

**the gospel
message**

Proclaiming the Gospel in Young Life

Description: This lesson familiarizes leaders with the defining characteristics of the Gospel proclamation in Young Life.

Learning Goal: Leaders will get to know the “DNA” of a Young Life talk and understand Young Life’s approach to presenting the Gospel.

We have had the honor, privilege and high calling of making Jesus and His Gospel of love and life known to kids for more than 70 years in Young Life. The following is what characterizes Young Life talks.

1. We pray — we pray a lot — before, during, and after, knowing that:

- When hearts turn to Christ it is the Father’s doing (John 6:44, 65).
- It is the Holy Spirit who brings any power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).
- It is the Holy Spirit who convicts hearts ... we only “set the table” for Him to move (John 16:8-11).

2. We proclaim the Person of Jesus in every message (John 3:14-15).

“We affirm that Young Life is, and always has been, a Christ-centered mission. As our founder, Jim Rayburn, said, ‘Jesus is not just what Young Life is all about. Jesus is all that Young Life is about.’ We talk about Jesus knowing that most kids do not have a clear picture of His character, His personality, His power, His love. A great distinctive in Young Life is how we share the Gospel narratives with our young friends. We help them see this amazing person who cares so much about them. Jesus comes alive for them as we present Him in Gospel accounts.”

— *From Young Life’s Proclamation Paper*

He is the starting point (Creator and Incarnation), middle point (our Redeemer) taking on our sin on the cross, and ending point (He’s the object of our faith — the One in whom we entrust our lives) of our Gospel.

“If kids knew how wonderful the Savior is, they’d fall in love with Him.”

— George Scheffer, Young Life staff from the 1950s-1970s.

- Jesus reveals/explains God’s heart — Who God is (John 1:1-4, 14, 18).
- Jesus shows us life to the full (John 10:10).
- Jesus enters into our lives, knowing and bearing its pain and chaos (Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15-16).
- Jesus is who we invite into our hearts and who we live “with” the rest of our days and for eternity (Colossians 1:27).
- “First, we must stick to presenting Jesus Christ. There are all kinds of secondary things we could get involved in, but they aren’t Young Life’s business. We are not to

‘major in minors,’ but in the one all-important essential: that Jesus Christ is our greatest need, and that He’s all we need.”

— *Jim Rayburn, quoted from Young Life’s Proclamation Paper.*

3. We always open and read the Bible

- We know God’s Word carries more weight than our human words (Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11).
- We demonstrate that the Gospel is based on, and springs from, the Scripture.

4. We bring the Scripture to life, particularly Jesus’ miracles and words.

- This takes a lot of time for us, abiding in the Scripture and preparing.
- We have fun with this.
- Kids are then able to enter into a Jesus event, to live it/feel it as if they were there.

5. We rely on story-telling.

- We are rabbi-like in this way.
- We are like Jesus, using a parable/illustration (Mark 4:34) to bring alive whatever point we are trying to communicate.

6. We weave in our own testimony — our experience of Jesus and of life — into each talk.

- We connect with our talk; the talk is not outside of us.

7. We love humor.

- Laughter disarms resistance, is fun, and opens hearts to listen.
- Our humor is never “put downs” or “off color” or “bathroom-like.”

8. We uphold a profound respect for a kid’s choice and what is believed.

- There is no “finger-pointing”: We say “we” and “us,” not “you.”
- There is no pressure or cornering with an argument.
- We do not assume anything about kids, in terms of their understanding. We don’t use religious jargon, but our perspective is that kids owe it to themselves to consider the Gospel.
- We respect God’s work and His timing with a person. God is involved with kids long before we come to know them, and long after we have no more contact with them.

9. We invite kids into a relationship/ friendship with Jesus Christ.

Application: In your time with Young Life so far, in what ways have you noticed these characteristics in the proclamation of the Gospel?

The “Why” of a Talks Sequence

Description: This lesson explains the purpose of each topic in the sequence of messages in presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Learning Goals: For leaders to understand the purpose of a talk sequence and know the general order of one.

You may have noticed that in Young Life we repeat the same topics each semester in club. The primary reason is that we think the most important topic we can talk about to students is the life and mission of Jesus Christ.

“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”

— 1 Corinthians 2:2

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” — John 3:16-17

Topic	Why is This Necessary?
Welcome and INTRO TO YOUNG LIFE	We always start from “square one,” considering everyone as new kids. We want to greet them, communicate that Young Life is fun and safe, as well as give them an idea of what they can expect from Young Life. Briefly explain that we will consider together God, us and life, and how they relate to one another.
Existence of God	We used to have to explain to kids that God exists; recently we have found that most kids already believe that God exists. We still take time to explain that God exists, but also use the talk to highlight that God created all things in life, including themselves and the creation of the world. <i>“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” — Romans 1:20</i>
Incarnation (God becoming flesh, Jesus)	We talk about Jesus coming down from heaven and becoming flesh and blood. God is not a God “up there,” He also came down here and experienced all the things we do.

	<p><i>"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish." —John 1:14 (The Message)</i></p>
<p>Who Jesus is — "Person of Christ"</p>	<p>We look at the life of Christ to see who God really is, and isn't.</p> <p><i>"In these last days He has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature." — Hebrews 1:2-3a</i></p>
<p>Our need, the sin problem and its consequences</p>	<p>We must communicate that none of us are perfect, that God's standard is holy; He is a righteous judge, and the earthly and eternal consequences of sin are very, very bad.</p> <p>In addition, as we communicate the reality of sin, we need to challenge kids to consider <i>their own personal part in offending God. In other words, we have all refused to give God His rightful place in our lives.</i></p> <p>Jesus came that we might have life, and life abundantly (John 10:10) and we experience longing and falling short of life.</p> <p><i>"I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me." — Romans 7:9</i></p> <p>The largeness of sin's consequence is in our relationship with God; sins' consequence is death, alienation, brokenness, and estrangement with God.</p>
<p>The Cross</p>	<p>We had Christ take our place, bearing our sin in full and all its consequences. The apostle Paul made this the central theme of his message; we must too.</p> <p><i>"For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." — 1 Corinthians 2:2</i></p>
<p>The Resurrection</p>	<p>We must teach the Resurrection, for without it Jesus is just another man who claimed to be God, but wasn't. We'd be giving ourselves to a dead man in the grave, rather than the living Jesus.</p>

	<p><i>“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”</i></p> <p>— 1 Corinthians 15:3-4</p>
Trusting in Christ	<p>We must share that a relationship with God is more than just a conversion; it’s living life <u>with</u> the living Christ.</p> <p><i>“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him.”</i></p> <p>— Colossians 2:6</p>

The Message Sequence

Description: This lesson explains the reasoning for a message sequence and outlines a message sequence for the semester.

