

## REJECTION AT NAZARETH

**Scripture:** Luke 4:16-31

**Materials Needed:**

Stick figures and notes

**Key Verse:** *John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know— the people of Nazareth were so familiar with Jesus, that when He didn't do miracles like he thought He would, and he instead claimed to fulfill Scripture, they took offense and tried to push him off a cliff.

To Realize— one can grow up so familiar with the Truth (Jesus) that when it is different than what one expected it (him) to be, they turn away rather than changing their wrong beliefs.

To Respond by— by not rejecting the Truth (Jesus) just because they have grown up around it in Christian homes.

### Setting up the Story:

(pick a sports figure that is known to your students). How many of you know Marcus Lattimore? (USC football player) He is an amazing player—and he had an amazing first year at USC. Do you know where Marcus Lattimore is from? Duncan, SC. That is a small little town near Spartanburg. How do you think the people from Duncan, SC feel when Marcus does something really good? “That’s our Marcus! He grew up here!” And when he goes back to Duncan, SC, do you think he is really popular? How do you think kids who knew Marcus when he was in school with him act when his name comes up? “Yeah—I knew Marcus. I used to go to school with him!” Why does everyone want to say they went to school with Marcus? Because he is so popular!

After Jesus had done the miracle at the wedding in Cana, and gone to Jerusalem at Passover—everyone was talking about him! They were amazed that he had done a miracle in Capernaum. And then they heard that he was on his way home to Nazareth! How do you think they were feeling? Excited!

Scripture **Telling the story:**

- I. The people of Nazareth are familiar with Jesus
  - A. Jesus had grown up there
  - B. They saw him as a “regular person”—brothers, sisters, Mary and Joseph
  - C. They heard of his miracles that were done

**As you tell the story:**

Can you imagine Jesus coming back to his hometown after having done a miracle?! And some men are already following him. And they are wondering if he is really the Savior that God had promised!

Did he look or act differently when he was growing up? No—he didn’t do any miracles then. He acted

in Capernaum

II. Jesus Doesn't Perform for them

A. Reads from the Scripture

just like a normal boy who had to obey his parents! But now they are all waiting. What do you think they are wondering? "Is Jesus going to do lots of miracles here, too?" "We are his friends! Maybe he's going to do special things for us because we are his home town!"

Jesus goes in to the synagogue. All eyes are on him. They are waiting to hear what he is going to say.

B. Quotes "Physician, heal yourself." They want him to do what he did in Capernaum

After He reads, they are pretty impressed. He has authority. And now, what are they waiting for? Some big sign or miracle.

C. Mentions Elijah's ministry

Does Jesus know that is what they are waiting for?

1. To widow of Zarephath
2. To Namaan

Do you know why he said that? He was saying, "Just because you live in a certain place, doesn't mean you get miracles."

III. The people try to stone Jesus

A. They are furious at what Jesus is saying

That's when they realized....Jesus wasn't going to do miracles there in Nazareth. They weren't going to be treated as special because they had grown up with Jesus.

B. They take him to the top of the hill to throw him down the cliff.

Why were they so angry? They thought they knew all about Jesus because they had grown up with him. But they didn't know He was really the Messiah—God's savior.

C. Jesus slips out of the crowd

And unless He did what they wanted him to do, they didn't really want to listen to him.

D. Jesus moves his headquarters to Capernaum

**Concluding the Story:**

Do you know what was so sad? These people had grown up with the TRUTH right there—Jesus was the Messiah. But because it didn't go like they thought it should, and Jesus didn't do things they thought He should, they rejected Him. Do you know that can happen today, too? Sometimes kids grow up hearing about Jesus in Sunday School, and they think they know all

about Jesus. But then when they get older, Jesus doesn't do what they think He should. And do you know some teenagers, or even adults reject Jesus because of that? Jesus IS God's true Savior. Let's ask that we would never reject Him just because we have heard about him in church or at school or in our homes. Let's ask that we would never reject Him because he doesn't do things that we think He should do. Let's receive what He has to say to us, JUST because He IS the Son of God. Let's pray.