

# Back Home

By Lee Yates



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Jesus made a trip back home as a young adult. It didn't go so well. For whatever reason, people who knew us when we were young may struggle to know us as we are today. How do we respond to people who see us only as we used to be?

**For**  
Young Adult

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Bible, paper, pen

## Activity Plan

1. Open in prayer. Here are some words if you need them:  
*Lord, help me to see myself in your Word and to see your Word reflected in my life. Amen.*
2. Read Luke 4:14-22 from your Bible (or see the text on next page).
3. At the top of your paper, write this portion of Luke 4:22: "Is not this Joseph's son?" Under the verse, list tones of voice or attitudes you can imagine these words being spoken with, such as: curious, sneering, skeptical. After each word, write a thought about how that tone of voice changes the meaning of the words.
4. On the back side of your paper, write "Isn't this \_\_\_\_\_'s child?" and insert your parent's name in the blank. Beneath this line, copy the list of tones of voice and attitudes from the front side. Imagine you have come home for a special event and people get a chance to see what you are doing with your life. After each tone or attitude, write a note about who might say, "Isn't this \_\_\_\_\_'s child?" in that manner and why.
5. Read Luke 4:23-30 and think for a moment about how the crowd responded to Jesus. Use these questions to guide your reflection:
  - What emotions do you experience when you "go back home" or to your hometown?
  - Why do you think it is sometimes hard to gain respect from people back home?
  - How do you deal with the different ways people respond to you when you go back home?
  - How is Jesus' example helpful?
6. Close in prayer. Here are some words if you need them:

*Lord, help me to celebrate where I come from without being completely defined by it. Give me wisdom to learn from my roots and to respect the people who helped raise me without letting their expectations dictate my future. Amen.*



## **Luke 4:14-30**

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. <sup>16</sup> And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> "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,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup> And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup> and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup> And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup> And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But passing through their midst, he went away.