Learning Goal: For leaders to think through and develop the flow of messages in sharing the Gospel of Jesus.

Of course, we cannot share the entire Gospel message in one talk, so following a message sequence provides a sense of direction and ensures that the entire Gospel will be communicated over a period of time.

- A message sequence gives opportunity to paint a clear picture of Jesus by bringing out all the aspects of His beautiful, incredible character and heart — His compassion, power, grace, truth, deity, humanity, strength, His cross, His resurrection, etc., focusing on one clear point in each talk.
- Though we speak of a message sequence, each piece doesn't have a clean, separate break from another. They all weave together. For instance, the person of Jesus is part of every talk. Our human need and search for life may come out in the presentation of sin, or in the Resurrection of Jesus, or in our coming to Him, etc.
- As you prepare for club for the school year or semester, it may be helpful to make a calendar of the message sequence, what talk is being given and who is giving it as well as who is leading songs, playing the guitar, doing skits, finding the place for club, etc. Such planning, though laborious, saves time in the long run.

Example of a Message Sequence

1. Introduction and Welcome to Young Life

- Includes a big welcome/glad you're here ...
- Briefly explain that we will look together at God, us, and life and consider how they might relate to one another.
- Introduce that we will look at the person of Jesus, and together consider His claims, His life and His teachings — why He matters.
- Affirm that considering Jesus will be fun, not boring. There will never be any pressure, arguing or expectations here about a response or about what you need to believe. In fact, you're invited to ask any questions you've ever had.

- That the leaders here (maybe introduce them) are excited to get to know you/be with you — you'll see us around school.
- **Possible Scripture:** "come and see" John 4:29; John 12:20-21; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-4.

2. God Exists

- Recent Gallup Poll shows 98% of teenagers today answered "yes" to the question: Do you believe there's a God?
- He's infinite, creator of the universe, hung the stars, made us and the Earth.
- The question is: What is God like?
- Everyone arrives at Young Life club with some impressions and assumptions about God, Jesus and about what being a Christian is. We can assume those impressions are off-track, and that kids today are Biblically unread and unknowledgeable.
- **Possible Scripture:** Romans 1:18-20; Genesis 1:1 — 2:7; 2:18-25.

3. God Made Us

- We are the best part of His creation, the only part made in His Very Image ... beautifully and wonderfully made ... no mistakes ... made by Him and for Him.
- **Possible Scripture:** Psalm 139:13-14; Ecclesiastes 3:1; Isaiah 49:15-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Colossians 1:16-17.

4. Jesus — His Coming (Incarnation)

- The visible expression of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).
- No one's ever seen God at any time, but Jesus has explained Him (John 1:18).
- If we want to know what God is like, we look at Jesus — He and the Father are one (John 14:9; John 10:30).
- God's not up there, out there, rather He's experienced all of life as we have (Hebrews 4:15; 2:18).
- His claims, His miracles, His teaching.
- He's powerful, He's personal, He's compassionate, and He cares. (Every miracle meets a need; He's never "showing off").
- He's fully God and fully human.

- Jesus shows us God's very heart — He cares; He cries over the pain of the world; He responds to needs, pain and disease.
- Jesus offers "abundant LIFE" (John 10:10).
- **Possible Scripture:** Every Gospel event; Hebrews 1:1-4; Philippians 2:6-10; John 1:1-4, 14; Isaiah 53:1-6.

5. Our (Human) Need

- Our (kids) deep longing for abundant life, for purpose, meaning, fulfillment, happiness, security, significance, self-worth, authenticity, love, to be known, identity, etc.
- Where we look for those things besides God; where the world influences us to seek life; and the results of pursuing life apart from God. We come up empty and short, burdened by guilt, shame, condemnation, pain and hurt.
- How Jesus' enters in to our need, offers life, wholeness, healing, cleansing, etc. — and meets our need.
- **Possible Scripture:** Gospel events united with our own story with Jesus, and with how we know kids and their lives; John 7:37-38; John 6:35.

6. Sin's Reality

- Explain sin and its effect — a clear definition of sin, the difference between the condition of sin and personal sins.
- We all have the condition of sin that we can't fix nor overcome (we're helpless).
- The biggest consequence/result/effect of sin is in our relationship with God — we experience alienation, estrangement, death, separation and brokenness with God because of our sin.
- Great care must be taken to keep Jesus present in this message about sin. Gospel narratives, including the paralytic brought to Jesus by his friends, the woman at the well, the rich young ruler, the woman caught in adultery, Peter's characterization of himself as a "sinful man" and other passages all may be used to communicate this message." — *"Young Life Proclamation Paper,"* page 3.
- Sin does not diminish God's love for us, nor His pursuit of us (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:8).

- Though we are helpless (Romans 5:6), we are not hopeless (Romans 6:23). Jesus does not want to leave us in our sin, but we'd never understand our situation, or recognize and appreciate God's rescue, if we didn't explain sin well.
- We are not evil, gross or scum because of our sin; rather, we are still His Image-bearer; but we are lost, broken, and alienated from God our Creator and Life-Giver.
- No amount of good we do can outweigh our bad. By comparing ourselves to others, we only deceive ourselves of our sin.
- Our choice is preserved — though we “inherited” our sin nature from Adam, we too make sinful choices. We are not robots.

“God made man and woman in His image that He might have fellowship with us. Being estranged from God by our disobedience, we are, as sinful people, incapable of a right relationship to God apart from divine grace.” — *Young Life Statement of Faith, Article III.*”

- Never heap shame, guilt or condemnation on kids when presenting sin.
- **Possible Scripture:** Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3-23; Ephesians 2:5; Romans 6:23; Colossians 1:21; Romans 5:6; Genesis 3:8-10; Genesis 6:6.

7. The Work of Jesus — The Cross

- **Gods' Rescue Plan:** “By His death in our place, Jesus revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having risen bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, He rules as Lord over all and intercedes for us as our Great High Priest.” — Quoted from *Young Life Statement of Faith, Article V.*”
- **The Cross is a mystery** — It is LOVE expressed at its best (John 15:13; Romans 5:8). It is also God's holiness expressed.
- **“Jesus died for our sins.”** We do our best to explain how that mystery happens. Jesus bearing our sin, actually becoming sin on the cross, died in our place as our substitute, making the way for us to have a relationship with God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

“While one talk could never adequately cover all that was accomplished through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross, we do affirm that on the cross, Jesus:

- Demonstrated the love of God (Romans 5:8).
- Accomplished our reconciliation to the Father (Colossians 1:20-22).

