

# Hometown Boy Makes Good!

## Theme

Jesus was rejected in his own hometown.

## Object

Picture of Del Ennis (see below sermon)

## Scripture

Jumping up, they mobbed him and took him to the edge of the hill on which the city was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, but he slipped away through the crowd and left them. Luke 4:29-30 (NIV)

I doubt if any of you have ever heard of Del Ennis. He was a professional baseball player—and a very good one too. He played in the Major Leagues, and during his fourteen-year career, he hit 288 home runs. Seven times during his career he hit 25 or more home runs in a season.

Del Ennis played for his hometown Philadelphia Phillies. You would think that being such a good player and being a hometown boy would make Del Ennis very popular with the Philadelphia fans, but for some reason, it didn't. During the eleven years that he played for the Phillies, the fans booed him every time he came up to bat. No matter what he did, it never seemed to be good enough. He never understood it. It didn't make sense.

Later in his career, Del Ennis moved to the St. Louis Cardinals. Although he still loved his hometown team, he was treated much better by the fans in St. Louis. Sometimes, it

seems that even when a hometown boy makes good, he just can't please the hometown crowd.

The hometown of Jesus was Nazareth. It might surprise you to know that Jesus wasn't treated very well in his hometown either. One day, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth. After reading from the prophet Isaiah, he told the people in the synagogue that he was the one that Isaiah had written about. He was the one sent from God to preach the good news to the poor and heal the sick and give sight to the blind.

Everyone was quite impressed with the words of Jesus until some of them recognized that he was a hometown boy. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

They demanded that Jesus perform some miracles such as the ones they had heard about that he had performed in other places. When Jesus refused to put on a show for the people, the crowd began to turn against him. They mobbed him and took him out to the edge of a hill on which the city was built. They planned to throw him off the edge of a cliff, but Jesus slipped away from them and escaped through the crowd.

That isn't very good treatment for a hometown boy, is it? It seems that no matter what Jesus did, he just couldn't seem to please the hometown crowd. 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?

Dear Jesus, help us to be loyal and true, even when the crowd has turned against you.  
Amen.

Picture of Del Ennis



ENNIS

Phillies

Color TV

Interactive Group Activities  
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

**Sermon Title:** "Hometown Boy Makes Good"

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 4:21-30

**LETS PLAY DRESS UP:** Provide children with items to dress up in, such as baseball caps, t-shirts, cowboy boots, toys for playing such as balls, bats, Frisbees, etc. A big pile of all the items can be in the middle of the room and all the children can run to the pile when the teacher blows a whistle for GO! Allow enough time for everyone to dress up in at least one thing and then blow the whistle to STOP -- Make sure to take a picture. Let them know that they'll learn in our lesson today, that Jesus was just like them and liked to play with his friends when he was young!

**LOYAL AND TRUE LETTERS:** Divide the class into two teams. Tell the children that it is important for us to be LOYAL and TRUE to Jesus. Give each child a letter of the L-O-Y-A-L and T-R-U-E on team ONE and have them arrange the letters to spell out the words LOYAL and TRUE. Let Team TWO do the same. Time each team and see who is the quickest at becoming "loyal and true".

**WHERE IS JESUS HUNT:** All the children will gather around the teacher while the teacher secretly places a sticker with the name JESUS on one child's back or shoulder. The children should not know what the teacher has done, so the teacher will be patting all the children and chatting with everyone as they gather around the teacher for a short while. Then the teacher will tell the children to go on a JESUS HUNT... give them a designated area to HUNT for Jesus. They won't realize that they are looking for JESUS within their own group of classmates.

**FOAM HEARTS:** Let the children know that JESUS loves us and is loyal and true even when we turn against Him. Give each child two foam hearts and some craft lace which can be found at a craft store. The children will lace or "sew" the hearts together. Before finishing the lacing, children can stuff some tissue paper inside to pad their heart a little bit more. Write JESUS, LOVING, LOYAL AND TRUE on the heart. (If you can't find the foam hearts and lacing materials, you could cut heart shapes from red construction paper and lace them together using yarn.)

