

Open Bible Stories — Jesus Starts His Ministry

Introduction

Key Idea

The story about the start of Jesus' ministry teaches us about Jesus' work of preaching, teaching, and healing.

Core Belief Verse

*"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people."
Matthew 4:23*

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom.

He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil and the kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile.

After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born.

He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

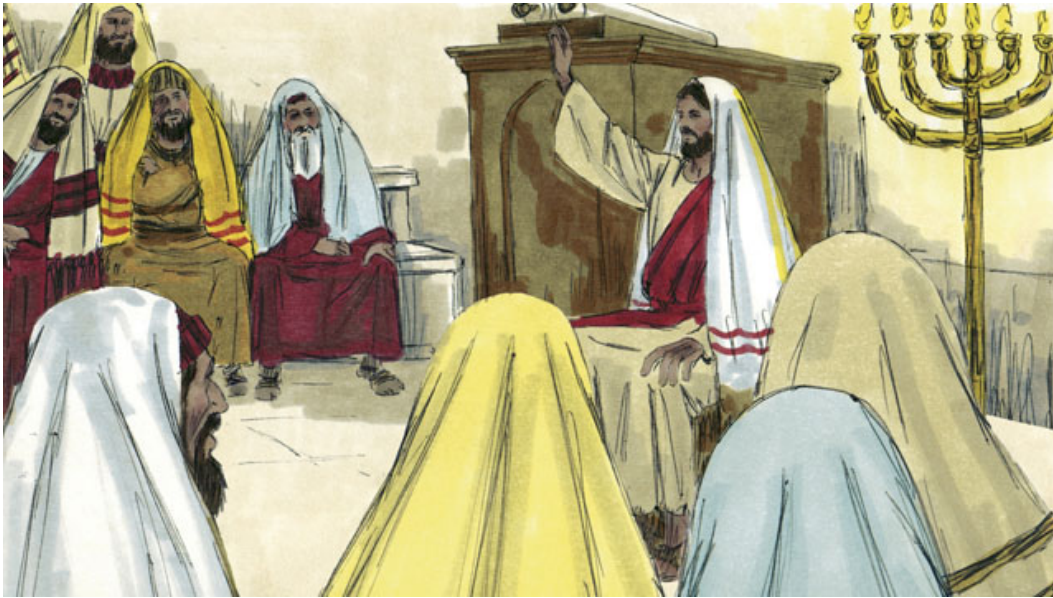
When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

The Story: Jesus Starts His Ministry

26-01

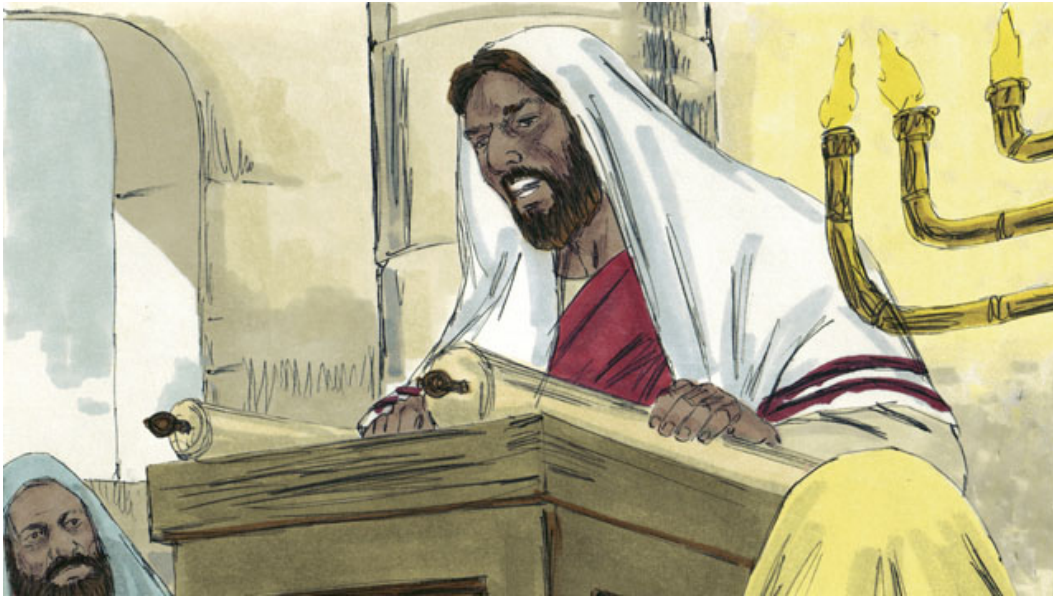


After Jesus refused Satan's temptations, he returned to the region of Galilee. This is where he lived. The Holy Spirit was giving him much power, and Jesus went from place to place and taught people. Everyone said good things about him.