- Dealt with sin by redemption (Mark 10:45; Romans 3:22-26).
- Made propitiation or atonement for our sin (Romans 3:22-26).
- Provided for our justification (Romans 3:22-26).
- Conquered the power of Satan, evil, sin and death (Colossians 2:13-15).
- Died as a substitute for sinful humanity (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)."

— Quoted from *"Young Life Proclamation Paper,"* page 5.

- **Possible Scripture:** The cross narratives of the four gospels; "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46); "It is finished" (John 19:30).

8. The Resurrection of Jesus — He's Alive — The Tomb is Empty

- The Resurrection verifies and validates Jesus' claims, words, and miracles.
- The Resurrection means we do not worship some dead man's bones in the grave, or follow some dead man's teaching; rather, we invite the living Lord Jesus Christ to live in our hearts and we live life following Him.
- The Resurrection declares death, sin and Satan are defeated.
- The Resurrection declares that Jesus is the first to resurrect and we will, too.
- **Possible Scripture:** The Resurrection event as recorded in the Gospels; 1 Corinthians 15

9. Appropriation — Invitation to accept Jesus and follow Him.

- Kids are invited to receive Jesus and His Forgiveness.
- God gives us free choice.
- We accept Jesus as LORD, and grow in trusting Him.
- **Possible Scripture:** Romans 10:9-13; Acts 2:37-38; I John 5:11-13; John 15:4-5; Proverbs 3:5-6; John 17:3; Colossians 1:27; Luke 15:11-24,25-32.

10. The Christian Life — Growing into abundant life with Jesus (Luke 15:31; Romans 8:32).

- Doesn't mean we don't sin, or that only good things happen to us ... explain.
- We are living God's big story for us — adventure.
- We grow into the person He dreamed us to be (Philippians 1:6).

- We grow into freedom — from fears, failure, death, anxiety, worry, guilt, shame (John 8:32-34; Galatians 5:1; Luke 4:18).
- We are forgiven — accepted by the Father and cleansed (1 John 1:8-9).
- We are being filled from our emptiness and loneliness (John 4:13-14; John 7:37-38).
- We are being healed (Isaiah 61:1).
- We experience peace, joy, hope, purpose, meaning (Galatians 5:22-23).
- We are called into mission for/with Jesus (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20).
- We are never alone or separated from God's love (Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:38-39).
- We want to live for God and make Him known (Matthew 5:16; John 14:21).

Application: Consider the talk sequence. Is there a specific topic you feel drawn to? Also, look at your club calendar for the semester; spend some time as a team drafting a sample message sequence.

Getting Ready to Give a Talk

Description: This lesson underscores the role that our personal walks with Christ play in talk preparation, describes several models or “blueprints” for talks, and gives steps to follow to develop a talk.

Learning Goal: Leaders will understand that knowing and growing in Christ personally is an absolute prerequisite to talk preparation. In addition, leaders will learn how to put together a talk.

Talk preparation begins with our personal devotional life with Christ. There are no shortcuts here ... this is essential. Young Life Founder Jim Rayburn once said:

"When you talk to kids about the sovereign of all that is, the One who made you and everything else, the One who became one of us, the One who died for us, and the One who is alive for us today — DON'T YOU DARE BORE ANYONE WITH THAT! If you can't do this, then you need to get better acquainted with the One you're talking about."

This is the first and foremost ingredient of great club talks — being so filled by Jesus, so taken by Him, so excited about Him and so loving Him that you can't keep quiet about Him!

Not that you are perfect by any means, but you've received forgiveness from Jesus; you've found (and are learning) life in Jesus; and you're excited (and nervous, too) to tell others about Jesus.

Every talk has to grab you personally or it will not grab your audience of kids. You need to pray it through and mull over it until you have a passion about what you want to say! Amy Grant sang, *"It's not a song 'til it touches your heart"* — it could just as well be said, *"It's not a talk 'til it touches your heart."* That said, let's look at two traditional Young Life club talk models:

<u>Rayburn Model:</u>	Get their attention	(intro)
	Relate a Bible account	(body)
	Point out the main point	(conclusion)
	Apply it to their life	(body)

<u>Another Model:</u>	Intro — concrete; grabs their attention.
	Body — Scripture; word pictures (illustrations); application (cultural parallel).
	Conclusion — state clearly in one sentence your one main point.

Developing Your Talk

1. **Decide what your topic is** according to the talk sequence (or some part in the sequence).
2. **Decide what aspect of that topic you need to address.** For example, if it's a person of Jesus talk, are you focusing on His character, His claims or His miracles, His heart, or His identity? If it's a "need" talk, are you focusing on our human need or on the nature of sin or on the consequences of sin? Don't try to do too much!
3. **Prayerfully choose the Scripture that illustrates that aspect.** Personal devotional time is essential for this!
4. **Pray that God will give you His insight on this Scripture.**
5. **Mull over the Scripture** — read, re-read, brood, meditate, study, hang out with it.
6. **Note points at which explanation will be needed.** For example, if talking about the leper, you'll need to explain some about the nature of that disease. If talking about clearing the temple, you'll need to explain about the "money changers." And if you're talking about Jesus walking on water, you'll have to anticipate the "healthy skepticism" of the "scientific mind."

Once we've spent time in the scripture passage, we begin to build our talk. Basically, we build our talk backwards — beginning with the conclusion, moving to the body and *lastly* coming up with an introduction. Too often, we have some funny story and try to force a talk to fit it! RESIST THAT TEMPTATION!!

Organizing Your Talk

1. **To help you get started, write down your answers to these questions.**
 - What's the one main point I want to get across?
 - What's the "good news" in this for a kid today?
 - Big deal — so what? (Why should they know this?)
 - What cultural parallels are present in this text?
 - What will I reveal about myself? (Be vulnerable, but appropriate.)
 - Is there an illustration that paints a picture of the main point?
 - What action will I challenge kids to take?
 - How shall I begin? (This is the intro.)

2. State your one main point clearly in one sentence and MEMORIZE IT. Write it across the top of your paper. This is the *controlling idea* — stick to it. That will help you avoid tangents that tend to “muddy the waters” — no matter how true they are!

3. Develop the body.

- If it's a longer excerpt of Scripture; note the places you want to stop and elaborate (you will want to stop after a phrase or sentence(s) occasionally and bring some explanation or “picture painting” before reading on).
- Brainstorm ideas.
- Consider objections and prepare to answer them (Colossians 4:5).
- Consider your audience — what is their perspective?
- Actually write the body of the talk — use “word pictures.”

*Longhand *Note cards *Simple Outline

4. Prepare the introduction. This can be funny or serious; can parallel your talk or just be a “link” to get into it, but it should be fairly brief and get people’s attention.

5. Write out verbatim your transition sentence from the introduction to the body of your talk, and memorize it. Many people “stall” after their introduction because they’re not sure how to get into the body of the talk. A memorized transition sentence will help you avoid this! As you practice your talk (or parts of it), you’ll discover what else you may need to write out in order to have better clarity and flow throughout the talk.

Finally, here are some of the mottos that Young Life has used regarding club talks:

- “Say one thing and say it well.”
- “Keep it simple, stupid” (k.i.s.s. principle). Steve Martin, in “*Planes, Trains and Automobiles*” tells Dell, “And when you have a story, try to have a point — it makes it so much more interesting for the listener.”
- “The mind can only absorb what the seat can endure.”
- “Share your certainties rather than flaunt your doubts.”
- “Get their attention — Tell ‘em what you’re gonna tell ‘em; tell ‘em; and then — tell ‘em what ya’ told ‘em!”

Closing Thoughts on Talk Preparation

"Prepare your talk like there's no Holy Spirit, but give it as though there's nothing else!"

We can't be writing club talks in the car on the way to club. The proclamation of the Gospel is too important. Kids deserve our best preparation. Ultimately, however, praying that God will speak to kids is the most important thing! Pray! Read I Corinthians 2:1-5 and John 6:44, 65. It is not our job to make hearts soft and turn to Jesus ... that is God's job and the work of His Holy Spirit.

Application: Based on what you've covered in this lesson, read the statements below and decide if you agree or disagree with each one. Discuss your responses with a partner or in small groups.

1. Every talk needs scripture.
2. Preparing a talk begins with a good illustration.
3. Humor is an essential part of a good club talk.
4. The conclusion is written last.
5. I've read a gospel in its entirety this year.
6. A club talk should be memorized.
7. The conclusion is written first.
8. The Bible should be visible during a club talk.
9. Note cards are acceptable.
10. You should use the names of specific kids in your talk.
11. State, restate and state yet another way your main point.

Then, if time permits, conclude by sharing with each other:

1. Do you have any new insights you gained from this lesson?
2. What was most helpful?
3. What other questions do you have about the fundamentals of talks in Young Life?

Giving the Talk

Description: This lesson gives guidelines and suggestions for communicating effectively during a Young Life talk.

Learning Goal: Leaders will gain confidence in the actual delivery of a talk.

To Be a Better Communicator

- Speak in a conversational style, as with friends ... because you are!
- Avoid being "preachy" (use "we," not "you").
- Speak in their terms (examples and language they can relate to).
- Maintain eye contact.
- Be appropriately animated (face, hands, etc.) Have energy!
- Position yourself at a place in the room where you can be seen and heard. (The middle of a long room is best).
- Use the Bible. We don't want kids to think that we are sharing our neat ideas.
- Let the message grab you. Don't be afraid to show your passion about the topic.
- Thank kids for the privilege of sharing with them.
- Use names of kids in your talk (not to embarrass).
- Enjoy yourself and have fun!
- Signal your conclusion with something like:

"If there's one thing I want you to get tonight ... "

"What it all boils down to is this ... "

"So if someone asked you what we talked about tonight, it's this ... "

- Use note cards if you need to. Crystallize your talk down to the main ideas, those that can keep your train of thought moving forward. But be sure to write down, word-for-word, your transition (from the introduction to the body of the talk) as well as the main point of the talk.

Application: What do you think will be the most challenging aspect for you about giving a talk? Which one of the pointers do you find most helpful and why?

Talk Tips

Description: This lesson offers tips to help you prepare for and give a talk.

Learning Goal: This lesson will equip leaders with practical suggestions for talk preparation that will help them become better speakers in Young Life.

What follows are suggestions, thoughts, helps and realities to consider as you grow as a proclaimer of Jesus and His Gospel.

1. **There are five “doorways” to a kid’s heart;** they are things that seem to speak into a heart, or at least open a heart to “hear” the Gospel message.
 - Unconditional love. Kids know they are hearing from someone who loves and cares for them, not a celebrity speaker.
 - The story or illustration — brings home “the point.”
 - Music — both words and melody (poetry too).
 - Humor.
 - Of course, the Word and the movement of the Holy Spirit.
2. **The speaker has an important role.** Why do people believe a speaker?
 - Because the speaker believes what they are saying, this brings passion to the talk.
 - From Blaise Pascal in *The Penses*: people believe a message if 1) it is true; 2) it has love at its core; 3) it brings a good effect.
3. **Know your audience.** Be a student of where kids are, what they think and feel, and, in general, what they face, etc.
 - Knowing where kids are does not dictate what you say (or change the Gospel) but does impact how you say it.
 - Remember there are males AND females in the audience — appeal to both.
4. **People remember 10% of what they hear, 70% of what they see, and 90% of what they discover** (asking great questions can lead to discovery).
5. **Always ask a few trusted friends for feedback/evaluation** as you plan the talk and after you give it.
6. **“Put the cookies on the bottom shelf.”**
 - Share in terms kids can understand — using language relevant to them.
 - If using a big word or a doctrine, always explain it. For instance, if using the word, “Incarnation,” don’t just say that is “God become flesh,” say also what it means: This shows God is personal (not a force); He wants to be known and identified with; He understands us and has experienced all of life as we have; He reveals to us what God is like, etc.
 - Avoid “church-ease” language, like “blood of the lamb,” etc.
7. **Fear and being nervous is normal when speaking ... give it to Jesus.**
 - You’ve been preparing for this talk for (your age) years.

- Be yourself — don't try to be someone else.
- Thank people (be sincere) for listening.

8. Remember that kids already have a view of God, of what Christianity is, of what being a Christian is — our role is to bring to light the lies/wrong perceptions, get them thinking, share the truth and give the Holy Spirit a chance.

Application: Among the suggestions, thoughts and considerations listed above, which ones seem particularly significant to you? Why? Choose several and discuss with a small group of other leaders.

Talk Preparation Worksheet

Description: This worksheet takes leaders step-by-step through the development of all of the main ingredients of a talk, from the introduction to the conclusion.

