

There's No Place Like Home



- Theme:** Jesus is rejected in his hometown. 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Yr C
- Object:** None needed but you could use a [No Place Like Home Poster](#)
- Scripture:** Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown." Luke 4:23-24 (NIV)

Have you ever seen a picture like this one hanging in someone's home? (Hold up the wall poster.) It is their way of saying that their home is a warm and welcoming place to be. A place where they are happy.

The home has been a favorite subject of authors, poets, and songwriters since the beginning of time. Here are some examples:

Over a hundred fifty years ago, John Howard Payne wrote a song called "Home Sweet Home." The song ends with these words:

Home! Home!
Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home,
There's no place like home!

Here are some other famous quotations about home:

"There's nothing half so pleasant as coming home again." Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

"Maybe the best part of going away for a vacation is coming home again." Madeleine L'Engle

"Home is a shelter from storms – all sorts of storms." William J. Bennett

"Home is where the heart is." Pliny the Elder

"Home is not where you live but where they understand you." Christian Morgenstern

"You can never go home again, but the truth is you can never leave home, so it's all right." Maya Angelou

It's true, home is a wonderful place to be most of the time, but not always! In our Bible lesson today, Jesus went back to his hometown of Nazareth and he did not receive a very warm welcome. In his travels around Galilee, Jesus had performed many miracles and had been well-received. When he returned to Nazareth, they had heard about the miracles that Jesus had done in Capernaum and they just didn't know how they could be true. After all, wasn't this Joseph's son? How could the son

of a carpenter do all of the things that they had heard about?

Jesus heard the people grumbling and said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown."

The people in the synagogue became furious. They jumped up, mobbed Jesus, drove him out of the town, and took him up on the hill on which the town was built because they wanted to throw him off of a cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

I doubt that Jesus was thinking, "There's no place like home" that day. It seems that no matter what Jesus did, he just couldn't seem to please the people in his own hometown.

Heavenly Father, may we welcome Jesus to make our heart his home. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

MATCHING HEARTS AND HOMES: You can divide the children into teams or let them play individually. The teacher will cut out small house and heart shapes from various colors of construction paper and hide them around the room. The children will search the room to find hearts and homes of the same color. Continue to play until all the hearts and homes of the same color have been found and matched up. See who has found the most!

BEAN BAG TOSS: Make or buy some bean bags. Label them JESUS in bright letters. The children can play in teams or take turns throwing the JESUS bean bags into a box that has been covered with construction paper or brown wrapping paper and decorated to look like a house by drawing windows and doors to it. Add red hearts to the brown box "home", as well. Let the children know we're putting Jesus into our homes and hearts.

BALLS AND BALLOONS: Write parts of today's Bible verse on slips of paper and place them into balloons and blow them up before class begins. Divide the children into teams. A team member from each group will try to throw a ball to land in a basket or box. If they get the ball into the box, they get to break a balloon and get the part of the Bible verse that is in their balloon and place it on a poster board. The object of the game is to get the entire Bible verse in the right order.

FINGER PRINTING: Provide each child with ink pads, construction paper, and markers. The children will draw a picture of a house and then add their finger prints to the house and draw happy faces on their finger prints with the marker. If children are older and want to make their home more special, they can add the words, "MY HEART IS JESUS' HOME."

JESUS BOOKLET: Each child can be given supplies to make a mini booklet, stapled together or hole punched with yarn to hold it together. Each page can have words or a small drawing that shows something they know about Jesus. (Examples: heart, carpenter's son, loving, healing sick, etc.)

JESUS SCROLL: Provide a piece of construction paper, 2 straws, markers, and stickers for each child. The children will write today's Bible verse on the construction paper. They will then tape a straw to each end of the paper and roll it up to form a scroll. They can use a sticker, a piece of tape, or a piece of yarn to hold the scroll in a roll.

HEART NECKLACE: Let the children draw a heart on a piece of card stock and decorate it and cut it out. MY HEART IS JESUS' HOME may be written on the heart and hung on a piece of yarn around their neck.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

JOHN 15:13
Joseph M. Scriven, 1855

ERIE
Charles C. Converse, 1868

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?
4. Bless - ed Sav - ior, Thou hast prom - ised Thou wilt all our bur - dens bear;

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Eve - ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
May we ev - er, Lord, be bring - ing All to Thee in earn - est prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Soon in glo - ry bright, un - cloud - ed, There will be no need for prayer—

All be - cause we do not car - ry Eve - ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our eve - ry weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.
Rap - ture, praise, and end - less wor - ship Will be our sweet por - tion there.

Only a Carpenter's Son



Theme: Jesus was rejected in his home town. 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Yr C

Object: One of the children will serve as your "object" for this lesson.

