in acts of injustice, especially toward the weak. Isaiah's writing called people to depend on God alone for life. He showed that those who "wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

**Question:** What is the source of strength and power? What is the most powerful force in the world?

**Challenge:** Read each one of the Servant Songs

**Scripture:** Isaiah 60:1-3 and John 1:1-16

### Day 5: Luke 4:18

***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free ...***

The Spirit of God was with Jesus because of what He did. He brought the good news of salvation. The afflicted are healed, the captives are released, the sightless see, and the slaves are set free. The key point is that all this has taken place. We just have to receive the gift.

**Question:** In our day who do you see as the poor, the captives, the blind & the slaves?

**Challenge:** In each of the groups above, what would be good news for them?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 65:17-25

### Day 6: Luke 4:19

***... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.***

This means the beginning of the "restoration of wholeness." The Lord's favor is a way of saying things will work together to build up the community. Crops will be good, people will be healthy and there will be peace with our neighbors. This comes not because of something we did; it is not our action - it is God's doing. God comes to us out of love and comes to us to bring hope and life.

**Question:** How do you understand the term "wholeness?"

**Challenge:** The beginning of wholeness is our relationship with God. Ask God to help you develop a better relationship with him.

**Scripture:** John 3:16-17