

A Trailblazer


Bible verses:

Luke 4:14–21 Jesus teaches the people


Aim:

To explore the link between Isaiah 61 and Luke 4 and think about how it shows us an inclusive way to live


Today's fruit:

Joy



In today's session we will explore Luke 4:16–21 and see how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's promise of good news, freedom and healing.

As part of Black History Month, we'll hear about Jarena Lee, a trailblazer who bravely asked, 'Didn't Jesus die for women too?' and went on to joyfully preach the good news of Jesus. We also learn of God's 'Jubilee', a time of fresh starts for everyone as announced by the prophet Isaiah.

The promise of God's hope allows joy to grow in our lives. As we share hope with others, we experience joy.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils, paper and sticky tape
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A chair for each child and some fun worship music
- An image of Jarena Lee (eg from commons.wiki.org)
- To watch **Let's Make a Megaphone** by Children's Museum of Manhattan (2:37) (optional)
- Fruit of the Spirit posters: *Joy* – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

This week, the children are going to play *Musical Chairs* again – but with another huge twist! The game will run as usual, but instead of being left out, everyone will get a fresh start when the leader shouts, 'Jubilee!'

Set up chairs in a circle, but leave out one chair so there aren't enough for everyone. Play some fun worship music and ask the children to walk around the chairs. When the music stops, everyone should find a seat, but someone will be left out. Just before they step away, shout, 'Jubilee!' and invite them back in!

Add an extra chair so no one is left out. Keep playing, removing and then re-adding chairs as needed, but always resetting with 'Jubilee!' so everyone gets a place again.

Ask:

- How was this game different from last week's version?
- How did it feel when you thought you were left out, but then got a fresh start?

Say:

In our Bible story today, we'll learn that 'Jubilee' was a time where everyone got a fresh start. Debts were cancelled, slaves were set free, and it was a chance for people to begin again.

**Sing it****Say:**

Our song for today reminds us that God wants us to serve others and stand up for what is right. We can be God's hands and feet in the world when we care for people who are treated unfairly.

Song

'God's Hands and Feet' (kids' Bible song about serving others) by Trueway Kids (2:06)

**Share it****Say:**

Last week we read the words of the prophet Isaiah about bringing good news to the poor, freedom for captives, and comfort for those who are hurting. Hundreds of years later, Jesus read those very same words in the synagogue in his home town. Let's hear what happened.

Read:

'Jesus travelled to Nazareth, where he had grown up. On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue as he always did. Jesus stood up to read.'

(Luke 4:16 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think Jesus felt returning to his childhood home and speaking to the people who had seen him grow up?

Say:

In those days, Jewish people went to the synagogue to learn about God, just like we come to church to learn about him. Jesus would have known these Scriptures very well, and now he was about to read them aloud in front of the community he grew up with.

Read:

'The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is in me.

This is because God chose me to tell the Good News to the poor.

God sent me to tell the prisoners of sin that they are free,

and to tell the blind that they can see again.

God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly,

and to announce the time when the Lord will show kindness to his people."

'Jesus closed the book, gave it back, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was watching Jesus closely.'

(Luke 4:16-20 ICB)

Ask:

- Who do you think Isaiah was talking about?
- What kind of people does God care about in these Bible verses?
- How do you think Jesus' family and friends felt when they heard him talking about himself in this way?

Say:

When Jesus read Isaiah's words, he said they were about himself (v21). The words he read were about the Messiah, God's chosen one who would bring good news, freedom and healing. Jesus wanted people to know that through him, God's promise was coming true.

Ask:

Why do you think Jesus wanted the people to know that he was the one Isaiah had written about?

Say:

In verse 19, Jesus talks about the 'year of the Lord's favour'. That idea came from something called the Year of Jubilee. This was a special time when all debts were cancelled, slaves were set free, and everyone had a fresh start. Jesus was saying that now, through him, God was offering freedom and forgiveness to everyone.

Ask:

How would you feel if you were given a completely fresh start?

Say:

Jesus has placed that same Spirit in us, so we can share his good news and joy with others too. That's why our memory verse for this month is so important. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'The Lord God has put his Spirit in me.

This is because he has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor.

He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.'

(Isaiah 61:1a ICB)

**Action it****Say:**

Show the children a picture of Jarena Lee.

Say:

As part of Black History Month, we are celebrating people who followed Jesus and stood up against injustice. Today we're going to hear about Jarena Lee, a woman who told everyone she met about Jesus.

Read:

Jarena was born in 1783. At that time, life was very unfair for black people in America. Many were kept as slaves, and even those who were free often faced prejudice and difficulty.

Jarena was born into a free black family. From the age of seven she worked as a live-in servant, and she taught herself to write.

Jarena loved Jesus and believed God had called her to preach. But in those days, women were not allowed to preach, and she was told 'no'. Jarena didn't give up. One day, when she was refused again, she asked a brave question, 'Didn't Jesus die for women too?' That made people stop and think, because of course he did!

Jarena knew that Jesus' love was for everyone, and that everyone should be able to share it. A few years later, her prayers were answered, and she was finally given permission to preach. She went on to travel thousands of miles, joyfully telling people about Jesus wherever she went.

Jarena made history again when she became the first African American woman to write an autobiography, a book about her own life.

Megaphone craft

To represent Jarena's joy about telling others about Jesus, ask the children to make a joyful megaphone. Give each child a piece of paper which they can decorate with bright colours and

patterns. They can add the kind of messages that Jarena would have shared, eg 'Jesus loves you' or 'God's love is for everyone'.

When they've finished decorating, show the children how to roll up the megaphone and secure it with sticky tape. You may wish to watch the video for a slightly different way to make a megaphone.

Video

Let's Make a Megaphone by Children's Museum of Manhattan (2:37)

When everyone's joyful megaphone is complete, ask them to shout 'Jesus loves you!' through their megaphone at the top of their voices.



Pray it

Ask:

Now that you have heard about Jarena's life and the way she spread the good news of Jesus, what do you think our fruit of the Spirit is today?

Display the *Joy* sign.

Say:

Jarena Lee used her voice to spread the joy of Jesus with everyone that she met. Our prayer time today is going to be a bit more lively than usual as we're going to sing a song of joy to God. As you sing, think of one person in your life who doesn't know the joy of Jesus yet. Ask God to give you the courage to tell them about Jesus.

Song

'The Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in my Heart!' (kids praise and worship) by Listener Kids (1:59)



Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Aim:
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Today's fruit:
Joy



Explore

Write down or draw five things that bring you joy and remind you of God's love.



Discuss

Tell the people at home about Jarena Lee's story. Jarena asked the question, 'Didn't Jesus die for women too?' Why was that such a brave question for her to ask in that period of history?



Song for the week

'God's Hands and Feet' (kids' Bible song about serving others) by Trueway Kids



Memory verse

'The Lord God has put his Spirit in me. This is because he has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.'

(Isaiah 61:1a ICB)

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Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth