

SERMON

**LUKE - ACTS**

SERIES





# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

## HEAD

- ✚ Yes, Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One of God, and there are no: ifs, ands, or buts about it.
- ✚ If we don't believe the mighty WORDS of Jesus, then we'll never see the mighty WORKS of Jesus.
- ✚ Gentile inclusion into God's Kingdom program has been His heart from the very beginning, and is by no means an apostolic afterthought.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# HEART

- ✚ What are the biggest ‘buts’ in your life that prevent you from fully pursuing God’s calling, and how can you replace ‘yes, but’ with ‘yes, and’ in your spiritual walk?
- ✚ How does familiarity with Jesus or Christianity sometimes hide the fantastic and extraordinary nature of who He really is?

– Luke 4:22-30 –



## HEART

- ✚ Why do you think the people of Nazareth demanded to see Jesus' mighty works before believing His mighty words, and how does this reflect our own approach to faith?
- ✚ How does Jesus' reference to God blessing Gentiles like the widow at Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian challenge our understanding of who deserves God's grace?

– Luke 4:22-30 –



## HEART

- ✚ Why do you think those closest to God's way often pose the greatest danger to it, as seen when Jesus was rejected in His hometown synagogue rather than by pagans?
- ✚ What does it mean that Gentile inclusion in God's kingdom was always His plan from the beginning, and how should this shape our approach to evangelism and mission?

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 1: Identify & Eliminate

Write down your top 3 "buts" that keep you from deeper relationship with Jesus. Share them with an accountability partner and commit to replacing "yes, but" with "yes, and" this week.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 2: Fresh Eyes on Jesus

Spend 15 minutes each day this week reading one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) asking God to show you something new about Jesus you've never seen before.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ **Option 3: Believe for the Mighty Work**

Identify one area where you've been asking God for a "mighty work" but haven't fully believed His "mighty word." Commit to believing what Scripture says about that situation and watch for how God moves.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 4: Cross-Cultural Connection

In light of God's heart for all nations, intentionally reach out to someone from a different cultural, ethnic, or socioeconomic background this week. Build a relationship and look for opportunities to share Jesus.

– Luke 4:22-30 –






# FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL

## Day 1: No Ifs, Ands, or Buts

### Reading: Luke 4:16-22


 **Devotional:** Jesus proclaimed that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in their hearing—a seven-word sermon with eternal implications. The people initially marveled at His gracious words, but their “yes, but” response revealed hearts not fully surrendered. How often do we add conditions to our acceptance of Jesus? “Yes, He's Lord, but I need to see more evidence.” “Yes, I believe, but not enough to fully obey.” Today, examine where you've placed a “but” between you and complete trust in Christ. Jesus doesn't need your qualifications or conditions. He is the Messiah—period. Remove the “buts” that diminish your faith and embrace Him fully. Your wholehearted “yes and amen” opens the door to experiencing His mighty works in your life.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# Day 2: Believing the Word Before Seeing the Works

Reading: Mark 6:1-6

 **Devotional:** The people of Nazareth demanded miracles before they would believe Jesus' message. They wanted the mighty works without first accepting the mighty words. This backwards faith prevented Jesus from doing many miracles there. God still performs the impossible today, but faith precedes the miraculous. We cannot experience God's power while harboring unbelief in His promises. Do you truly believe God's Word, or are you waiting for proof before you trust? Without faith, it is impossible to please God. The widow at Zarephath and Naaman the leper received miracles because they acted on God's word before seeing the outcome. Today, identify one promise from Scripture and choose to believe it completely, regardless of your circumstances. Trust the Word, and watch for the works.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



## Day 3: When Familiarity Breeds Contempt

### Reading: John 1:10-13


✚ **Devotional:** “Sometimes the familiar hides the fantastic.” The people of Nazareth couldn’t see Jesus as Messiah because they knew Him as Joseph’s son. Their familiarity blinded them to His divine identity. We face the same danger. When we’ve heard Bible stories since childhood, attended church for years, or grown up in Christian culture, we risk losing our sense of wonder at who Jesus truly is. Familiarity can breed spiritual complacency. Jesus gets deeper the deeper you look, but many never look beyond the surface. He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. Today, approach Jesus with fresh eyes. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal something new about Christ’s character. Don’t let your knowledge about Jesus replace an intimate, awe-filled relationship with Him.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



## Day 4: God's Heart for All Nations

### Reading: Genesis 12:1-3; Revelation 7:9-10


 **Devotional:** When Jesus referenced God blessing Gentiles through Elijah and Elisha, the synagogue erupted in murderous rage. How dare God show favor to their enemies! Yet from the beginning, God intended to bless all nations through Abraham's seed. Gentile inclusion wasn't an afterthought—it was always the plan. The gospel breaks down every barrier: racial, ethnic, economic, and social. God's kingdom welcomes every tribe, tongue, and nation. Do you share God's heart for all people, or do you harbor prejudice against certain groups? The same grace that saved you is freely offered to everyone. Today, pray for a people group different from your own. Ask God to expand your heart to match His global vision. His table has room for all who will come.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



## Day 5: Rejection and the Road Ahead

Reading: Luke 4:28-30; Hebrews 13:12-14

 **Devotional:** They tried to throw Jesus off a cliff in His hometown. The place where He took His first steps became the site of attempted murder. Jesus never returned to Nazareth. If we follow Christ faithfully, we too will face rejection—sometimes from those closest to us. Family may misunderstand. Friends may abandon us. Religious people may oppose us. Jesus warned that a prophet is not accepted in his hometown. But notice: Jesus didn't let rejection stop His mission. He passed through the crowd and went on His way. Rejection isn't failure; it's often confirmation you're on the right path. Jesus was rejected so that ultimately, through His death and resurrection, none who believe in Him would be rejected by God. Today, if you're facing opposition for your faith, take courage. You're in good company. Keep walking forward in obedience.

– Luke 4:22-30 –



# Closing Prayer

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we confess the many “buts” that hinder our obedience, trust, and surrender to You. By Your Spirit, help us shrink them until Your voice is greater than every excuse, fear, and reservation.

Grant us fresh revelation of who Jesus truly is, that we may behold Him more clearly and love Him more deeply. Strengthen our faith to believe and act upon Your mighty Words so we can see your mighty Works, trusting that all You have spoken is true.

As those reconciled to You through Christ, empower us to be faithful ambassadors of reconciliation to all nations, proclaiming Your gospel with courage, humility, and compassion. And when we face rejection because we follow Jesus, give us grace to respond with love, perseverance, and unwavering devotion to You.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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