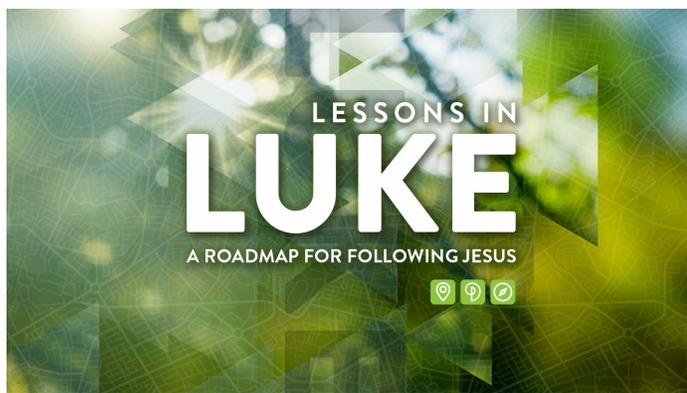


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Rejection in Nazareth

*April 18, 2021*

One of the things that we lean into during this season after Easter is that we are not alone, but that we are energized by the Holy Spirit. At the end of Jesus' ministry, before he ascends to heaven, it is the gift he gives to us to give us boldness to proclaim who we are when it is scary to do so.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 4:14-30

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

Our reading for today doesn't end particularly well for Jesus. He narrowly escapes the people from his hometown. Nowadays it is highly unlikely that you'll face fierce opposition for being a Christian, that is unless you stake your faith to a list, then you might. The fact of the matter is that today you're much more likely to face one of two things: options and nothing.

The world we live in has a multitude of identities, self-help books, groups, clubs, fads, and religions that you can be part of if you want to. The 21st century is a veritable toothpaste aisle of options for meaning. When that happens it can be really hard to hold onto your faith in the constant swirl of options. The other reality we have to contend with is that people just don't really care what you believe sometimes. You might face no resistance at all and if the way that you form your faith or identity is in opposition to other things, then it's going to be hard to find that resistance today.

It's for these reasons and more that I think these three handles are key: put your identity at the center. Find a community. Have a little boldness. If you do, then whether your going to your hometown, a new relationship, or a somewhere totally new, you will ensure that what happens here stays with you there, even when its hard.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever gone back to your hometown and had an experience like this?
- Why do you think the people responded this way?
- Where have you seen this story play out in our world today?
- How can we remain rooted in our identity in Christ when facing opposition?

**APPLICATION:** This week, remind yourself daily that you a child of God, that your identity is rooted in this truth, and because of it, we can step out in boldness.