



WE ARE  
THE CHURCH

ST. LUCAS UCC

*Transforming lives  
as the hands and feet of Christ*

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**July 8 - 9**

**“Hometown Boy”**

**By Rev. Keith Herron**

## What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

## Revisit the Text

Mark 6:1-13; <https://bit.ly/2K6FL2T>

## Big Ideas Raised

In this story, Jesus has turned 30. For some, this is about the time when one's naiveté washes off. For him, he left home and the family business, gathered a group of disciples, and took up an itinerant life of teaching wherever people would listen to him. In this story, he made his first trip back to his home Synagogue.

- While this story doesn't come out and say it, there are certain markers, (signposts we might say) that indicate one has crossed from one age stage to the next. Age 13 is when the Jews observed a child's bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah indicating the age one becomes an adult. We're more likely today to observe age 16 as the age to drive a car, or age 21, the age to drink (not to be confused with the age of drinking and driving). Reaching 30 years of age was significant perhaps because it marked the time when Jesus determined to live his own life.
- The Talmud declares: "At age 30, one receives strength." This is the strength of character needed to pursue life's goals. In one's 20s the process of trial and error gives way to a more secure decade of the 30s, when a person is focused on true talents, pursuable goals, and genuine accomplishments.
- In the Synagogue gathering, Jesus read from a text from Isaiah that created such a stir the townspeople carried him up to the cliff above the village so they could throw him off the top to the rocks below. Driven by his life's purpose, Jesus parted the crowd and walked through them and on his way.

## Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- We use rituals to mark the signposts. What signposts on the map of your life can you see that indicated you were leaving the innocence of your young adulthood and headed into the practicality of being middle aged?
- Jesus marked this time by leaving home ... what do you think that meant to him? To his mother and his siblings? What bonds did Jesus break to be free to live his own dreams?
- How does this quote from George Bernard Shaw have meaning for you? "If at age 20 you are not a Communist then you have no heart. If at age 30 you are not a Capitalist then you have no brains."

## Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>