Learning Goal: After completing this worksheet, leaders will have what they need to develop a talk outline.

My Talk, In Brief

My text is (Scripture passage) _____

My theme is (subject) _____

My objective is (aim) _____

STEP 1: Determine the Main Point

State specifically, in one short sentence, the one controlling idea/main point I want kids to go away with.

STEP 2: Develop the Conclusion

Do this part before you do the intro or body. This must be the strongest part of your message. The questions we ask for developing the conclusion are:

- So what? In other words, what matters about what you're telling kids?
- What is the application? In other words, what should kids do with what has been said?

STEP 3: Explore the Scripture/Develop the Body

Make sure that your Scripture is strongly related to what you communicate in your conclusion. If not, scrap it. Scripture is essential to the Young Life message. Read the

Scripture, pray over it, rewrite it in your own words, be a storyteller, paint a picture with your words.

Main Point(s) of the Passage

Key Illustrations/Ideas to Explain and “Come Alive”

STEP 3: The Introduction

It may come first in your talk, but when planning the talk, do it after selecting the Scripture, developing the conclusion and the body of the talk.

Try to come up with a story or something that will get kids’ attention and lead them into the main idea of the message. Recall a personal incident or story that communicates part of your conclusion. Does it correlate to your message? Is it funny? This can be helpful, but it doesn’t have to be. Just be yourself, be appropriately vulnerable, and be real .

My ideas for an introduction:

STEP 4: First Transition Sentence — Consider memorizing this sentence!

You want to make sure that your introduction and the Scripture “flow” together. What is the sentence I am going to use to lead my audience from the introduction to the body of my message? (Do they relate together? Can people understand?)

My transition sentence:

STEP 5: Some Closing Suggestions

- **Don’t memorize the message** — Just know the main points, the general flow and the conclusion.
- **Practice** — all speakers practice what they do. You should do the same.
- **Share your heart** — your convictions.

Talk Outline Worksheet

Description: Designed to be used after the Talk Preparation Worksheet is complete, this worksheet will help leaders see the sequence of all the elements in their talks.

Learning Goal: After completing this worksheet, leaders will have a working talk outline.

Bible Text: _____ **Date:** _____ **Topic:** _____

Controlling Thought/Main Point

State specifically, in one short sentence, the one thought I want kids to go away with.

Introduction (About two minutes)

Introduce controlling thought. Get their attention (humor, suspense, shock); gather interest (using personal story or experience).

Transition Sentence #1 (From the introduction to the body of the talk)

Body (About eight minutes)

This is the meat of the message. It's when you read the Scripture. Discuss the main ideas in the Scripture and relate it to the controlling thought/main point. Use the best illustration to bring controlling thoughts to light.

Transition sentence #2 (From the body to the conclusion)

Conclusion (About two minutes)

Application (About two minutes)

What do you wish for them to do with the truth you have just offered them?

Final Sentence of Your Talk

NOTE: Memorizing the following sentences can be helpful for you when you give your talk.

- The first sentence of your talk (so you know what you began).
- The first transition sentence (between the introduction and the body).
- The second transition sentence (between the body and conclusion).
- The last sentence of your talk (so you know when to stop).

Talk Self-Evaluation Form

Description: This form will help leaders evaluate their talk.

Learning Goals: Leaders will gain awareness of the strengths of their talk, as well as areas that need improvement.

Answer the following questions about your talk. Also, consider asking someone on your team to complete this form for you as well.

1. What point did I want to get across? Did I?
2. Did the Scripture I used illustrate the main point? Did I bring the Scripture alive?
3. Why is it important that the kids learned about what was shared? Did they?
4. Did each part of the talk all work as I expected?
5. How could I improve?
6. How were my transitions?
7. Was the talk too long?
8. Was any part unclear?

Message Evaluation Form

Description: This form will help staff and team leaders provide feedback on talks.

Learning Goals: For leaders to become aware of areas of strengths and areas that need improvement in their presentation of a Gospel message.

1) Introduction

- Did he/she: Get their attention?

 Appear relaxed and comfortable?

 Speak on kids' level?

2) Body

- Transition: Was there smooth movement from the introduction to the body?

- Scripture: Was the Scripture appropriate to the main point of message?

 Did the leader read the Scripture with enthusiasm and bring it to life?

 Was the Scripture adequate in terms of length? Or was it too long?

 Did the leader adequately clarify main points of the Scripture as well as
 anything else in the verses that may not have been easily understood by
 kids?

- Main Point: Was there one idea that was clearly presented and illustrated well?

3) Conclusion

Was there one sentence that summarized the entire message?

4) Mechanics

- Voice:

Was the leader loud enough?

Did the leader have variety in tone?

- **Body Language:**

Did the leader have good use of hands in gestures?

Did the leader have any distracting habits/body language?

Did the leader use any repetitious clichés (i.e., “You know,” “um,” etc.)?:

- Was the talk too long/too short? (Ideal time: 10-12 minutes)

Other comments:

Sample Talks

Description: This lesson includes the complete text of five talks — two on the person of Christ, one sin talk, one cross talk and one appropriation talk.

Learning Goals: After reading these samples, leaders will be able to identify the main elements of Young Life talks and increase their understanding of the flow and tone of talks.

Application: Read one or all of these sample talks. Identify the following elements of a Young Life talk: The introduction, the first transitional sentence, the body, the second transition sentence, and the conclusion.

SAMPLE TALK 1

Person of Christ — What is Real Love? (Mark 1:40-42)

What is this Thursday? Anybody know? Valentine's Day, that's right! For those of you who may have forgotten, this is your three day warning to buy your cards, flowers, or candies for that special one.

Valentine's Day ... the holiday that celebrates *love*. The problem is, not too many people really understand what real love is about. There are a lot of weird ideas floating around. Listen to this story about a little seven-year-old boy who knows what real love is.

Setting: A new boy in town, just moved. School was hard — mom drove him and picked him up each day. He was always sad. No one wanted to play with him. He got an idea and asked his mom to take him to the store to buy Valentine's Day cards. He wrote them out that night, and took them to school. Mom was worried what would happen ... Rejection again! She picked him up. "How did it go?" She saw that his little bag for his Valentine's Day cards was empty. He said, "Mom, not one! Not even one." Oh, how her heart broke for him! "No, Mom, not even one! I didn't forget one kid in my class. I remembered to give a card to every kid!" Mom gave him a big hug.

Do you see what happened? This little guy fleshed out what real love is — loving people in spite of what they do or don't do. Loving — even if they never love you back.

Friends, that is exactly how God loves us! Listen to this story of Jesus and how He loved people (Mark 1:40-42).

- Describe leprosy; highly contagious in certain forms; what it was like to be a leper.
- What Jesus did (He was *filled* with pity).
- Jesus touched the leper. The most personal loving thing He could do.
- Jesus healed the leper.

Jesus loved him in spite of what was on the outside. That's how He loves us — in spite of what's on the exterior; in spite of what we have done or not done. He loves us in spite of whether we ever love Him back, like the kid with the cards.

Jesus Christ exemplifies the truest meaning of what real love is — a love that has no conditions. He cares about you and me that way. Did you know that He loves you that way?

SAMPLE TALK 2

Person of Christ — Jesus, the Listener (Mark 5:22-34)

People do the craziest things to draw attention to themselves! A lot of folks have done some pretty wild and weird things just to capture somebody else's attention. As I describe a few to you, I bet another couple hundred examples flood your mind too. One of my favorites is the crazy guy who seems to pop up every single Monday Night Football game. If you have seen any game on Monday Night, you'll know who I mean. There seems to always be a guy who has a big fluffy, multi-colored wig. I mean it's a big, huge head of hair that looks like a rainbow. And in ABC's great style, they zoom in on this guy each week. Why does that guy wear that dumb thing? Is it because he's a nut? Maybe. I think it's because it draws attention to himself, and it works — it got him on national T.V.

Some other wild things people do to make people notice them:

- Streakers.
- Kyle, grabbing my hand and saying "walkee, Daddy" as he leads me to his play room.
- T.P.ing girls' houses in high school.

Doing crazy things, why? Because we have a deep desire to be known by people. I'm not talking about being Mr. and Mrs. Popularity or some famous person. *I mean a deep desire for someone to take notice of us and have a genuine desire to want to get to know us.*

Many a suicide note that has been left has stated something to the effect of, "I hope I finally got your attention." An epitaph I heard about this week that was on someone's gravestone said, "I told you I was sick" — a glaring example of no one really listening to that person. *We crave for someone to really listen to us. I mean really listen, and genuinely desire to get to know us.*

I know of no better example of one who does that than Jesus Christ. Many think He doesn't really care, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. The biggest thing He wants to do is know us. Listen to this encounter He had with a woman. (Mark 5:22-34)

- On His way to heal Jairus' daughter. Jairus was the president of the synagogue, the most important person in the town, known by all.
- He is interrupted by someone touching his cloak.
- Stops to find out who it was.
- Nameless face in the crowd, a woman, sick for 12 years, poor, had spent all her money on doctors. Desperate. Given up hope.
- Jesus heals her and then *listens to her whole story!* Not impatient, listened to her. He genuinely wanted to know her.
- Result — she was healed, made whole physically, disease was gone, but also whole spiritually and emotionally as well.

Do you yearn to be listened to? Do you yearn for someone who cares about you and who truly wants to get to know every nook and cranny of who you are? There is only One who is capable of doing all that; the One who made us — Jesus Christ. Don't cast Him off as some outdated religious dude, but consider Him. He is the One who claimed to be life; the One who will listen to you and make you whole.

SAMPLE TALK 3

SIN — God's Diagnosis (Romans 3:23 and 6:23)

Intro: Story about injury to my hand. The doctor's recommendation was to discontinue playing football.

Ever wonder what God's diagnosis of mankind is? What would He say about our spiritual health and condition? Let me read to you what He says. Romans 3:23 declares, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." God's diagnosis is that we have all fallen short of what He desires for us. The "all" is pretty inclusive — doesn't leave anyone out. It doesn't say most everybody has fallen short except for all the good people, or everyone has fallen short except for Billy Graham. Everyone has sinned! It is a part of our nature. Not one of us wants to include God in our lives. We all want to run our own show and ignore God. That's what sin is, ignoring God and doing it our way. Sin has caused us to be in a broken off relationship with God. The word "divorce" powerfully describes the nature of sin. We are divorced from God. We have turned our backs on Him.

God's diagnosis is sin — us turning our backs on Him. What do you think about that? Do you agree? Let me read to you one more passage. **1 John 1:7-10** We deny God's diagnosis when we say we haven't sinned. What's your reaction to this? I think there are a few:

- *"I don't care."* — So what, if I have sinned. So what, if I've chosen to ignore God and leave Him out of my life. What could happen? ... A lot! Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is *death*!" Death means eternal separation from God. If we choose to ignore God, then we have made an eternal choice to not allow Him in our lives for eternity. This doesn't mean God doesn't still love us desperately and pursue us relentlessly. He does.
- *"I'm not a sinner; in fact, I'm a pretty good guy."* — God says *all* have sinned, not one is righteous. There is nothing we can do to earn a relationship with God. Like three guys who were going to swim to Hawaii — a normal businessman, a high school state champion swimmer, and a marathon swimmer. First guy swam one mile and quit. Next guy swam 50 miles and quit. The third guy swam 150 miles and drowned. No matter how good they were, they couldn't make it. The same thing with God — no matter how good you are, you can't *earn* a relationship with Him.
- *"I don't trust the diagnosis."* — 1 John 1:9 says God is utterly reliable and straight forward.
- *You can accept God's diagnosis* — If you do, it says He will forgive your sins and make you thoroughly clean from all evil.

God is the only one who can take care of the sin problem. There is nothing we can do except simply accept His diagnosis and accept His cure — Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

SAMPLE TALK 4

Cross — (Romans 6:23 and Luke 23:39-47)

I believe, and all Christians believe, that the single most important event ever to happen in history was the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is what this holiday coming up in two weeks is all about. You don't get a week of school off because the Easter bunny is coming! I know a lot of you probably thought of that. No, you get a week of school off because it is a deeply significant time of year — more important than anything that has ever happened: the death and resurrection of Jesus — the guy who was fully God and fully human.

For many of us, the only thing we know about the cross is that it's a piece of jewelry that a lot of people wear. We know it's got to be religious because every church we've ever seen has had a cross on it somewhere. But what does it mean? What's the real meaning behind this guy Jesus dying on a cross?

I'd like to tell you a story that I hope will pull all that together for you — a story that explains what the cross of Jesus Christ is all about.

Some high school guys got the idea of buying a van and driving all over the U.S. for the summer. It was a great idea, and the more they talked about it, the more jazzed they got. They began to figure out how much this trip would cost: First, they needed a van — VW bus, used, \$2,500. Gas and food for the summer, \$2,500. That included the price to get into national campgrounds.

