

Our Prayer for 2026: Dear Father, Help us to gather to proclaim Christ, and please use every LMAP member to play a part in bringing 20 people to faith in Jesus in each of our ministries and congregations across the year. To your glory. AMEN.

Bible Talk Series Break-up - Startling Stories (Jesus' Parables from the Gospel of Luke)

Marketing Title of Series: Startling Stories

Overview of the Series: Jesus was a master storyteller. Through his parables, he spoke about God, ourselves, our world and eternity in ways that were memorable, powerful and life changing. His stories draw us into vivid imaginary worlds before starting and surprising us—confronting us with God’s truths that shape how we live now and forever.

Purpose of the Series: This short series aims to encourage Christians and to engage those exploring the Christian faith. Through three startling parables of Jesus, listeners will be challenged to consider what his teaching means for life now and into eternity.

Series Champion: Paul Hallam

The Purpose of this Document:

- To instruct the **Gathering Leader, Kids Spot Speaker, Band Leader, Song Chooser** and **Preacher** in shaping each church gathering as whole – so that we intentionally draw out what we are looking at in the Bible each week. It will also mean, that particular features which complement what we do as a church, are addressed.
- To assist **Growth Group Leaders** and **Friday Youth Leaders** (and other ministry leaders) to arrange their program most logically and effectively to work in with the Bible Talk Series. And further to point to resources which can be used to lead groups well.
- To help the **Gathering Planners** (i.e. those who organise the rosters), **AV Ministry Team, Social Media**, and **Office** to have the information that they need to do the roles that they do most fruitfully and efficiently.



Talk No.	Preachers <i>(note: Master is the Google Drive Version)</i>	Passage	Reading	Talk Title <i>(marketing friendly)</i>	Talk Topic/Focus/Purpose	Comment/Outline	Gathering Googly <i>(feature/consideration)</i>
1. 5 th July	MR9: PH MR9 Kids Spot: Holiday Club (Joel O) GB9: KDN <i>(livestreamed)</i>	Luke 8:4-15	OT: Isaiah 55:1-13 NT: Luke 8:4-15	The Story of the Four Soils	<i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i> Central Theme: Jesus challenges us to consider how we listen to his teaching. Our response to his parables	As NAIDOC Week starts today, it would be appropriate to either start the gathering or include in the prayer the First Nations Recognition prayer (see below) Prayer Points to include:	School Holiday Activity Packs + Craft Tables (GB9/GB10.30/MR9 > GO/NR)

	<p>GB9 Kids Spot: Holiday Club (Annika N)</p> <p>GB10:30: PH GB10.30 Kids Spot: Holiday Club (GO)</p> <p>BL10:30: KDN</p> <p>BL4:30: PH</p> <p>GB6: KDN <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>				<p>determines whether we come to understand the secrets of the kingdom of God or fail to grasp them.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to consider the way they listen to Jesus and decide to let his words penetrate deeply into their hearts and minds.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For First Nations Gospel ministry (see below) – perhaps pray for the aboriginal churches of the Sydney Diocese (e.g. Macarthur Anglican, St John’s Glebe, Living Water Redfern) - Upcoming Holiday Club - Friday Kids & Junior Band <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(at least 1 clear gospel song)</i> ● <i>(lyrics understandable to kids)</i> ● Your Word ● Live for the Kingdom 	<p>Junior Band (GB9 >Richard M)</p> <p>Lord’s Supper (BL10.30 > KDN)</p>
<p>2. 12th July</p>	<p>MR9: KDN MR9 Kids Spot: Lords Supper</p> <p>GB9: PH <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: Holiday Club (Annika N/GO)</p> <p>GB10:30: KDN GB10.30 Kids Spot: Holiday Club (GO)</p> <p>BL10:30: PH</p> <p>BL4:30: PH</p> <p>GB6: KDN <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	<p>Luke 18:9-14</p>	<p>OT: Psalm 51 NT: Luke 18:9-14</p>	<p>The Story of the Good Guy and the Bad Guy</p>	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: Jesus challenges our expectations on who God justifies. It’s not those who rely on their own goodness, but those who humbly cry out to God for mercy.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to understand that justification is by grace through faith so that they would not trust in their own goodness but only in God’s mercy.</i></p>	<p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission (a-GAPe Challenge) to Bingarra - Upcoming Holiday Club - LMAP Musicians <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(at least 1 clear gospel song)</i> ● <i>(lyrics understandable to kids)</i> ● His Mercy is More ● Rock of Ages ● Only a Holy God ● Made Alive 	<p>School Holiday Activity Packs + Craft Tables (GB9/GB10.30/ MR9 > GO/NR)</p> <p>Lord’s Supper (MR9 > KDN)</p> <p>GB9am, BBQ B.fast</p>

