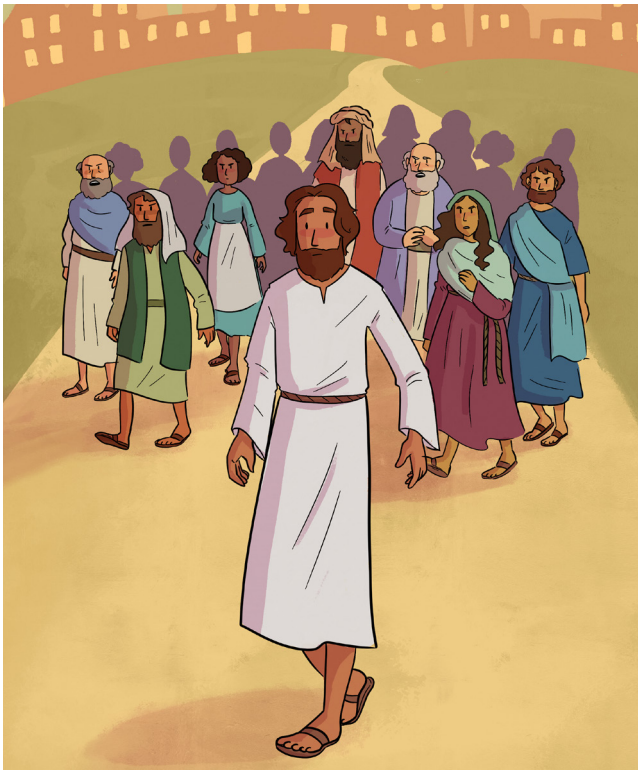


Luke 4:21-30

Tough love

Having read from the Scriptures, Jesus declares that they have been fulfilled and declares himself a prophet. Jesus continues by telling stories of Elijah and Elisha and how they helped outsiders, not just their own people. The people are enraged and respond by trying to throw him off a cliff, but Jesus walks through them and goes on his way.



Bible notes



After Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah (Luke 4:17-19), he returns to his seat. He has fulfilled his intention to announce his purpose and his personhood. However, his message is not received with faith and he is doubted. Through his reading of this Scripture and proclamation in verse 21, Jesus identifies himself as the long-promised Messiah, but his listeners can only see him as the son of Joseph. Jesus shows that he fulfils the promises given to Israel, now being fulfilled. Jesus is identifying himself as a prophet of the type of Elijah and Elisha. Citing them, he indicates that knowledge of God and of Christ will come from outside of Israel. This does not go down well.

First impressions

- Have you experienced tough love from a parent, teacher or mentor?
- Have you ever had to share an uncomfortable truth with someone else?
- If you had to do it again, would you do anything differently?



Pray

God, thank you that you love us enough to say difficult things to us. Thank you that you help us to change. Please continue to fill us with your love and to make us better at showing it to those around us. Amen.



EXPLORE

Visit the library or do some online research to find out about people who felt compelled to show tough love and speak out. Discover why and how they did this. Include people such as Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Greta Thunberg or others you've heard about.

WATCH

Watch the film *Erin Brockovich*. It's about a single mum who showed lots of grit, determination and tough love, to help win the largest settlement ever paid in a direct-action lawsuit.

Write

Try and make a list of the times in Scripture when Jesus and/or those listening to him became angry. What sorts of things did they get angry about? Did they get angry about similar things or different things? Then make a list of things that you get angry about; and potentially a list of things that your friends and family get angry about. Can you see any patterns? Are they similar or different to the things that Jesus got angry about?

Read

Read the story of *The Emperor's New Clothes* and notice who it is who has the courage to speak out!