Jesus went to the town of Nazareth. This is the village where he had lived when he was a child. On the Sabbath, he went to the place of worship. The leaders handed him a scroll with the messages of the prophet Isaiah. They wanted him to read from it. So Jesus opened up the scroll and read part of it to the people.

26-03

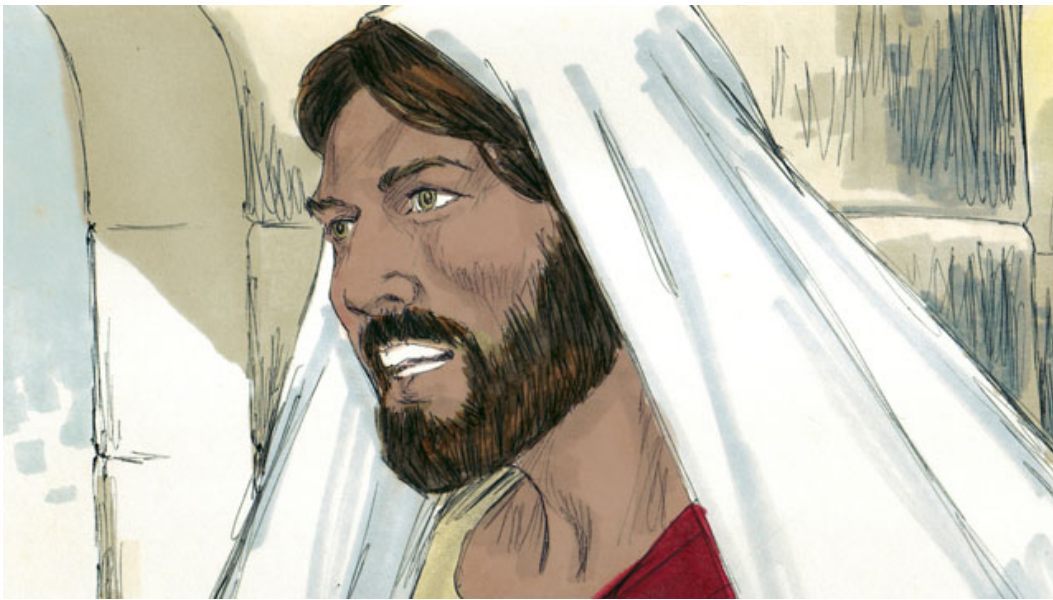


Jesus read, "God has given me his Spirit so that I can proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to set prisoners free, to make the blind people see again, and to free those whom others are oppressing. This is the time when the Lord will be merciful to us and help us."

26-04



Then Jesus sat down. Everybody was watching him closely. They knew the passage of scripture that he had just read was about the Messiah. Jesus said, "The things I just read to you, they are happening right now." All the people were amazed. "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" they said.



Then Jesus said, "It is true that people never accept a prophet in the town he grew up in. During the time of the prophet Elijah, there were many widows in Israel. But when it did not rain for three and a half years, God did not send Elijah to help a widow from Israel. Instead, he sent Elijah to a widow in a different nation."



Jesus continued, saying, "And during the time of the prophet Elisha, there were many people in Israel with skin diseases. But Elisha did not heal any of them. He only healed the skin disease of Naaman, a commander of Israel's enemies." But the people who were listening to Jesus were Jews. So when they heard him say this, they were furious at him.

26-07



The people of Nazareth seized Jesus and dragged him out of the place of worship. They took him to the edge of a cliff to throw him off of it in order to kill him. But Jesus walked through the crowd and left the town of Nazareth.

26-08



Then Jesus went throughout the region of Galilee, and large crowds came to him. They brought many people who were sick or disabled. There were some who were blind, others who were crippled, deaf, or mute, and Jesus healed them.

26-09



Also, many people who had demons in them were brought to Jesus. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of them, so the demons came out. The demons often shouted, "You are the Son of God!" The crowds of people were amazed, and they praised God.

26-10



Then Jesus chose 12 men from among his disciples to be his special representatives. He called them "apostles." These apostles traveled with Jesus and learned from him.

A Bible story from: Matthew 4:12-25; Mark 1-3; Luke 4

Community Study: Ministry that Matters - Approaching Leadership with Right Motivations

- **Key Idea:** examining our heart attitude to ministry
- **Key Passage:** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- **Main Session:** OBS 26 (Jesus Starts His Ministry)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

Jesus went about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness among the people. Matthew 4:23

OR

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19

Name Your Reasons (5 minutes)

Think about your own personal reasons for being a part of this team and community. Try to name the things that motivate you for the work ahead.

I want to work as a part of this community for these reasons...

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

As leaders in God's church, it is important to lead/minister in a godly manner. God wants us to be motivated for ministry/leadership for good reasons. As a community, read the following Bible passage together to understand the godly approach to leadership, power, and authority.

