

CHRIST'S MINISTRY—OUR MINISTRY

LUKE 4:14-30

The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, March 27, 2011, by Rev Dick Hugoniot at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/seriesX.html>.

INTRODUCTION

“What is my ministry?” “What is God asking me to do?” These are common questions that we ask ourselves. In this passage, Jesus tells us and shows us what we are called to do.

SUMMARY OF SERMON

I. Jesus' Ministry was in the “Power of the Spirit”

- Jesus was anointed—specially chosen by the Father—for his ministry
- Jesus taught and acted in the power of the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit empowered Jesus and authenticated his ministry

II. Jesus' Ministry Statement

- Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2, which is a Messianic passage
- It was God's plan for Jesus to announce his ministry as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy

III. Jesus Defines His Ministry

- Jesus ministers to the spiritually and physically poor and oppressed
- Jesus came to proclaim the good news (gospel)
- The ministry and message of the Messiah is not just for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles

IV. Jesus' Ministry is Our Ministry

- The church is the body of Christ. As a church, our ministry should be that of Christ's
- We are to bear faithful witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by proclaiming the gospel boldly and clearly
- We are to display the love of God in Christ by faithfully making disciples of the nations

V. As the Father Sent Jesus, He Sends Us

- Jesus has called us to himself so that he can do the work through us
- Jesus has called us to minister to strangers and foreigners
- We are to hear and obey Jesus' words
- Why do we fail to carry out Jesus' ministry? It is because we forget who we are and what God has called us for

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to carry out his ministry to proclaim the gospel. What does this tell us about the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to Christ?

2. How do we express our dependence upon the Spirit's enabling in our Christian service? Do we ask the Spirit to help us to understand and apply God's Word?

3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Read Luke 24:44-47 and discuss how Jesus fulfills the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. How does the Old Testament point to Christ?

4. Jesus comes to fulfill God's plan. This reveals God's faithfulness in keeping his promises. How does God's faithfulness encourage us to trust in him?

5. Jesus defined his ministry as one of proclaiming the good news. What does this teach us about the centrality of the gospel to our Christian service? How can we keep the gospel central in all that we do?

6. How is your care group making disciples? In your relationships with one another, how can you be intentional about disciple-making?

7. Jesus calls us to be his witnesses—to proclaim the gospel and to live out the gospel. What implications does this have for how we live the Christian life?

8. Jesus calls us to minister to strangers and foreigners. How can we better love those who are different from us?

9. How can your care group be more welcoming to strangers?

10. How does our identity as followers of Jesus Christ affect how we live and serve?

SUGGESTED PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for calling us out of darkness into your marvelous light. We thank you for saving us from our sins through your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We have been bought with a price. So help us, by your Holy Spirit, to live for the glory of Christ. Help us to honor him by boldly and faithfully proclaiming His gospel. We pray this in Jesus' Name, for His sake. Amen.