# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 14

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 14 has three different passages that could fit well in a club talk:   * *Healing of a man on a Sabbath (14:1-6)* * *The Great Banquet / Invitation (14:15-24)* * *The Cost of Discipleship (14:25-33)*   The healing of the man with “dropsy” would be a great story to highlight Jesus’ healing power (a sign that Jesus is God), as well as God’s heart (healing and helping people is actually the best thing to do on the Sabbath, why stop it?!) For my analysis of a similar situation, see my Talk Tuesday for the previous chapter, Luke 13:10-17 (click [HERE](http://ylhelp.com/talktuesday/)).  The other two passages (Banquet/Cost of Discipleship) both have a similar theme: an invitation to follow Jesus. Sometimes in Young Life we wait until the end of a semester or the end of a week at camp to give an invitation. But, Scripture, and most importantly, Jesus, do not delay this invitation. I encourage you to give an invitation to follow Jesus in *every* club talk (even a “sin” talk)! Here are some simple main points for each passage:   1. **Invitation to a Banquet (to be with Jesus): Those who *want* to be with Jesus (14:16-24)**    1. Original invitation (14:16)    2. Three *excuses*: Busy with work (field), work (animals), family (wife) (14:17-20)    3. Updated invitation: The overlooked, poor, hurting, and sick (14:2-24) 2. **Conditions of Discipleship: Those who *are willing* to make Jesus first (14:25-33)**    1. *People* become second to your allegiance to Jesus (even family) (14:25-26)    2. *Difficulties* (for the sake of Jesus) will be *accepted* and *anticipated* (14:27)    3. *Counting the personal cost* of following Jesus should be considered (14:28-33)   We should not avoid or water-down these requirements to be a disciple in our club talks. We must use the words and concepts Jesus uses. Jesus is not “my homeboy” or “buddy.” Jesus is God and does not settle for second place in your life. |
| Possible main point(s):   * Jesus invites everyone to follow him. * Jesus knows that those who love their lives (right now) will have a difficult time deciding to follow him. * Jesus wants you to know that following him will be difficult. (Is anything truly amazing easy to do?) * Do you want to follow Jesus? Consider what that truly means. Then, decide if you want to respond to His invitation. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus does not exclude anyone, especially those who are on the fringes of society and overlooked by those in power. * Jesus wants us to really think through the personal cost of making a decision to follow him. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * We all have excuses about why we would *not* follow Jesus. * People who like their lives and are self-sufficient, might not realize that they need Jesus. * People who are overlooked, poor, hurting, or sick, often realize that they need help. Jesus invites you now. * Following Jesus comes at a cost. Grace is free. Faith is a gift. Jesus also wants us to realize what we are getting into if we follow him. Like a husband, he does not want to share his bride with anyone else. |
| Relevant technical details:   * “hate his own father or mother…” (v.26) = “Hate” is an intense word, what is meant here is the change of primary allegiance from one thing to another. By *comparison* this change might mean “hate” but it also could mean that a person actually *loves* their father/mother/wife/children/brothers/sisters/self more than ever, but *by comparison* loves God even more. * “disciple” (v.26) = In this passage disciple means all who follow Jesus and identify with Jesus’ mission and purpose. * “bear his own cross” (v.27) = The grammatical tense of “bear” / “bearing” or “carrying along” [the cross] is a present tense, meaning the ongoing carrying of the cross, i.e. it continues and is not a one-time experience. * “renounce all that he has” (v.33) = To “bid farewell,” “leave behind,” or “abandon” all one has in order to follow Jesus. |
| Possible illustrations:   * An invitation: Give everyone an invitation to follow Jesus. Explain that there is a cost (not of good works), but of a commitment to follow Jesus “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, till death” (as Jesus helps you). * A ring: If you are married, or can get a ring from a married person, explain the commitment that often comes in marriage knowing full well that the commitment would be very difficult. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Luke 14 (ESV)

**Healing of a Man on the Sabbath**

**14**One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. **2**And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. **3**And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” **4**But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. **5**And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” **6**And they could not reply to these things.

**The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

**7**Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, **8**“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, **9**and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. **10**But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. **11**For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**The Parable of the Great Banquet**

**12**He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. **13**But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14**and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

**15**When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” **16**But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. **17**And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ **18**But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ **19**And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ **20**And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ **21**So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ **22**And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ **23**And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. **24**For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ ”

**The Cost of Discipleship**

**25**Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, **26**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. **27**Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. **28**For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? **29**Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, **30**saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ **31**Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32**And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. **33**So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

**Salt Without Taste Is Worthless**

**34**“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? **35**It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”