

Participant Journal Guide

The Gospel Is for Everyone

Luke 4:14–30

Before You Begin

Take a moment to quiet your heart.

Ask the Lord to show you both where you need His grace and where you may be resisting His mission.

1. Kingdom Expectations

The sermon referenced well-known campaign slogans:

- Make America Great Again
- Build Back Better
- Yes We Can
- Compassionate Conservative

Slogans promise hope, renewal, strength, improvement.

Journal Reflection

- What kinds of promises most easily capture your hope?
- When you think about “things getting better,” what do you imagine?
- How is Jesus’ kingdom different from the kinds of change we typically long for?

Write your thoughts:

2. Jesus’ Mission Statement

Read Luke 4:16–21 slowly.

Jesus announces:

- Good news to the poor
- Freedom for captives
- Sight for the blind

- Release for the oppressed
- The year of the Lord's favor

Then He says:

“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Journal Reflection

- Which phrase in Jesus' mission stands out most to you?
- Why do you think Jesus begins His ministry this way?
- What does this reveal about God's heart?

Write your response:

3. The Gospel Is for the Poor

This includes both material poverty and spiritual poverty.

To be “poor in spirit” is to recognize your need.

Journal Reflection

- Where have you tried to rely on yourself instead of God?
- In what areas of your life do you feel spiritually bankrupt?
- How does knowing the gospel is for the poor encourage you?

Write honestly:

4. The Gospel Is for the Captives

Captivity may include:

- Addiction
- Sin patterns
- Shame
- Fear
- Emotional bondage

Journal Reflection

- Where do you feel stuck?

- Is there an area of shame that keeps you distant from God?
- What would true freedom in Christ look like for you?

Write your prayer for freedom:

5. The Gospel Is for the Blind

Spiritual blindness keeps people from seeing the beauty and truth of Christ.

We often respond harshly to spiritual blindness rather than compassionately.

Journal Reflection

- Where might you still be spiritually blind?
- How have you responded to others who do not believe?
- Does your posture reflect Jesus' compassion?

Write what the Lord reveals:

6. The Gospel Is for the Oppressed

Jesus moves toward those crushed by injustice, burden, or hardship.

Journal Reflection

- Who are the oppressed in your sphere of life?
- How does Jesus' heart for them challenge you?
- What is one practical way you can reflect His compassion?

Write your next step:

7. The Gospel Is for the Foreigner

In Luke 4:25–27, Jesus references God blessing Gentiles — outsiders.

The crowd loved His message until they realized grace extended beyond them.

The sermon included this quote:

“One of the greatest obstacles the Christian religion ever overcame was the inveterate prejudice that possessed the minds of its earliest followers.”

Journal Reflection

- Why do you think the crowd reacted with anger?
- Are there people you struggle to see as equally deserving of grace?
- Where might subtle prejudice exist in your heart?

Ask God to search you:

8. The Turning Point

Read Luke 4:28–30.

The crowd moved from admiration to rage.

Journal Reflection

- What caused the shift in their reaction?
- Is there any part of Jesus’ mission that makes you uncomfortable?
- Do you love grace for yourself more than grace for others?

Write what you sense:

9. Personal Surrender

The sermon concluded with a warning:

If our hearts are not aligned with Jesus’ mission, we risk Him passing through our midst.

Final Reflection

- Is your heart aligned with Jesus’ mission?
- Are you receiving the gospel personally?
- Are you embracing that it is for everyone?

Write a prayer of surrender:

10. Commitment

Complete this sentence:

Because the gospel is for everyone, this week I will...

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You that Your gospel is for the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed, and the outsider — and that includes me.

Expose my pride.

Free me from prejudice.

Align my heart with Your mission.

Help me live as someone transformed by grace.

Amen.