# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 4

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 4 is a packed full of dynamic stories about Jesus. It includes Jesus’ temptation (perhaps a great Campaigners study), Jesus’ first sermon (and subsequent rejection by the people), as well as the beginning of His healing ministry. The healing ministry could be a perfect fit for a club talk, but since this passage (in my club) comes early in the semester (and we will have other healing stories to cover later in Luke), I am drawn to Jesus’ initial sermon – it captures concisely for Jesus “this is what I am about.” For me, I think that fits great early in the semester as we introduce people to Jesus. Here is an outline:   1. The setting: Jesus speaks in his synagogue (4:16-17) 2. **Who is Jesus**: Filled and anointed with God’s Spirit (4:18a) 3. **Purpose of Jesus**: To proclaim **good news**    1. Good news is **for the “poor”** (4:18b)    2. Good news **announces the liberation/freedom/sending-off of those who are stuck/captive**    3. Good news **re-opens eyes that were closed** (metaphorically and literally, see Lk. 7:21)    4. Good news **announces the liberation/freedom/sending-off of those who are “crushed”/hopeless** 4. **Timing of Jesus**: Now… Jesus’ arrival is the beginning of the good news (4:19) |
| Possible main point(s):   * Do you need good news? Jesus frees us from sin, opens our eyes to what matters, gives us hope, and wants to do it now (to those who recognize that they need it). * People look everywhere for riches, freedom, insight, and hope: These are found in Jesus (but, perhaps a bit differently that you might expect). * No matter what you think about politics, no one wants to hear fake news. When it comes to our lives we’ve heard a lot of fake news. What I’ve found is that Jesus is the source of true and good news, and I want to share that with you. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus hints at his divinity: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (v.18) * Jesus is the ultimate source of good news. (v.18) * Jesus liberates, heals the blind (Lk. 7:21), and makes declarations for the Lord. (v.19) |
| What this has to do with our life:   * What do we consider good news? Probably things that are not all that significant. * What sources / people / voices do we listen to in order to tell us what is worthwhile in life? How is that going? * We likely see God clearer when we are poor, stuck, crushed, and hopeless. |
| Relevant technical details:   * Jesus is quoting and fulfilling Isaiah 61:1 and 58:6 in these verses. Jesus was *continuing* what God is doing in the world. * “Spirit of the Lord is up on me” (v.18) = Jesus is showing his continuity with God as revealed in the Old Testament. * “Anointed” (v.18) = A person who is assigned for a task. (Jesus is the person of the Trinity to do this work). * “Good news..poor” (v.18) = In Greek this word is *euangelion* which is where the English language gets the word “evangelism.” The verse could be rendered “to proclaim the gospel to the poor.” Coupled with the broader understanding of Luke’s use of “poor” (which also includes economic deficiency), it could be said that only the poor are the object of the gospel. In other words, the gospel is only good news to those who are poor / needy (see Lk. 5:31). * “liberty to the captives / liberty those who are oppressed” (v. 18) = Literally the “sending off of captives.” Imagine what it must be like for a prisoner to talk out of a prison they thought they never were going to leave. * “the year of the Lord’s favor” (v.19) = A hint toward the Jewish festival where people and debts were forgiven. In Jesus this has happened permanently for those who follow him. |
| Possible illustrations:   * *Tom Brady*: Rich but poor. See this video: [CLICK HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdcJSsRfL8s&hl=en). * *Fake news / Good news*: No matter what your political opinion is, “fake news” is a topic we have all heard about – no one wants actual “fake news”! Tell them that you want to give them “Good news”. * *Engagement/baby “reveal” pictures and stories from social media*: Show how people try to “announce” something that will be life changing. You could end your talk with a “reveal” which would be the leaders standing up and saying that they are the snapshot of the truthfulness and reality of Jesus’ good news in their midst. * *Blindfold*: Opening the eyes of the blind. What would it be like to go through life blind? Jesus wants to open your eyes. |

*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Luke 4 (ESV)

**The Temptation of Jesus**

**4**And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness **2**for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. **3**The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” **4**And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’ ” **5**And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, **6**and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. **7**If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” **8**And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God,

and him only shall you serve.’ ”

**9**And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10**for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,

to guard you,’

**11**and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

**12**And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” **13**And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**Jesus Begins His Ministry**

**14**And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. **15**And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

**Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

**16**And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. **17**And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

**18** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

**19** to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**20**And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21**And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” **22**And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” **23**And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘ “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’ ” **24**And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. **25**But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, **26**and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. **27**And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” **28**When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. **29**And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. **30**But passing through their midst, he went away.

**Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Demon**

**31**And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, **32**and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. **33**And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, **34**“Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” **35**But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. **36**And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” **37**And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

**Jesus Heals Many**

**38**And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. **39**And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

**40**Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. **41**And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

**Jesus Preaches in Synagogues**

**42**And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, **43**but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” **44**And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.