<p>3. 19th July Holiday Club Sunday (GBam)</p>	<p>NOTE: GB9am & GB10.30 have the final (Stand alone) Talk of the Holiday Club (by Jake Evans)</p> <p>MR9: PH MR9 Kids Spot: None - <i>all families are invited to join in a GBam gathering for Holiday Club Sunday</i></p> <p>BL10:30: PH</p> <p>BL4:30: PH</p> <p>GB6: PH <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>	<p>Luke 15:1-32</p>	<p>OT: Hosea 11:1-11 NT: Luke 15:1-32</p>	<p>The Story of the Fractured Family</p>	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: Jesus challenges our understanding about what it means to be far away from God. Both the openly sinful son and the outwardly obedient son are estranged from their father. Yet he graciously longs to welcome them both home when they repent.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to consider which son represents their relationship with God and to come back to him through Jesus.</i></p>	<p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks for the Holiday Club - Pray for Friday Kids and Kids Church Leaders - Schools incl. teachers returning to work. <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(at least 1 clear gospel song)</i> ● <i>(lyrics understandable to kids)</i> ● Holiday Club Songs (TBC) (x2-3) ● The Love of the Father ● Amazing Grace ● Won My Heart 	<p>Holiday Club Sunday – GB am</p> <p>Promote Friday Kids and Kids Church (at MR/GBam)</p> <p>Lord’s Supper (BL4.30 >Kevin R/GB6 >KDN)</p>
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Key: MR = LMAP Mt Riv; BL = LMAP Blaxland; GB = LMAP Glenbrook; KDN = Ken Noakes; RC = Rachael Connor; PH = Paul Hallam; NL = Nick Lindeback; JH = Julie Haddon; GO = Gail Oakey; NA = Neil Atwood; TO = Trevor Oakley; JSh = Josh Schroder; OB = Olivia Bush; JB = Jared Bartlett; JE = Jake Evans; GBH = Gary Haddon; AC = Andrew Cox; DS w = Dave Swan; PC = Phil Coghlan; JLav = John Lavender; KR = Kevin Russell; DC = Dave Catto; BCA = Bush Church Aid; MTC = Moore Theological College; CMS = Church Missionary Society; DLS = Daylight Savings; YA = Young Adults; MARS = Mountains Anglican Refugee Support; CBM = Western Sydney Uni AFES Group

Gathering Leader & Preacher:

- To help make your role as the Gathering Leader as effective as possible - go to **‘LMAP Gathering Support’** ([here](#)). This is a one stop shop to help you with resources to construct a meaningful and organised Sunday Gathering.
- Take special note of the suggestions in the ‘Gathering Googly’ column. This detail should be kept in mind as you lead or preach. Gathering leaders, *if scheduled into the elvanto plan*, you will need to make arrangements to incorporate this aspect into the gathering.
- Please note there is a visual Powerpoint template which we would prefer that you used so that we have some consistency across what we display (and so that we avoid some traps e.g. colours that cannot be seen, text too small, fonts too difficult, text which covers set logos, livestream split screen requirements etc.). This template exists on the LMAP Gathering Support Site (as mentioned above) - and can be emailed to you on request (admin@lmap.org.au) .

Devotionals or Bible Study *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders):*

There is nothing prepared - School Holidays

Commentary suggestions *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders and Preachers):*

- Darrell L. Bock, *Luke (2 vols)*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, 1994.
- Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 1997.
- Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Luke*. The Bible Speaks Today, 1979.
- Leon Morris, *Luke*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, 1988.

Song suggestions *(for the benefit of Gathering Leaders & Song Choosers):*

In the Song Selections above – Josh Schroder should have been consulted as we have limited the range of songs that make up our LMAP Song list.

Band Leaders: Vincent Willard (MR9am); Michael Webb (BL10.30am); Jason Byrne (GB9am); Mel Freeman (GB10:30am); Callum Beaton (BL4.30pm); Josh Schroder (GB6pm).

Copyright questions should be directed to Liz Thornton.

Prayer in Acknowledgement of Country *(to use at the beginning of our Gathering or to include in the Prayer on Sunday 5th July – which is the start of NAIDOC Week)*

Our Lord and loving heavenly Father, we acknowledge that you are Creator of all that is. We acknowledge that in your Providence you gave custodianship of the land upon which we meet to the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We acknowledge with sorrow the painful history between the Aboriginal people and the later settlers of this land, and we pray that you may work between us for the reconciliation that is the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.