



# Bible Study

LUKE 4:14-19, 24:21 &  
ISAIAH 52:3-7

*Look at my hands and my feet;  
see that it is I myself.*

—JESUS IN LUKE 24:39



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

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## CLWR BIBLE STUDIES

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CLWR's Bible Studies have been designed to help congregations delve deeper into the challenges leading to injustices around the world, to explore related Bible stories, to discuss how these connect and how God calls us to act together.

These studies are meant to be adapted for your congregation's needs and are free to use. Each study includes discussion questions for children to adults, as well as suggestions to connect this discussion to action.

As CLWR continues to grow our resource collection, we would love to hear suggestions and insight from you. Please feel free to contact Heidi Van Schaik, our Church Relations Manager at [heidi@clwr.org](mailto:heidi@clwr.org) with ideas and feedback.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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- “Israel” does not mean a region of land like we experience it today. While it is a region, it is more a word that encompasses a group of people
- Remember Abraham: Father Abraham had 7 sons. From Sarah came Isaac, from Isaac and Rebekah came Jacob, from Jacob and Leah came 12 children.
- Jacob’s name is changed to Israel in Genesis 32:28. *“Then the man said, ‘You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.’”*

## **Luke 4:14-19**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”*

## **Luke 24:21**

But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

## Isaiah 52:3-7

For this is what the Lord says: "You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed." For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock." declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I." How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

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## STUDY

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*We call this season the season of Hope. Why?*

- Hope for the coming of the Messiah
- Hope for the future
- Hope for Christmas to come
- Children hope for special gifts

*What did you hope for as a child?*

*What do your children/grandchildren/nieces/nephews hope for now?*

*What do you hope for today?*

Read Luke 24:21

*What were the disciples hoping for? What were the people of Israel hoping for?*

- That God would send them a saviour to overthrow the Roman government.
- That they would be free from the oppression of the Romans.
- That Jesus would be the one they were waiting for.

### Historical Notes:

It's important to know the history of Israel (the people) to understand why they live in hope and what they are hoping for.

A brief history lesson:

- Approx. 2000 BCE - God renames Jacob, Israel (Genesis 35:10).
- Approx. 1460 BCE - The Israelites escape Pharaoh and Egypt.
- Approx. 997 - 990 BCE - Construction begins on the temple in Jerusalem.
- Approx. 585 BCE - The temple is destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon).
- Approx. 520-515 BCE - The temple is rebuilt.
- Approx. 63 BCE - The Romans occupy Israel.
- Jesus is Born, completes his ministry, is crucified, and rises from the dead.
- Approx. 70 CE - The second temple is destroyed (portions of the Western Wall remain even today). [*Side note: This is why the Western Wall is such an important place of prayer for the Jewish people of today.*]

The Prophet Isaiah told the people during the Babylonian Exile (see above timeline - approx. 585 BCE) that there would be a Saviour.

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STUDY (CONTINUED)

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Read Isaiah 52:3-7

*Whose feet are being spoken of here?*

*Who is the messenger who announces peace, brings good news, announces salvation?*

Read Luke 4:14-19

*How does this point to Jesus being the feet mentioned in Isaiah?*

*What parallels can you draw here?*

*[Side note: Jesus reads the portion of the scroll containing what we label as Isaiah 61.]*

*What other things does the Bible say about hands and feet? What other stories do you know that involve hands and feet?*

- Romans 10:14-15
- John 13:9
- Acts 21:11
- John 11:44
- Luke 24:39-40



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STUDY (CONTINUED)

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*How does Jesus use his hands and feet?*

- Healing, miracles, relationally, symbols, offered hope

*We often talk about being the Hands and Feet of Christ in our world. Where does this idea come from?*

- John 14:12
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Matthew 5:16

St Theresa of Avila offers this:

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

*What does it mean for us to be Christ's hands and feet and offer hope in our hurting world today?*

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## WONDERINGS

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Consider who in your local community might need some hope.

Consider who in our country needs to hear a message of hope.

Consider who in the world needs to hear a message of hope.

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## ACTION BRAINSTORM

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Consider your local community: How can you be Christ's hands and feet and offer hope to those in your community?

Consider our country: How can you be Christ's hands and feet and offer hope to those in our country?

Consider the world: How can you be Christ's hands and feet and offer hope to those in our world?

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## ACTION SUGGESTIONS

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### **Locally:**

Open the church doors and welcome people in, offering hospitality during community events, i.e. hot chocolate to those participating in a Christmas walk, the local Santa Claus parade or Remembrance Day parade, or cold drinks for summer events.

Go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood.

Collect items for the local children's aid society and offer to help organize the gift distribution. Partner with organizations who collect and distribute Christmas gifts locally.

Do a prayer walk throughout your community, praying for general needs for specific groups or organizations, as well as for your neighbours.

Offer a free-will donation Christmas dinner for those alone at Christmas, and/or those who are hungry in your community.

Adopt a family in need of support and support them through the year. (Be prepared for this to be an ongoing support.)

Decorate the outside of your church for the season and offer hope to the entire community. (Be prepared for an increase in your hydro bill.)

Make and send—or, better yet, hand deliver—Christmas Cards to those who have lost loved ones this year, or are alone.

**Nationally:**

Write letters to those serving in our military overseas who cannot be home for the holidays.

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/contact-us/write-troops.html>

Pray for national leaders privately and corporately.

**Globally:**

Offer hope globally to people in need using the CLWR gift catalogue ([clwr.org/products/all-gifts](http://clwr.org/products/all-gifts)) by:

- Purchasing items as Christmas gifts.
- Offering a free-will offering meal or event, proceeds from which are designated to offer hope to those in need through CLWR. Or organizing a Christmas Concert at the church and including local and community musicians and choirs, with the free-will offering going to purchase gifts from the catalogue.
- Setting up a group fundraising page on CLWR's website ([clwr.org/fundraise](http://clwr.org/fundraise)) to help raise funds for a larger gift from the catalogue.

Ask children what they hope for (can be for Christmas or in general).

Ask them what they know about what other kids around the world might hope for and why.

Share the Halloween Trick or Potato Story:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20221025005866/en/%E2%80%98Trick-or-Potato%E2%80%99-Turns-Out-Kids-Love-a-Spud-with-Their-Halloween-Candy>

Ask the children why they think some kids might choose a potato over candy.

Ask children how they can offer hope to someone else.

Jesus came and offered people hope by helping them when they needed help, giving them joy and peace and comfort and love when they needed it most.

*How can we be like Jesus?*

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## PRAYER

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Lord Jesus,  
I give you my hands to do your work,  
I give you my feet to go your way,  
I give you my eyes to see as you do,  
I give you my tongue to speak your words,  
I give you my mind that you may think in me,  
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.  
Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me.

Amen.

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## FURTHER RESOURCES

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### Reading:

- *Be the Hands and Feet: Living Out God's Love for All His Children* by Nick Vijcic (<https://www.amazon.ca/Be-Hands-Feet-Living-Children/dp/1601426208>)

### Music:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp1h1f9gK-Y>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvX1YE7QXJE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fok1h3p1sh8>