

Jesus' Trip to Capernaum

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He cares about me.

● **Memory Verse**
"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good"
(Acts 10:38).

Word of the Week
"Caring" - Caring is showing kindness and concern for someone. When you are caring, you look after someone and help them. Caring can be kind words, sharing a toy or some food, using gentle hands, or helping someone with a problem. There are many ways you can be caring, just as Jesus was!

This week's lesson
 is based on **Luke 4:31-44**; **Mark 1:21-39**; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 236-243, 252-261.

Sunday

Not Welcomed in Nazareth

It was Sabbath, and Jesus had stopped to visit His family and friends in Nazareth. Nazareth was Jesus' hometown—the place He had grown up. Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach them from the Bible scrolls.

Jesus told the people that He was the promised Savior. The people "were amazed at the beautiful words he spoke" (Luke 4:22, ICB). But they didn't think He was the Savior—they thought he was just Joseph's son.

Jesus knew they didn't really believe His words, and He told them so.

The Pharisees were furious! The people were angry too. They grabbed Jesus and pushed Him out of the synagogue. They shoved Him down the streets and out of town and wanted to throw Him off a cliff.

As the crowd dragged Jesus roughly down the road, something amazing suddenly happened. God's angels made Jesus invisible. He turned and walked straight "through the crowd and went on his way" (Luke 4:30, ICB). It was a miracle! God had rescued Jesus from the angry crowd.

Jesus loved the people of Nazareth. But if they didn't want to listen to Him, Jesus would go and do good somewhere else. Where did Jesus go? Read **Luke 4:31**.

I Wonder

- » Whom do you think Jesus might have visited in Nazareth?
- » Why do you think the people in Nazareth got so angry at Jesus?
- » What do you think some people in the crowd might have thought when Jesus disappeared?

● Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you listen and believe His words in the Bible.

● Do

Draw a picture of an angel on cardboard, using your finger, dipped in water. Watch as it dries and disappears. Thank God for His angels that protect us.



Monday

A Sabbath in Capernaum

The city of Capernaum was so beautiful. It sat right on the shore of the shimmering Sea of Galilee. It was surrounded by green fields, tall palm trees, and bright flowers.

Capernaum was not only beautiful—it was also very busy. Lots of people lived there. One particular Sabbath day the city seemed extra crowded. Exciting news had spread throughout the area—Capernaum had a special Visitor. Jesus had come to town!

People left their things and rushed down the road. Along the way, they stopped to tell others the good news. Jesus was speaking in the synagogue *right now!* Together the desperate crowds squished and squeezed inside the building. They wanted to get as close as possible to the wise and wonderful Teacher.

Jesus loved the Sabbath. He loved reading the Holy Scriptures. And on this beautiful Sabbath day, in this beautiful city, “Jesus taught the people” (Luke 4:31, ICB).

The crowd listened closely. His words warmed their hearts and made them think of heavenly things. Every word Jesus spoke, every look He gave, showed His great love and care.

What else did the people think of His words? Read **Luke 4:32**.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think there were so many people in the synagogue?
- » Do you like going to church on Sabbath? Why?
- » What can you do to listen to Jesus this Sabbath?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that we can listen to His words in the Bible.

Do

Use toys, pegs, or other small objects (as people), and an empty box (as the synagogue), to reenact today’s story. Rush the crowds into the synagogue and take turns to speak the words of Jesus. What might Jesus have said?

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Simon's Sick Mother-in-law

What a delightful Sabbath! The people of Capernaum were filled with joy. They had just heard Jesus speak wonderful and wise words in the synagogue.

It was true that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

But now the morning service was finished. It was time to say goodbye. Young children skipped down the streets toward their homes. Their parents followed close behind.

Simon Peter's family lived in Capernaum. So he invited Jesus over to his house for the afternoon.

After a short walk, Simon Peter and Jesus stepped inside the house. But something was terribly wrong. As they looked around, there were no happy hellos and no cheery smiles. Instead, Simon's family stood around frowning and whispering words of worry to each other. What was wrong? Read the first part of **Luke 4:38**.

During a fever your body feels hot because it is trying to fight a sickness. The family had tried to cool down Simon Peter's mother-in-law's temperature with wet, cool cloths. They had given her water. But nothing seemed to help. The poor woman lay on her bed, very unwell.

Jesus looked at Simon Peter's very sick mother-in-law. He cared about her, and He cared for her worried family too. He really wanted to help.

I Wonder

- » Have you ever had a fever? What did it feel like?
- » How do you know that Jesus cares about you?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He cares about you when you are sick.

Do

Can you think of anyone who is sick at the moment? Plan to do something to show that you care for them, just as Jesus does. You might pick them flowers or send them a cheerful drawing and note.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

All Better!

The fever was bad. Simon Peter's mother-in-law lay in her bed, very hot and very sick. Her family looked at her with worry. Then they looked up into the kind eyes of Jesus. Yes—surely Jesus could make her better! They "asked Jesus to do something to help her" (Luke 4:38, ICB).

What does the Bible tell us to do when we have worries or problems?

Read **1 Peter 5:7**.

