



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Jesus announces his job

Children's Story

Cycle C, Epiphany 3

Title: Jesus announces his job
Author: Miriam Susanne Wakeman
Church: Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Luke 4: 14-21 Jesus reads the scroll
Theme: Today this has been fulfilled in your hearing

Gathering Activity:

Good morning, I'm glad to see you all today. Let's settle into comfortable positions so we can listen well, and see well, as we enter this special part of worship. Today we'll start by thinking about jobs that we have. *Once they are settled, engage them with the following questions: Who here knows what it means to have a job. Do people ever give you jobs? What kind of jobs? (clean my room, take the garbage out, set the table, etc.)* Why do you think I'm talking about having jobs to do? Well, I hope you'll understand when I'm finished talking with you today. But now, let's think about the Bible story we heard during the scripture reading.

This Children's Story is part of a larger story archive available as a resource to teachers, ministers, and others of Mennonite Church Canada ©2009. Posted by permission of the author. Edited by Elsie Rempel, director of Christian Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada

www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/23/6796

Story:

What did we hear in today's scripture? *Review the basics of the story.* Did you see who read today's Scripture? *Ask that person to stand up for them.* Well in the scripture _____ read, Jesus stood up to read to the people in the synagogue from the Torah. The synagogue was kind of like our church today, and the Torah is part of the Old Testament in our Bibles. That's a lot like _____ read the scripture for us to hear this morning. That was her/his worship job this morning. But, when Jesus stood up to read, his job was a little different. After Jesus finished reading, the people expected him to talk about what he read. They knew he was a wise man, and they were waiting for Jesus to explain what the words he read meant. They were waiting for him to have something like a sermon. But Jesus just said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" and sat down. I wonder what the people thought about that. What do you think that means? Here's what I think it means. Jesus was telling the people that the Torah was talking about him. Jesus was saying that God had sent him to "bring good news to the poor, let the blind see, and free those who were trapped or treated badly." Jesus was saying that this was his special job on earth. Wow!

As Christians we have a special job on earth, too, the special job of doing what Jesus did. Jesus came to set us free so we can help others be free. We can help bring good news, we can let others know that we love them and that God loves them, too. Whatever special abilities we have, we can use them to help bring good news as we follow Jesus.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for helping people who are poor, and blind, and sick, and for freeing those who are trapped and treated badly. Help us join you on your special job. Amen.

Wondering questions:

- I wonder what it would be like to see for the first time.
- I wonder what it feels like for a captive to be set free.
- I wonder how we can help spread the good news of Jesus.