# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 13

|  |
| --- |
| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 13 is another chapter you probably don’t hear a lot of Young Life talks on very often! However, as I love to remind us all (I’m a broken record on this topic): We need to let *our* gospel be defined by *the* gospel that we find in *the Gospels*. I think Luke has a lot to teach us about the gospel. This chapter has some challenging stories for a club talk, but I think 13:10-15, (the story of Jesus healing the woman with a disabling spirit and bent back) is a great one for club. Here is an outline of the story:   1. Setting (13:10-11) 2. Healing (13:12-13) 3. Reactions (13:14-15)    1. Synagogue ruler (13:14)    2. Jesus’ rebuke (13:15)   This is a great club talk story because it not only shows Jesus’ divine power (He is God), but it also shows Jesus’ urgency to work in the woman’s life. The synagogue ruler would have been fine with Jesus healing her on the next day, but Jesus did not want to wait. First, he wanted to correct their vision of the purpose of the Sabbath (it is meant to be life-giving and life-restoring). Second, he wanted to work in the woman’s life right away, why wait another day?! In Young Life, we work with young people, we need to challenge them to not put-off their response to Jesus for a later date (ex: YL camp, when they get older, when they start acting more ‘Christian’). |
| Possible main point(s):   * Jesus wants to work in your life now, don’t wait for tomorrow. * Jesus wants to bring life, not rules, into your life right now. * Jesus has the power to heal and the authority to correct what the world thinks God is all about. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus can heal. (11:13) * Jesus has authority to correct religious experts. (13:15) * Jesus didn’t wait for the woman to ask for help, Jesus called her over (13:12) * Jesus wants to bring full life, not endless rules, into our life. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * We need to not delay in allowing God to work in our life now (rather than later). * We need to beware of burdening people with rules rather than guiding them toward full life. |
| Relevant technical details:   * Synagogue (v.10) = The local Jewish place of worship and teaching found in any town with a small group of Jesus people. * Sabbath (v.10) = The Jewish day of rest and worship (from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday). * Disabling spirit (v.11) = The text is clear that the woman did have some sort of spiritual issue in her life, but how it was connected, or not connected, to her medical issue is unclear. * Bent over and could not fully straighten herself up (v.11) = One commentator said that likely the bones of her spine were fused together into a rigid mass. * Freed (then) made straight (vv.12-13) = Jesus’ work first freed the woman, likely a spiritual healing, then healed her back, a physical healing. * Indignant because Jesus healed on the Sabbath (v.14) = Synagogue ruler followed the religious rules of the day which was based on the prohibition to not work on the Sabbath (Deut. 5:12-15; Exod. 20:8-11) but extended it, whereby the Rabbinic rule of the day detailed 39 forms of labor which were forbidden. They were concerned with the minute application of the 39 forms of labor rather than God’s heart behind rest (which is to be life-giving, life-restoring)! * Untie his ox or his donkey… (v.15) = Jesus calls them hypocrites because they, effectively, were prioritizing the case of animals over the care of humans. |
| Possible illustrations:   * Backpack with heavy weights: Do your talk with an empty backpack on the entire time (it will create curiosity). Then, when you are done with your talk (or in the middle of your talk if you want), load up the backpack with heavy weights to symbolize the rules and burdens that people think being a Christian adds to our life. Empty it out and say that instead of weights (rule), Jesus wants to be our guide (in the theme of a backpack/hiking) to show us God’s best for our lives. A guide, not a bunch of rules to weigh us down. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Luke 13 (ESV)

**Repent or Perish**

**13**There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2**And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? **3**No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. **4**Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? **5**No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

**The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**

**6**And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. **7**And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ **8**And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. **9**Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

**A Woman with a Disabling Spirit**

**10**Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. **11**And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. **12**When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” **13**And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. **14**But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” **15**Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? **16**And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” **17**As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**The Mustard Seed and the Leaven**

**18**He said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? **19**It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

**20**And again he said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? **21**It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened.”

**The Narrow Door**

**22**He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. **23**And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, **24**“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. **25**When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ **26**Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ **27**But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ **28**In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. **29**And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. **30**And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

**Lament over Jerusalem**

**31**At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” **32**And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. **33**Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ **34**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! **35**Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”