Jesus walked across the room to stand beside the sick woman. Her eyes were closed; her body was still. Jesus tenderly picked up her hand. With power He told the fever to leave.

Everyone in the room held their breath and watched. Suddenly her eyes fluttered open. She sat up and looked around.

Simon's mother-in-law looked up at the lovely face of Jesus. She smiled a big smile, and Jesus smiled back. She felt so much better! Her body had been made strong and healthy again. What an amazing miracle!

She was so thankful to Jesus. After many smiles and words of thanks, she ran to the kitchen. The sound of clinking cups and clattering pots could be heard. Then Simon's mother-in-law began serving food and drinks for all her guests.

Jesus must have smiled as she handed Him a plate of food. What a lovely way to say thank You to Jesus for His tender care and healing miracle.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time God heard your prayers and helped you or someone else who was sick.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law?
- » How do you show Jesus you are thankful to Him for what He does for you?
- » What is something you can do today to say thank You to Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Tell Jesus about a problem you might have. Or thank Jesus that no problem or worry is too big for Him.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Evening Blessings

All Sabbath afternoon the people of Capernaum sat together in their homes talking excitedly about one thing: Jesus. They remembered His words and amazing healing miracles.

They all really, really wanted to ask Jesus to heal their sick families too. They knew Jesus was at Simon Peter's house, so "when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him" (Luke 4:40). Some shuffled slowly to the house, leaning on a walking stick. Others who couldn't walk were carried on stretchers. Little sick children were carried in a parent's arms. They all had one question. *Please, Jesus, can You help and heal us?*

As Jesus looked at the crowd, He saw their pain and noticed their worry. He cared for each one as though they were His own child.

The Bible says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

"Doing good" is exactly what Jesus did there in Capernaum. Shouts of joy filled the streets as Jesus began to lay His hands on the sick and heal them. How many of the people did Jesus heal? Read **Luke 4:40**.

What a busy night! Hour after hour, people came to be healed. Finally, when it was nearly morning, the last healed person waved goodbye and went home. Jesus sighed happily. He felt tired, but His heart was filled with joy at seeing so many sad faces smiling again.

I Wonder

- » Why didn't Jesus just tell the people to go home to bed?
- » What would you have said or done if Jesus had healed you?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for helping and saving you too.

Do

Sing a praise song to Jesus to thank Him for His mighty power.

Memory Verse





Friday

Daybreak

All night long, shouts of joy and happy praises had echoed down the streets. Jesus had healed so many sick people in Capernaum. But now, shhh . . . the town once again slept peacefully.

At Simon's house someone stirred. It was Jesus. Climbing out of bed, He quietly put on His sandals. Then He slipped out the door and down the street. Where was Jesus going? Read **Mark 1:35**.

Jesus *loved* spending time with God. Talking and listening to His heavenly Father gave Him strength and help. Whenever He could, Jesus would leave the busy cities and find a quiet, peaceful place in the mountains to pray.

Soon the people in Capernaum began to wake up with a yawn and a stretch. When Simon Peter woke up, He noticed that Jesus' bed was empty. *Where had Jesus gone?* He and the disciples began to search for their Teacher.

Finally they found Him praying in the mountains. "Everyone is looking for you!" they said to Jesus (Mark 1:37).

It made Jesus so happy that the people in Capernaum wanted to be with Him again. But He said to the disciples, "We should go somewhere else, to other towns around here. Then I can preach there too" (Mark 1:38, ICB).

The Bible says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

Jesus needed to show His goodness to other people in other towns too! So off they went. Jesus continued to teach and heal all throughout the area.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think the disciples knew where to find Jesus so quickly?
- » What caring things did Jesus do for the people in Capernaum?
- » What caring things does Jesus do for you?

Prayer Idea

Find a quiet place to talk to God alone for a little while. Thank Him for His care and power.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the word "caring." Go for a nature walk and find something for the memory box that reminds you that Jesus cares for you.

For You, Parents

"A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity" (Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 122).

From Dogs to Jesus

Christian and Maribel didn't know what to do. The two missionaries for Jesus had just arrived in the country of Ecuador. But there were no other Adventist Christians in the area. And the people didn't seem interested to learn about Jesus at all.

How could they share Jesus' love with their neighbors, if those neighbors weren't interested?

Christian and Maribel thought and prayed. And then they had a great idea. They would be like Jesus and look for and care for the needs of others.

Christian and Maribel soon discovered that their community had many tail-wagging, sniffing, licking dogs! And these dogs were bored at home every day because their owners had to go to work.

Christian and Maribel began making new friends by walking the dogs every week. They soon had a team of missionaries helping them too.

The dogs and their owners were very thankful for their new caring and helpful Seventh-day Adventist friends. Some dog owners even started to meet up with their new dog-walking friends at the park. Over time some of the dog owners started asking for Bible studies. Then several people gave their hearts to Jesus.

God asks us in Ephesians 4:32 to "be kind and loving to each other" (ICB). We can do that in lots of creative, caring ways.

When you care for others, you will be showing them what Jesus' great love looks like! Who knows—through a small act of kindness you might help someone find and follow Jesus, and make Him their best friend too.

<https://www.adventistmission.org/>