**FINGERPRINT TOWN:** Give each child a sheet of construction paper and an ink pad. The children will place many finger prints on the paper and then use ink pens to draw faces and arms/legs to their finger prints to form a person. Tell them they are drawing Jesus' hometown friends and name one of the fingerprints JESUS. Write words from today's lesson on their FINGERPRINT TOWN and encourage children to tell today's story to someone else after class.

**HAPPY/SAD FACES:** Children can either make up a booklet or a poster of many faces - both with HAPPY and SAD looks. Then pass their booklet or poster to another child and have them circle the faces that would make JESUS know that they are happy and thankful that HE is loyal and true to each of us. Then pass the faces back to the original "artist".

**JESUS BANNER:** Let children work together as a class or in small groups, as desired, depending on the size of the class. Children can make and decorate a JESUS banner from today's lesson, using words, stickers, and pictures to show all the things that JESUS can do and WHO HE IS. Children could title their poster -- WHAT CAN JESUS DO - ANYTHING... but Fail!

**SHARE A SNACK:** SNACK BAGS.... provide children with different

types of small snacks that they could choose from and put into a little lunch bag for a hometown picnic together at the end of class, sitting on a blanket together. Share parts of today's story and what they would do if JESUS was just one of their hometown people. If the teacher wants to, the snack choices could be items that Jesus might have had to enjoy as a snack in HIS day, or treats/foods that could represent one of those snacks.

**SING A SONG:** JESUS LOVES ME; I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

**Song: "Jesus Loves Me"**

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

**Song: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Traditional**

Words and Music (pdf)

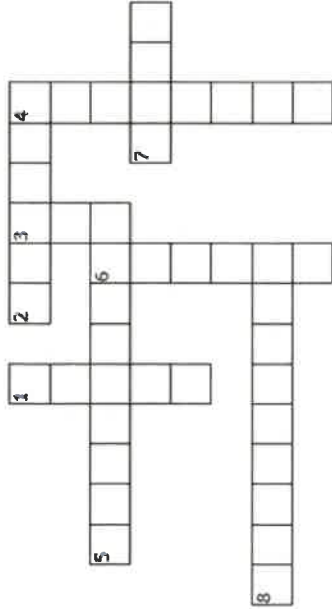


MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

### **About Carol Williams**

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- The earthly father of Jesus
- Another word for a doctor
- To make or become healthy again
- The sacred writings of the Bible

## DOWN

- An area of high, steep rocks beside the sea
- A person's male child
- The town where you grew up
- To be very surprised

