# Gospel of Luke Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Luke Chapter 24

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Luke 24 is the final chapter of Luke’s gospel, but really it is only the end of “volume 1” of all that Jesus began to do (see Acts 1:1). “Volume 2” is the book of Acts (which Luke also wrote). Several times I’ve thought about doing a Fall club talk progression through Luke and then a Spring progression through Acts… but I still haven’t tried that (maybe next time). The gospel is not complete without a picture of “what is next” – which is what we learn in Acts. Luke 24 foreshadows an essential aspect of the gospel: that Christians become indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Luke 24 ends with Jesus flying away and the disciples are told to “stay in the city until…” Talk about a cliff hanger! Nevertheless, none of this would be possible without Jesus’ victory over death: His resurrection. The resurrection is not an optional part of the gospel, it is an absolute requirement, see 1 Cor. 15, esp. 15:14. One striking feature in Lk 24 is the persistent doubt and confusion of the disciples. We might expect the same thing from our teenage friends. That is OK. Invite them to repent for the forgiveness of sins (v.47) and let them know that God wants to live inside of them so that they are never alone.   1. Empty Tomb (24:1-12)    1. Women go to the tomb (1-3)    2. Women at the tomb: No body, Two Angels (4-8)    3. Women tell others (9-10)    4. Women aren’t believed, Peter checks himself (11-12) 2. Jesus Appears (24:36-49)    1. Jesus appears: “Peace” (26)    2. Mixed emotions: troubled, doubting, disbelief, joy, marvelling (27-45)    3. The purpose of Jesus’ suffering and resurrection: “that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed… to all nations” (46-48)    4. But… Stay/Wait until “power from on high” [hint to not try to follow Jesus in your own strength but through the power of the Holy Spirit] (49) 3. Jesus Ascends (24:50-53) |
| Possible main point(s):   * Jesus conquered death, just as he said he would, so that you can experience eternal life now and forever. * Do you want to follow Jesus? Align your life with Jesus’ plan for your life. * Death is not the end of our experience. Life continues after death. Jesus wants you to join him. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus is God. The resurrection is Jesus’ ultimate miracle and sign that He is God. * Jesus wants you to repent of your sins and to follow Him. * Jesus left (ascended from) earth because he wants to fill us with His spirit (see Acts 2:37-38). |
| What this has to do with our life:   * Many of us remain skeptics until we get proof. Some disciples, even when they saw Jesus, still doubted. * We all fear death. With Christ we have so much to look forward to after our death. |
| Relevant technical details (only from the parts highlighted in the outline above):   * “First day of the week” (v.1) = In the Jewish calendar Saturday is the 7th day, the day of rest (the Sabbath). Sunday is, thus, the first day of the week for Jewish people. For Christians, the resurrection represents the “8th” day of creation, the first (and eternal) day of new creation due to the resurrection. This is why Christians worship on Sunday. * Women = Women were not regarded as credible witnesses in the ancient world. Two observations are needed: 1) This gives historical credibility to the gospel accounts of the resurrection; no one in the ancient world would make-up a story in which women were the witnesses, and 2) Women are not secondary in Jesus’ kingdom. In this case they are the first witnesses of the resurrection, the first evangelists (the good news that Jesus’ is risen), and also happen to contrast the male disciples’ doubt and disbelief. The gospel prioritizes those who are normally overlooked. * “Remember how he told you…” (vv.6-7) = Luke’s gospel shows how Jesus had foreshadowed and predicted his resurrection: 9:22, 15:24, 32, 16:31, 17:25, 18:32-33. * “idle tale” (v.11) = An unusual word meaning “nonsense talk.” It was used in medical settings of the delirious talk of the very sick. Essentially, the men thought the women were insane; there was no way Jesus could not be at the tomb. * “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (v.47) = Repentance is primarily a change of mind, but it also means a realignment of one’s life, dispositions, and behaviors toward God’s purposes (rather than our own selfish purposes). |
| Possible illustrations:   * *Bedsheet / Big piece of cloth*: Use it to show that the women and Peter only saw linen clothes at the tomb (24:12). * *Tree Branch/Flower*: Show the branch or flower and say that it is actually dying because it is cut off from the source of life. While it still might look healthy, it is actually dying. We are like that. But, Jesus conquered death. We can be replanted / reconnected with the source of life if we repent and turn to follow Jesus. * *Flashlight / battery*: Use a flashlight that has weak or no batteries, it is dying. New batteries are available, but only if you use them. The batteries symbolize the life that comes when we repent and turn to follow Jesus. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Luke 24 (ESV)

**The Resurrection**

**24**But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. **2**And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3**but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4**While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. **5**And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? **6**He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7**that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **8**And they remembered his words, **9**and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **10**Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, **11**but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. **12**But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

**On the Road to Emmaus**

**13**That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, **14**and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15**While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. **16**But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17**And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. **18**Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” **19**And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20**and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. **21**But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. **22**Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, **23**and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. **24**Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” **25**And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26**Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” **27**And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

**28**So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, **29**but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. **30**When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. **31**And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. **32**They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” **33**And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, **34**saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” **35**Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

**36**As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” **37**But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. **38**And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39**See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40**And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41**And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he took it and ate before them.

**44**Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46**and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47**and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49**And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

**The Ascension**

**50**And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. **51**While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. **52**And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, **53**and were continually in the temple blessing God.