Scripture: "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" Luke 4:22b (NLT)

As you know, we usually use an object each week to help teach the lesson. Instead of using an object today, I am going to ask one of you to help teach the lesson. Who would like to be my helper today? (Choose a child who is well known to the other children.) Thank you, John for volunteering to be our helper today. You all know John, don't you? He may go to school with some of you. Does anyone here go to school with John? John might even be in your class. Is anyone here in the same class with John? Some of you know John pretty well. I am going to tell you some things about him and you tell me whether you believe.

John likes the color red, Do you think that could be true? We may not know what his favorite color is, but it is certainly possible that he likes the color red.

John likes ice cream. Do you think that could be true? Sure, what kid doesn't like ice cream?

John likes to play sports. Could that be true? Sure it could. Many boys and girls like to play sports so it is quite possible that John does too.

Here is something you probably didn't know. John has the power to heal the sick of all their diseases. Do you think that could be true? You don't? Why not? Well, you know John and he is just an ordinary kid like you. He lives right here in the same town, you go to the same school, and play on the same soccer team. There is no way he has the power to heal sick, is there?

In the day that Jesus lived, many people had a hard time believing some of the things that they heard about him. This was especially true of the people in his home town of Nazareth. People had heard about the miracles that Jesus had done in Capernaum and they just didn't know how they could be true. After all, wasn't he Joseph's son? How could the son of a carpenter do all of the things that they had heard about?

Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

The people in the synagogue became furious. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him up on the hill on which the town was built, because they wanted to throw him off of a cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

What a way to treat a hometown boy! It seems that no matter what Jesus did, he just couldn't seem to please the people in his own hometown. I wonder, if you and I had lived in Nazareth during Jesus' day, would we have treated him any better, or would we have gone along with the crowd?

Heavenly Father, even when others refuse to believe that Jesus has the power to heal and forgive, help us to remain faithful and true. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

COLORED HIDE AND SEEK: The teacher will have one child that will be IT and the rest of the class will hide. When the teacher tells "IT" to run and find someone wearing RED... and after that child joins the first "IT", they will be told to go and find someone wearing BLUE, etc until all the children have been found.

ICE CREAM RELAY: Divide children into teams and have mini dixie cups with ice cream inside. As the children play out the relay, they will run to the ice cream line and eat the ice cream quickly and return to their team to continue with all players eating a dixie cup of ice cream and back to the team. (This should only be 2 or 3 little bites of ice cream - not much more). This could also be played at the end of the class time as a little snack/treat.

"I'M A CARPENTER'S SON" RELAY: Let the children divide into groups and everyone on each team will run to the bag filled with carpenter's items. They will put on and hold all the items (such as a hammer, tool belt, cap, etc) and shout out I'M A CARPENTER'S SON. They they'll take everything off and put back in the bag and run back to their team for the next team member to run the same race.

CARPENTER TOOLS: Let children trace and cut out carpenter tools. Write parts of our Bible verse or words from today's lesson on each tool. Either glue the tools onto a piece of construction paper or hole punch each tool and hang together on a piece of yarn in a circle of tools.

FAITHFUL AND TRUE TO GOD POSTER: Give children a large poster board to take turns in writing ways that we can be faithful and true to God. Class discussion is important and children can take turns in writing in various colored markers to decorate the poster and to keep the poster on a classroom wall. Make sure that large letters across the poster will say, FAITHFUL AND TRUE TO GOD!

JESUS THE CARPENTER'S SON: Let children write JESUS on a hammer cut out. Write Carpenter's Son on another tool, write HEALER on another tool, write PROPHET on another tool, etc. Give children a long wide strip of poster board, or construction paper taped together, to form a TOOL BELT. Hang the tools with the words, from the tool belt and let children wear their tool belts out of class.

BUILD A HOUSE: Bring wood and hammer and nails, etc for children to build a house together. Talk about today's lesson. Paint and brushes could even be provided for children to paint the house that they nail together. Provide many different shapes of wood and let children take turns pounding a nail into a piece of wood to form a "house". Tell the children that they can be a part of building their lives into others, as they let them know about Jesus and HIS love for them. Use a large magic marker to write on the roof or door of the house that JESUS IS FAITHFUL AND TRUE.

WHO CAN BANNER: Write WHO CAN on the top of a long banner for children to write JESUS after all the Questions on the banner. The children can each use a different colored marker to write JESUS when it's their turn. Teacher will write questions such as WHO CAN heal the sick? WHO CAN take care of us? WHO CAN part the waters? WHO CAN save our souls? WHO CAN provide all that you need? WHO CAN forgive? More ideas from God's word or this lesson for children to answer JESUS can. After every question, the children can shout... JESUS, as each child write JESUS on the banner. Give children stars and stickers to decorate the banner when activity is done.