HEAL	SON	PHYSICIAN	AMAZED
JOSEPH	HOMETOWN	SCRIPTURE	CLIFF



"No prophet is accepted in his hometown."  
Luke 4:24

# Children's Worship Bulletin

## Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth

Luke 4:21-30

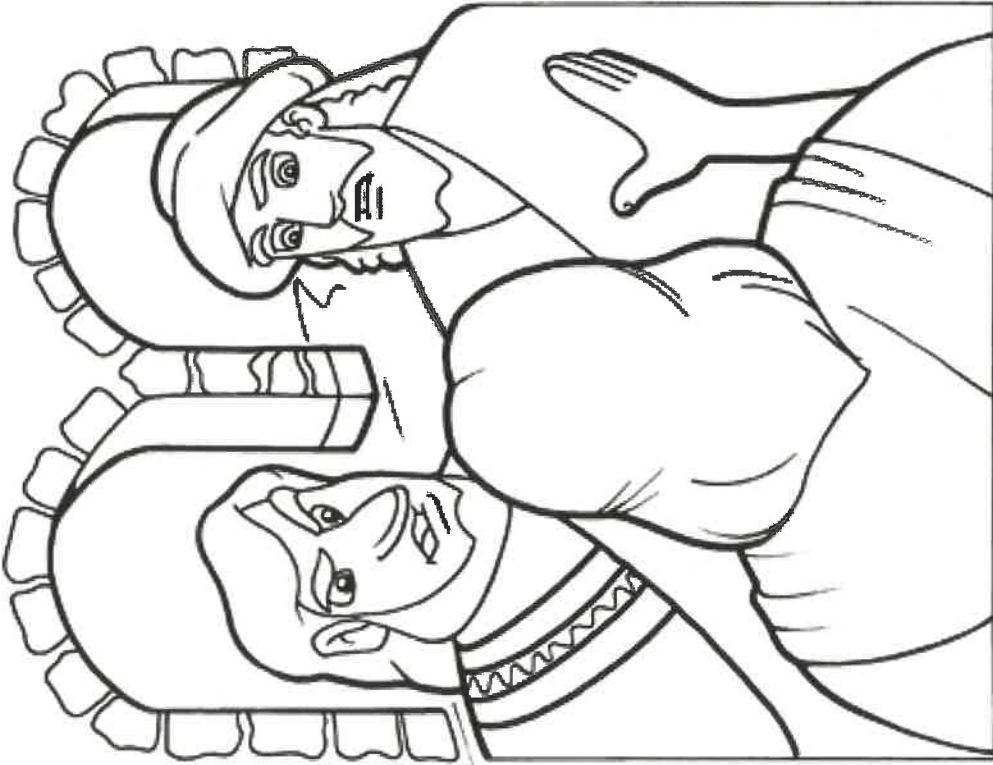
## Word Search Puzzle

Z A S L C F R I H U S W A C X  
I N A Z I W Q P S W G A I A Z  
P T C C H Y E H L Q Z C K E I  
R O C J W S S C R I P T U R E  
O W E B O C H A J N F O K V J  
P N P J H P Y O U R S E L F S  
H A T C Q C H U M C R M K H Y  
E L E R T P I Y F E L O I E N  
T A D O R R L P S W T I K A A  
H M R W U O L A E I O O F L G  
Q A Z D T V O T M O C R W F O  
M Z J Q H E C G N B P I D N G  
M E K F U R I O U S O L A S U  
V D O C Q B H Q R S V Y E N E  
L R L P F U L F I L L E D C E

WORDS	YOURSELF	SCRIPTURE	PROPHET	HOMETOWN
TOWN	SYNAGOGUE	AMAZED	HILL	ACCEPTED
PEOPLE	PHYSICIAN	CROWD	HEAL	TRUTH
FULFILLED	JOSEPH	PROVERB	FURIOUS	CLIFF

Your Church Name Here  
Anytown, Anywhere

# Color Me!



"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown."

Luke 4:24

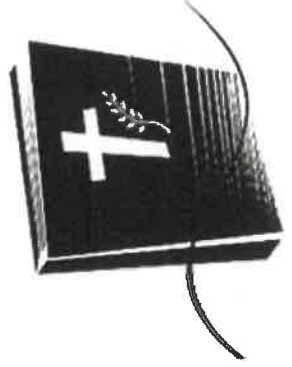
# Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.  
Substitute the correct letter for the numbers  
to reveal the coded words.

S	N	F	R	Y	T	H	I	E	J	K	D	X	L	V	B	Z	G	O	A	M	W	Q	C	U	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 20-21-20-17-9-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26-7-5-1-8-24-8-20-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-8-20-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-19-21-9-6-19-22-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-4-25-6-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26-4-19-26-7-9-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-24-24-9-26-6-9-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26-9-19-28-14-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-8-14-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-14-8-3-3 \_\_\_\_\_

AMAZED	TRUTH	HOMETOWN	HEAL	CLIFF
ACCEPTED	PHYSICIAN	PEOPLE	PROPHET	HILL





## REJECTION AT NAZARETH



"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown."

**LUKE 4:24**