

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**February 2-3**

**“Hometown Prophets”**

**By Kelly Archer**

## 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

Luke 4: 21-30; <https://bit.ly/2Gc4GR8>

## Big Ideas Raised

- The wisdom that “no prophet is accepted in his home town” can be found in all four canonic gospels. Matthew 13:54, Mark 6:1-6, Luke 4:16-30, and John 4:44. It can also be found in the gnostic Gospel of Thomas.
- Once again Jesus is misunderstood by those who were fortunate enough to know him and share earthly journeys together. This isn't the first or only instance of Jesus' community saying, “Isn't that Joseph's son?” “Isn't he the son of a Carpenter?” Check out John 6:42, Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6: 3.
- Through the commonality of human experience/emotion we can relate to the major dynamics at play in this ancient text. The power of authenticity, the courage to be bold, the sting of rejection, and the loneliness of being misunderstood.

## Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Make a list of adjectives that describe Christ's affect – his way of being in the world. Draw from all the scriptural knowledge you have, not just today's passage. Once you have a pretty good list, stop and ask yourself, does this list of adjectives describe you too? Next ask yourself if this list of adjectives describes your church? Discuss.
- Though the process of “coming out” is associated with our LGBTQ siblings in Christ, many of us have “come out” in our own ways. We've spoken our truths, even if our voices shook. Think back to a time in your own life when you were bold like Christ – confident in who you were and why you were here. Do you still feel that way? Why or why not?
- The “hometown” struggle is real for some, they must move away from home to find opportunity or industry. Others move in search of a fresh start, a clean slate. Others stay in their hometowns their whole lives where they either find success/standing or reputations they cannot escape. Think of your own story and the times you found yourself far from home. How did those experiences and that distance affect you and your spiritual life in particular?

## Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>