



From the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he is proving himself as our champion. He is winning everywhere we tend to lose. He overcomes temptation in the desert. He isn't crushed by rejection in his hometown. And he heals everyone in Galilee of both spiritual and physical sickness. These three bouts in Luke 4 will build our faith and confidence in a God who is undefeated. So no matter what it looks like right now, we know what is eternally true. And in any of these areas where we are losing the fight - God offers us two things 1) grace because Jesus already won for us and 2) the very Spirit that empowered Jesus to win.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Luke 4:14-21. According to this moment, **Jesus is a champion for the desperate.** Based on this passage, does that line up with what you know of his ministry? Does Jesus deliver on what he claims? Does his church?

2 Read Luke 4:22-27. His hometown is impressed, but Jesus knows their hearts. Why do you think Jesus challenged them? Why do you think Jesus brought up these Old Testament stories? *(If time allows, look them up in 1 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 5).*

3 Read Luke 4:28-30. The congregation goes from all amazed to all enraged. But **human rejection can't stop divine redemption.** How does this story set the tone for Jesus' ministry in the rest of Luke and the apostle's ministry in the book of Acts? How should it inform our expectations as God's Kingdom ambassadors?

4 The congregation in Nazareth hated hearing about God's favor reaching Gentiles. They lived in a US vs THEM mentality. If only times had changed. How does being part of God's family tear down US vs THEM thinking?

5 Can you share a time someone loved you like you belonged - when others treated you like you didn't? Going forward, who are some people God is calling you to love like they belong?