1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not useless. 2 You know that we previously suffered and were

shamefully treated at Philippi. We were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much struggling. 3 For our exhortation was not from error, nor from impurity, nor from deceit. 4 Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be trusted with the gospel, so we speak. We speak, not to please men, but to please God. He is the one who examines our hearts. 5 For we never used words of flattery, as you know, nor as an excuse to cover up greed- God is our witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, either from you or from others. We could have claimed privileges as apostles of Christ. 7 Instead, we were as gentle among you as a mother comforting her own children. 8 In this way we had affection for you. We were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives. For you had become very dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Explore the Idea (10-15 minutes)

God wants us to have good motivations for ministry. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. In this passage, what are the wrong motivations for ministry?
2. What are good/correct/godly motivations for ministry?
3. How can we guard ourselves against wrong motivations in leadership/ministry?
4. As a community, how can we develop godly motivations for ministry?

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Identify two bad motivations in the passage above. Have members of the community pray that God would guard the community against these motivations and help the community go about its work in a godly manner. God, guard us against doing leadership/ministry for these wrong reasons...

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

26-01

Where did Jesus go after he overcame Satan's temptations?

Jesus went to the region of Galilee where he lived.

Who gave Jesus much power?

The Holy Spirit gave Jesus much power.

What did Jesus do as he traveled?

Jesus went from place to place and taught people.

What did people say about Jesus?

Everyone said good things about Jesus.

26-02

What was the name of the city where Jesus lived as a child?

Jesus lived in Nazareth.

Where did Jesus go on the Sabbath?

Jesus went to the place of worship.

Why did the people in the place of worship hand Jesus the scroll of Isaiah?

They wanted Jesus to read from it.

What did Jesus do with the scroll?

Jesus opened up the scroll and read part of it to the people.

26-03

What did the scroll say was the reason God gave this person the Spirit of God?

God gave this person the Spirit of God to proclaim good news to the poor.

What did the scroll say about the person in the passage of Isaiah?

God sent this person to set prisoners free, make the blind see, and free those whom others are oppressing.

What did the passage of Isaiah say the Lord would do at a certain time?

The passage said that this is the time when the Lord will be merciful to us and help us.

26-04

What did people do when Jesus sat down after reading the scroll?

Jesus sat down and everybody was watching him closely.

The passage of Scripture that Jesus read was about what person?

It was about the Messiah.

What did Jesus say about the Scripture that he had just read?

Jesus said those things were happening right then.

How did the people of Jesus' hometown react to his words?

They were amazed and asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"

26-05

What did Jesus say to the people?

Jesus told them that people never accept a prophet in the town he grew up in.

What example did Jesus give of God's prophets helping people from other nations when Elijah was a prophet?

God sent Elijah to help a widow during a drought. This widow was not from Israel but from a different nation.

26-06

What example did Jesus give of God's prophets helping people from other nations when Elisha was a prophet?

Jesus said that Elisha healed Naaman, a commander of Israel's enemies. Naaman was not from Israel. He was from another nation.

What ethnicity were the people who were listening to Jesus?

The people listening to Jesus were Jews.

How did these Jews respond to Jesus' examples of Elijah and Elisha?

The Jews were furious at Jesus when they heard what he said.

26-07

How did the people respond when Jesus told them these stories?

They seized Jesus and tried to throw him off a cliff in order to kill him.

How did Jesus escape from the crowd?

Jesus walked through the crowd and left the town.

26-08

Who came to Jesus as he went throughout the region of Galilee?

Large crowds came to Jesus.

How did the crowds in Galilee respond to Jesus?

They brought many people who were sick or handicapped to him so he could heal them.

What kind of sick people did the crowds bring to Jesus?

The crowd brought people who were blind, crippled, deaf, and mute to Jesus.

What did Jesus do to many of the sick?

Jesus healed them.

26-09

What did Jesus do to people who had demons?

Jesus commanded demons to come out of people, and the demons came out.

Who did the demons acknowledge Jesus to be when he commanded them to come out of people?

They said Jesus was the Son of God.

How did the crowds respond when Jesus cast out the demons?

The crowds of people were amazed and praised God.

26-10

How many men did Jesus choose to be his special representatives?

He chose 12 men to be his special representatives.

What did Jesus call these special representatives?

Jesus called these 12 special representatives apostles.

What did the apostles do?

The apostles traveled with Jesus and learned from him.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How should we correctly understand who Jesus is (i.e., his identity)?
What does the story of Jesus starting his ministry teach us about his identity?
2. How did Jesus fulfill God's promise to send the Messiah? How does this story confirm that Jesus is God's promised Messiah?
3. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? How can Jesus' ministry serve as an example of how we can serve Jesus?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. What convictions have you developed about who Jesus is?
2. How has Jesus' ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing been evident in your own life?
3. How can you relate to the different responses to Jesus that occur in this story?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Jesus Starts His Ministry" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now:
The story about the start of Jesus' ministry teaches us about Jesus' work of preaching, teaching, and healing.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "Jesus Starts His Ministry" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?

4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Jesus Starts His Ministry" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.