# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 5

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 5 is packed full of great stories that could fit nicely into a Young Life club talk. This chapter includes five sections, of which the first three are ideal for the first goal of club: to introduce young people to Jesus. I had a hard time choosing between the three, but I’ll explain how I made my choice.   1. Jesus calls the first disciples (5:1-11) 2. Jesus cleanses a leper (5:12-16) 3. Jesus heals a paralytic and forgives sins (5:17-26) 4. Jesus calls Levi (5:27-32) 5. A question about fasting (5:33-39)   The last account (5:17-26) requires a discussion about sin. While a discussion about sin can work in *any* club talk, since this talk falls early in our semester sequence, in my club the other accounts seem better for our 3rd talk (e.g. Luke 1, 3, and now 5). The story of Jesus cleaning a leper is another excellent story; however, the first story paints a vivid picture of someone who (1) encounters Jesus for the first time, (2) experiences Jesus’ power first-hand, and then (3) responds to Jesus by following. I see Peter’s newness to Jesus as a parallel to a lot of kids in my club early in the semester, so I picked 5:1-11. |
| Possible main point(s):   * Have you ever been on a trip that changed your life? (Snapshot of Peter’s day from beginning to end: terrible fishing day to leaving behind his best catch ever to follow Jesus for the rest of his life). * Who would you kneel in front of? What would that person need to be like in order for you to kneel before them? * Jesus knows more than you do about life! (Jesus out-fished the expert, lifelong, fishermen!) * Who is worth leaving your iPhone (or wallet) behind and running after to follow? Why? At minimum, come back next week to Young Life… it gets even better. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus is interesting enough that crowds “pressed around him” to hear him. (v.1) Who causes this scene today? * The catch is a miracle of knowledge. Jesus *knew* the fish were there. While this could have been a miracle of fish simply appearing (Jesus can certainly do that too), this miracle shows what Jesus *knows* things we *don’t know*. (v.4) * Jesus was not a fisherman, but fishermen should obey his fishing instructions. What does that mean for your life? |
| What this has to do with our life:   * The words of Jesus, when properly explained and understood, would cause us to seek Jesus and fight through a crowd to hear Him. If we don’t feel that way right now, it is because we aren’t hearing what they heard. * Jesus knows the details of our lives more intimately (and accurately) then we know our own lives. * We should act upon Jesus’ commands if we want to see Jesus’ work in our lives (e.g. Peter’s response: “at your word I will let down the nets.” (v.5) * A common and proper reaction to comprehending/seeing/understanding/grasping Jesus is to fall on our knees (and to recognize the profound power/perfection of Jesus in comparison to our fallibility/sin). * Peter, James, and John left everything (boats, nets, essentially their livelihood) and followed Jesus. |
| Relevant technical details:   * When Simon Peter… *fell down* at Jesus’ knees (v.8) = As much as we might want to identify Peter’s kneeing as a sign of worshipping Jesus as God, this is not what Peter was doing. Scholars agree that Peter’s response, at this point, along with Peter’s use of the word “Lord” [Gk: *kurios*] in this verse and at this point of Luke’s gospel is closer to a firm and clear recognition of Jesus a master/teacher/dignitary worth following, but too early to read into it as Jesus as God. * Notice that this is *not* a story about faith and repentance (even Peter’s recognition of his sinfulness is not a fully developed repentant response), this is an account of trust and the initiation of discipleship, where discipleship is (correctly) understood as *following* Jesus. |
| Possible illustrations:   * *Insta/Snap Story*: What was Peter’s “story” like that day?... Terrible fishing time. Random dude on my boat teaching. Huge catch. Walking away from boat and all to follow Jesus. * *Boat/net/fishing pole/hook*: Bring these in to help illustrate the story. Boat could be an inflatable boat/raft/pool toy. * *Give your phone (or wallet) to someone in the crowd (or take one from the crowd)*. Ask: Is there anything that could happen right now that I would walk away from this right now, no second thoughts? Or, open with a story about losing/forgetting your phone or wallet (if that has happened to you), most people obsess about it and can’t stop thinking about it. Peter walked away from his boat and nets, the source of his income, profession, and future security. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Luke 5 (ESV)

**Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

**5**On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, **2**and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3**Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4**And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5**And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” **6**And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. **7**They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **8**But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” **9**For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, **10**and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” **11**And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

**Jesus Cleanses a Leper**

**12**While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” **13**And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him. **14**And he charged him to tell no one, but “go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” **15**But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. **16**But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

**17**On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. **18**And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, **19**but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. **20**And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” **21**And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” **22**When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? **23**Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? **24**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” **25**And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. **26**And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”

**Jesus Calls Levi**

**27**After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” **28**And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

**29**And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. **30**And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” **31**And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **32**I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

**A Question About Fasting**

**33**And they said to him, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.” **34**And Jesus said to them, “Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? **35**The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.” **36**He also told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. **37**And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. **38**But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. **39**And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’ ”