



Chapter & verse – Samuel Silungwe (page 24)

Read Luke 4: 14-19, followed by Samuel Silungwe’s article.

1. The article makes the point that ‘the Church’s mission ... is to take the Good News of the grace and love of God to this world.’ How does your church do this? In what ways might it improve?
2. Samuel says that the world is ‘engulfed in ... problems of poverty, captivity, physical suffering and oppression’. What problems does the Church suffer from? Are these the same problems as the world? Should they be?
3. The article’s third paragraph says that Good News consists of ‘economic justice for the poor, forgiveness and mercy for offenders, healing for those afflicted and political justice for the oppressed.’ Are there other aspects of the Good News? Have you seen or heard of examples?
4. The first verse of the Bible reading tells us that Jesus was ‘filled with the power of the Spirit’ and that subsequently, ‘a report about him spread through all the surrounding country’. If you were to report the news of someone being filled with the Holy Spirit today, what words might you use?
5. Samuel argues, in the article’s fourth paragraph, that ‘God has placed the Church in the world to be an agent for change.’ How would you describe the Church’s purpose?
6. Samuel goes on to say that ‘in today’s world, peace especially seems low on the political agenda,’ adding: ‘The stability of our world in the current political environment cannot be guaranteed.’ What can we do to change this?

For further reflection: ‘Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.’ Isaiah 42:1

Prayer: Jesus, whose mission changed people’s lives so wonderfully, send the same Spirit upon us, we pray. Help us to be your Good News. Amen.