They realized that between the three of them, they only had \$2,000. They were short \$3,000. As they sat around talking about it, one guy half jokingly said, "Let's just rob a store!" They laughed it off, but the more they thought about it, the more possible it sounded. They decided to case out a joint and figure out when was the best time. Then they picked a supermarket in town. They waited until it was Saturday night after a full day of shopping, and then they would hit it.

Right before they got out of the car to rob the store, one guy handed another guy named Mike a gun. "What's this for?" "In case we have any problems, it will scare somebody." "OK." They went in, robbed the store, but just as they were getting the last stack of 20s, a customer walked in. Startled, Mike turned a quick U; and as he did, the gun went off. The customer dropped to the floor, dead. At this point, someone had seen the robbery taking place, and had called the cops. The guys were arrested and Mike was charged with murder.

The trial took many months, but it came down to the court's decision. The verdict was brought in by the jury. The judge took it, read it to himself, paused and with a solemn voice said, "Guilty of 1st degree murder." The crowd was stunned. The judge stepped down from the bench and walked over to the bailiff and took off his robe. He turned to the courtroom and said, "I will take the sentence for him. The judge was the boy's father.

That's exactly what the cross of Jesus Christ is about. Last week I said we all have a spiritual cancer called *sin* that separates us from God. Romans 6:23 states that "the wages of sin is death." The penalty for sin is death; the sentence for the crime is death. God is the judge. This describes our condition: we have sinned, and the sentence is that we must die. But God stepped down, took off His robe and said, "I will take your punishment." That's what Jesus did. He took our punishment; He became sin, taking our sin upon Himself as our Substitute. He paid the penalty for us by experiencing death and alienation from God in our place on the cross. The wrong (sin) had been righted, and now for those who recognize that, the gap between us and God has been bridged.

What's your reaction to all this? Let me describe to you three guys' reaction right at the foot of the cross. Listen and figure out which one you are:

- #1 Luke 23:39 Antagonistic.
- #2 Luke 23:47 He was a good man! A nice moral teacher and that's all.
- #3 Luke 23:40-43 He was who He said He was — God.

Which of these three guys are you?

- Antagonistic toward Jesus. It's all a bunch of baloney!
- Well, Jesus was just a good man.
- He really was who He said He was. I want to accept what He has done.

The verse I used a bit ago said that the "wages of sin are death". That's only half the verse, the rest of the verse is, "but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

A gift doesn't become yours until you take it. Just because Jesus took care of the penalty doesn't let you off the hook. You need to accept the gift — saying I believe in you Lord, and I surrender my life to you.

SAMPLE TALK 5

Appropriation — (*Romans 10:8-12*)

How many of you have done much backpacking or hiking?

I don't know about you, but I love to backpack and to hike. The amazing thing is, I can't believe I still want to after my first experience hiking. The first time I ever took off for a long hike was with a buddy of mine named Mark. His parents had a cabin near my grandparents in Boulder Creek. One weekend when I was up there, Mark and I decided to take a hike. We took off on some fire trails way back behind my grandparents' cabin. It was super! I had never been where no one else had been — beyond civilization! We kept walking, and walking, and walking. It was great. After a couple of hours, I turned to Mark and said, "Hey, I oughta be heading back home, it's gonna be dark soon." "OK, but which way do we go?" "What do you mean, 'which way do we go?'" "I thought you knew where you were going?" "No, I thought you knew where you were going." "Doesn't matter now, how do we get out of here?" I said, "Let's head to the top of the ridge, and once we get there, we'll see our cabins and just head toward them." Mark said, "No way, that won't work." But soon I convinced him. We got there and found out we were more lost than when we first started. He said, "Listen to me, we should follow the creek all the way down until it comes to the river." I had to *admit* that I was wrong — that the direction I had chosen to take was wrong. Then I had to *believe* what Mark said was right — following the creek would get us home. But I had to do more than just believe him, I had to follow through with what I believed. I had to go with him down the creek — *commit* myself to Mark's directions.

This is exactly what it is like to become a Christian. God made us to know Him, to be in a relationship with Him. If we are not, we are going the wrong way. So we need to *admit* that we are wrong and that our relationship with God is broken. Then we have to *believe* in what the right direction is. The right direction for life is being rightly related to God. We need to believe God has taken care of our separation from Him with what Jesus Christ did on the cross. But it can't stop there. It's like me telling my friend Mark, "OK, I believe your way is right, but I'm staying here." If I did, I would probably still be there today. No, we need to do more than simply believe that what Jesus Christ did on the cross made our relationship with God possible. We need to receive Him into our hearts and He'll help us *commit* ourselves to Him and follow His path. That's how you become a Christian — simple as A, B, C.

- **Admit** — you are wrong and because of sin, your relationship with God has been blocked.
- **Believe** — God has taken care of sin with what Jesus accomplished on the cross.
- **Commit** — your life to Jesus Christ so that you will be back doing what God originally made us for ... to be in a relationship with Him.

Invite folks to consider this.

Read Romans 10:8-12.

Describe how you received Jesus and committed to follow Him. What was difficult? How is that today?

End with prayer allowing folks time to commit their lives to Christ.

More Talks Sequence Examples

Description: This lesson provides three examples of the sequence of the Gospel messages during a semester.

Learning Goals: Leaders will become more familiar with the talk sequence, talk topics and related Scripture passages, and use this resource for club and talk planning purposes.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Possible Passages/Illustrations</u>
1	Existence of God/Misconceptions about God	God created all things (Genesis 1); What He offers vs. our first impressions of Him (i.e., a grandpa or policeman, etc.) John 10:10; Come and see; Everyone's looking for Him (Mark 1:21-37).
2	Person of Christ: Who He is (incarnation)	Visible image of invisible God (Colossians 1:15); Word become flesh (John 1); God with us (Matthew 1:18-25).
3	Person of Christ: What He's like; How He's like Us	Teenager misunderstood (Luke 2:41-52); fully human Jesus wept (John 11, his friend Lazarus dies).
4	Person of Christ: What He's like; How He's like God	Any miracle account when He does what only a fully divine God could do (Calming the storms; feeding 5,000; water to wine at Cana, etc.).
5	Person of Christ: Who He Claims to Be	Woman at the well (John 4); Paralytic forgiven (Mark 2); (God in the flesh among us) I and the Father are One; I am the Way, truth, life (John 14:6-9).
6	Need: What We're Like (symptoms of sin)	Blind beggars (Mark 20:29-34); Man at pool (John 5); Blind man from birth (John 9).
7	Need: Why We Need Him (effect of sin)	Woman at well (John 8); woman with hemorrhage (consequences of sin) (Mark 5:22-34); Paralytic

