# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 9

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 9 is packed full, too much to cover in one Talk Tuesday. So, I am going to cover the familiar story of Jesus feeding the 5000. However familiar it is, it is likely that there is something you may have missed! The key is the context:   1. Jesus sends out the twelve (9:1-6) 2. Herod wants to know who the crowds say Jesus is (9:7-9) 3. Jesus feeds the 5000 (9:10-17) 4. Jesus wants to know who the crowds say Jesus is (9:18-20)   Did you see it? The ‘Jesus feeds the 5000’ story is bracketed, or bookended, by the same question: Who do people/you say Jesus is? The answer: Unlike anyone else the world has ever seen (the Christ of God says Peter in 9:20).  This question is important because in nearly every Young Life talk I hear; the emphasis is on ‘how Jesus can fix your problem.’ The problem with this emphasis is that Jesus doesn’t always fix our problems, anyone who has followed Jesus for a little while knows this. But, Jesus promises to be *with us* and to give us hope for the future (if not on earth, in eternity). One prominent theologian says of this story: “We aren’t called to believe that Jesus can, as it were, do tricks to order. He wasn’t a magician.” – NT Wright’s comments that Jesus truly fed the 5000 miraculously but the invitation was to venture into faith, not do tricks for us. The main point of this story is not about food, it is about faith. If we preach Jesus as an on-call magician, we are aren’t talking about Jesus (or God) at all. Guess what happened to the 5000+ a few hours later? They were hungry again and Jesus did not do the miracle over and over whenever they wanted. The real question is the one right before (9:7-9) and after (9:18-20) this story: Who do you say Jesus is? |
| Possible main point(s):   * Say: “I want to ask you the most important question you will ever be asked: Who do you say Jesus is?” This is a question many people have asked and that I’m asking you today. * Jesus is unlike anyone else, He is God. * Jesus invited his disciples to be a part of his miraculous work, do you want to be part of God’s work in the world? |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus shows himself to be God, he can do things that no one else can do. * Jesus wants to involve us in his work here on earth (notice how he had the disciples pass out the food in 9:16) * Jesus is the Christ/anointed/king (9:20). |
| What this has to do with our life:   * We all get hungry over and over and over (a good reminder of our constant need). * Whether physical or, more importantly, spiritually, we can be ‘satisfied’ by Jesus’ work in our life (9:17). |
| Relevant technical details:   * This is the one miracle, apart from the resurrection, present in all four gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; [John 6:1-14](http://ylhelp.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Gospel-of-John-Weekly-Talk-Ideas-Jn-6.docx)). * We might recall that Simon had already seen a miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5:1-11. If Jesus was able to provide for them then, why should the disciples doubt Jesus now? * John’s gospel tells us that the loaves were barley loaves, which was the food of the poor. * Some, like St. Augustine and John Calvin, think that the miracle actually happened while the disciples had the food in their hands (Calvin: “he gave them loaves, in order that in their hands the astonishing increase might take place… Christ determined that his power should be handled by them.” While this is speculation, it emphasizes the amazing participation that Jesus intended for his followers in his miracles. |
| Possible illustrations:   * *5 loaves and 2 fish = 5 rolls and 2 Swedish fish (w/ some math):* When you are telling the story, stop and illustrate the loaves and fish by showing 5 rolls and, instead of stinky fish, 2 candy Swedish fish. Then say this fed 5,000 men (maybe 10,000 or so people?). Then do the math for your school (my school is 2,800 students / 1,400 guys), so in my case I need 1.4 rolls and about 0.5 Swedish fish. Ask: Would this feed your entire school? No! * *Have kids in club hand out snack/candy during the talk*: Pause in the middle of your talk and pick a few kids to hand out a small snack (like a small thing of candy) to each person. When they are done, or at the end of your talk, point out the people who handed out *your* snack. Make the point that, just as Jesus did with his disciples – Jesus wants to use ‘you’ to do his work. Then pose the question: Do you want to be part of how God wants to work the world? |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Luke 9 (ESV)

**Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles**

**9**And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, **2**and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. **3**And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. **4**And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. **5**And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” **6**And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

**Herod Is Perplexed by Jesus**

**7**Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, **8**by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. **9**Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him.

**Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

**10**On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. **11**When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. **12**Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.” **13**But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” **14**For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” **15**And they did so, and had them all sit down. **16**And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. **17**And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

**Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ**

**18**Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” **19**And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” **20**Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

**Jesus Foretells His Death**

**21**And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, **22**saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

**Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus**

**23**And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24**For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. **25**For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? **26**For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. **27**But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

**The Transfiguration**

**28**Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. **29**And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. **30**And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, **31**who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. **32**Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. **33**And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. **34**As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35**And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” **36**And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

**Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit**

**37**On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. **38**And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. **39**And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. **40**And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” **41**Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” **42**While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. **43**And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

**Jesus Again Foretells His Death**

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, **44**“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” **45**But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

**Who Is the Greatest?**

**46**An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. **47**But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side **48**and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

**Anyone Not Against Us Is For Us**

**49**John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” **50**But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

**A Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus**

**51**When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. **52**And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. **53**But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. **54**And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” **55**But he turned and rebuked them. **56**And they went on to another village.

**The Cost of Following Jesus**

**57**As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” **58**And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” **59**To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” **60**And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” **61**Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” **62**Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”