

# Grow in confidence – with Luke's Gospel

## MATERIAL FOR LIFE GROUP OR TRIAD

### 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting **THEME: How to hear God's Word**

**Prepare** yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. At home read Luke 4:14-30

**20.00 – 20.10 Start** Begin with a small conversation about preaching. Do you think today's preaching – in general could improve (if yes, wherein)? And do you think you could also improve in your listening? (Why/why not)?

**20.10 – 20.15 Pray** Ask God for the Holy Spirit when you study the passage for today.

**20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage** **Read: Luke 4:14-30 Jesus preaches in his' hometown and is rejected**

**Look again at verses 14-21 Jesus' Bible reading and short sermon**

- What is Jesus announcing by reading this passage and by what he says afterwards? (Also look at 3:22)

**Look again at verses 22-27 Nazareth's question and a little longer sermon of Jesus**

- The people at Nazareth ask: is not this Joseph's son? Why do they ask this?
- How does this little longer sermon answer their question?

**Look again at verses 28-30 Nazareth's response on Jesus' preaching**

- Why were the people at Nazareth so angry with Jesus that they felt they needed to cleanse their city/country from this preacher?

### **20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: how to hear God's Word**

This passage is not just to illustrate the wickedness of the people at Nazareth. What was present in the hearts of the people at Nazareth, was also in the heart of Theophilus – for whom Luke wrote his Gospel – and is also in our hearts. Sometimes we may feel inclined to break the custom to go to church and hear God's Word read and preached. But, as this was Jesus' custom, it should also continue to be ours! Of course, preaching often needs improvement. But even when you would hear the best preaching ever, you might be irritated and offended. Through the Bible reading and preaching God addresses us; He is good, we are not. He has the right to exercise wrath, we have not. Although He is the greatest, He chooses to come to us in a very humble appearance (Is. 53:2,3). In listening to the Bible reading and preaching our main aim and focus should be to know what God tells us, rather than to focus on what we thought about the preacher. Though we should pay attention to it if the preacher missed the point or did not preach the Gospel.

- Think back to the last sermon you listened to. Also think back to whether or not and how you responded. Now pay attention to what you read and studied today. Is there something you learn/see/want to confess/change? Share!

**20.50 – 21.00 End** Pray for each other. Pray for those who preach, that they may grow; and pray for growth in your listening and responding to God's Word.