



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## THE GOOD CHURCH: Nurtures Empathy and Compassion

### GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

*Who do you struggle to be empathetic or compassionate towards? Why?*

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

*Dave said...*

*In Luke 4, Jesus clearly understood Himself to be the Messiah, God Himself and by ascribing Isaiah's prophecy to Himself it revealed some important clues about His mission, ministry and implications for us as well.*

As a group—

What does it reveal about His mission and ministry in the world? Who, what, how?

What implications does it have for us? (individually and as a “church”)

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Luke 4:14-30]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What was Jesus' reputation at this point in His life? (4:14-15)

Where was Jesus teaching? (4:15)

What was Jesus' hometown? (4:16)

What did Jesus customarily do on the Sabbath? (4:16)

What happened once Jesus entered the synagogue? (4:16-30)

What did Jesus do when He was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah? (4:17-20)

How familiar was Jesus with Isaiah's words? (4:17-20)

What five things demonstrated that the Spirit of the Lord on Jesus? (4:18-19)

How did the audience respond to Jesus' reading? (4:20)

How did Jesus apply the passage He read from Isaiah? (4:21)

What difficulty were the people having in accepting Jesus' words? (4:22)

What were the main points of Jesus' words to the people in His hometown? (4:23-27)

Why were the people angry with what Jesus said? (4:23-29)

How did the people express their anger at Jesus' message? (4:28-30)

\*To what extent will people go to avoid hearing the truth about themselves?

Why do we sometimes try to avoid facing the truth about ourselves?

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How did Jesus' experience in His hometown illustrate how familiarity and your view of someone from your past get in the way of changing the way you see them?

What defining marks of compassion and empathy are present in the prophecy?

In what way does Jesus see Himself? How does this outrage the religious people in His hometown?

*What makes the people in the temple angry with Jesus isn't that He just ascribed Isaiah's prophecy to Himself, but when Jesus accuses them of something else...*

What is Jesus describing with his example of the prophet Elijah and Elisha that is important for us to understand? \*\* Hint they are "foreigners—non-Jews"

In what way is Jesus foreshadowing who He has come to save/rescue? Why would this make them angry?

In what way do the Jews, and religious people reject Jesus? In what way, can we do the same?

How is compassion and empathy a defining characteristic in the ministry of Jesus?

(Dave mentioned several examples: Matt. 9:35-38; Matt. 20:34; 15:30-31; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Why must they becoming defining characteristics of those that follow Jesus, including the "church"?

How do you struggle to be empathetic and compassionate to others?

## APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?