forgiven of his greatest problem
(Mark 2); Romans 3:23, 6:23, etc.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 8 | Work: Why He went to the cross | Cross account (Mark 14-15).
(penalty paid) |
| 9 | Work: Resurrection = New Life, Freedom | Peter and Jesus (John 21); from
power of sin (power to live rightly)
Peter and the bunch preaching
boldly (Acts 2). |
| 10 | Appropriation: Ways to respond to Grace | Prodigal son (Luke 15); Rich
young ruler (Luke 18,
Matthew 19); Pearl of great
price (Matthew 13:45, 46). |
| 11 | Appropriation: How to receive the gift | Focus on <u>surrender</u> ; Prodigal
son; deny self of life
(Luke 9:23); Peter and Jesus
(Luke 5:1-11); Peter walks on
water (Matthew 14:22-33). |
| 12 | Christmas party clubs/Year End | Christmas account (Luke 2);
incarnation analogies;
receiving the Gift (John 1:12,
Revelation 3:20, etc.) Retell
whole Gospel. |

Example 2:

Fall Message Sequence		
Week 1	Introduction	What is God like? To show us Himself. The Incarnation: To show us what He feels about us. Philippians 2:6-11; John 1; Romans 5:8
Week 2	Christ	The Humanity of Christ Totally human, Birth, Temptations, Physical strength Luke 2; Matthew 4; John 2:12-17
Week 3	Christ	The Deity of Christ: His claims; the evidence of His life and Resurrection; John 10:30; John 30.
Week 4	Christ	He has the <u>ability</u> and <u>desire</u> to complete YOUR life; John 2:1-11; John 11:1-44
Week 5	Man	You have infinite worth as an individual. Luke 19:1-10; Luke 15:4-10
Week 6	Man	You are a sinner and separated from God. Romans 3:10-24
Week 7	Work of Christ	The Cross: Evidence of how much He wants you. John 3:16; John 18:19
Week 8	Work of Christ	What the Cross accomplished; i.e., Romans 5:1 Justification, redemption and reconciliation Hosea; Luke 15:12
Week 9	Appropriation	The nature and cost of being a Christian. Luke 9:23
Week 10	Appropriation	How to become a Christian. Rev. 3:20; Romans 10:9; John 5:24
Week 11	The Christian Life	God living within to do the Christian life in and through me. Colossians 1:27; Romans 10:9
Week 12	The Christian Life	Sharing Time: How growth in Christ happens.

Example 3:

CLUB 1	<i>Intent:</i>	They would know what club is and what club is not.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	When I tried something new and did not know what to expect. Maybe it was scary or uncomfortable at first, but then I had a blast.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	John 10:10. Jesus gives us life, and life to the full.
	<i>Thought:</i>	
CLUB 2	<i>Intent:</i>	They would be open to seeing Jesus differently than in the past.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	Draw a picture by description only — it does not look anything like the person.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	Luke 9 Jesus asks the disciples, “Who does the crowd say that I am?” Then He asks them, “Who do you say I am?”
	<i>Thought:</i>	We are going to tell you Truth and let you answer the question, “Who do you say I am?” Don’t let the crowd determine who you say Jesus is.
CLUB 3	<i>Intent:</i>	They would know that Jesus is fully God and fully man.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	Give an example of a time you met someone who, after you got to know them, you realized something really exceptional about them.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	John 1:1-14. The Word became Flesh.
	<i>Thought:</i>	We are going to talk about Jesus as God/and human. When we tell some of the accounts of His life you will probably say, “No one would do that.” And there probably is some truth to that. No person would, but God would, and that is why Jesus did.
CLUB 4	<i>Intent:</i>	See that both Jesus is God and man.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	A bad situation where I wanted to help but could not.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	Luke 7:11-17. Jesus raised the widow’s son.
	<i>Thought:</i>	Jesus said “don’t cry” because God knows the pain of losing a son and He has the power to restore the relationship and the life.

CLUB 5	<i>Intent:</i>	They would know more about who Jesus is and what He did.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	A time when I felt like I did not live up to my potential.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	Luke 5:12-16. Jesus heals a leper.
	<i>Thought:</i>	What are your dreams for yourself? Can you believe that Jesus wants more? John 10:10. What things hold you back from being who you were intended to be?
CLUB 6	<i>Intent:</i>	They would know more about who Jesus is and what He did.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	A story about a storm you've experienced.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	Mark 4:35-41. Jesus calms the storm.
	<i>Thought:</i>	We think that in the midst of a storm Jesus is sleeping in the back. A crisis can happen. (Consider using this talk to lead into sin.)
CLUB 7	<i>Intent:</i>	Sin is universal.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	Articles from that day's paper. Why is the world so messed up? Sin. Broken relationship with the Creator.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	John 8:1-11. Woman caught in adultery.
	<i>Thought:</i>	Every person in that room left. All have sinned no matter what they portray outwardly. Good News — Jesus said, "neither do I condemn you." There is hope in Christ.
CLUB 8	<i>Intent:</i>	Jesus bridges the gap between God and man.
	<i>Illustration:</i>	See a story called "Miracle of the Carpenter" in Max Lucado's <i>In the Eye of the Storm</i> — 15 feet separated them from their dreams.
	<i>Scripture:</i>	John 5:1-9; The healing at the pool.

Thought: We are separated from God. But Jesus came to bridge the gap. Just a few feet separated this man from his dreams. He gave Jesus an excuse when asked if he wanted to be healed. What is your response to Jesus' question?

CLUB 9 *Intent:* Understand the Cross.

Illustration: A time when I was expecting punishment but received a reward.

Scripture: Matthew 27:11-26. Jesus before Pilate.

Thought: Barabbas received freedom when he deserved death. We are the same. How are you going to respond to the gift given to you?

CLUB 10 *Intent:* Respond to the Gospel.

Illustration: My mother had lost her check book and searched everywhere for it.

Scripture: Luke 15. The Parables of the Lost Coin, Sheep, Son.

Thought: God searches high and low for us. He rejoices when He finds us. He is waiting with open arms. See Max Lucado's *Come Home*. God is waiting. What is your response?

Application: Organize the talk topics below in logical order. Then consider how you would arrange them if you had to combine them in six groups of two.

Sin, Man's worth, God, The Cross, Incarnation, Jesus Christ, Jesus' humanity, Christian life, Resurrection, Jesus' divinity, How to become a Christian, God's love.

