



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. *—Psalm 145:11*
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. *—Joshua 22:5*

Triangle Community Church aims to be a “transforming church”. We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. I Timothy 4:7 instructs you to “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” Since **“Talking Points, Walking Points”** is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to “dive deep” too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled **“Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time”**, are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Pastor Doug mentioned four threats to the spiritual health of our next generation: the rise of relativism, the rise of religious skepticism, the “chameleon complex”, and the social immaturity which results from the impersonal nature of digital communication. How would you rank them in importance?

Which of those threats existed when you were a teen? How did your parents combat them?

What solutions do you think exist for combatting each of these threats?

- Read Joshua 24:15-17 and 24-31, then read Judges 2:10-12. **What happened?!**

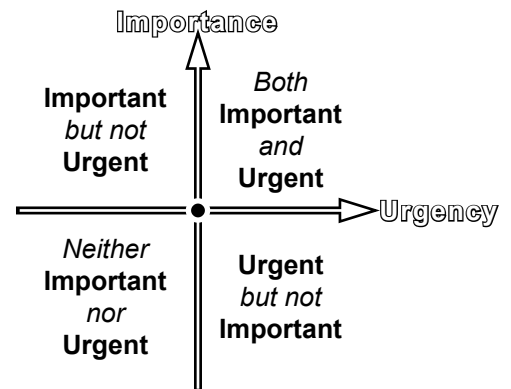
Joshua clearly was concerned that this might happen. What did he do to prevent it? Could he have done more to prevent it from happening? **If so, what?**

What are you currently doing to help the next generation seek the Lord?

- Place a “√” on the following graph at the place which you think “redemptive relationships” **should be**.

Place a “x” where you think “redemptive relationships” **actually are for you**. Explain the difference.

What do you think you and your Community Group **can** and **should** do about any difference? **Will you?**



Application-Challenge

- Seriously begin praying about how God wants you to contribute to TCC's “Extraordinary Challenge” on April 6th.
- Choose two-to-three local friends, neighbors, co-workers, or family members. Begin praying for them daily and building redemptive relationships. Ask God to bring them to our special Easter service, April 20th.

Sermon Summary

Our vision is to transform ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ; we do this by building relationships (Matthew 22:27, 39). God wants us to love our neighbors in the same way and with the same commitment with which we love ourselves, and to participate in God's plan to reconcile a lost humanity to Himself. God asks his forgiven children to engage with our friends and neighbors and share with them how they too can receive God's forgiveness through faith in Christ (Matthew 28:18–20). God has called us to build redemptive relationships. We must live by biblical priorities because that is what ultimately will be evaluated. TCC's "The Next Initiative" is our declaration of what we are trusting God to accomplish in His power and for His glory over the next two years. It reflects our commitment to building redemptive relationships with our neighbors and around the world. To achieve it will require sacrificial serving and giving. I promise you it is worthy of our full engagement. We must build our "Next Generation Discipleship Center", improve our current ministries, expand our missions efforts locally and globally, and mobilize resources for multi-site expansion.

Every local church has a responsibility to reach the next generation. This demands that we be flexible in how we make disciples. We've been doing this for over twenty years—while never sacrificing biblical truth. TCC has proven to be a safe place where people can be real about our struggles, where we can ask our "tough faith questions". We also do a great job ministering to kids, thanks to our incredible staff and many dedicated volunteers. We have intentionally designed TCC to attract young families. Young children become teens, and the teen years are a confusing, pivotal time. Teens make decisions that often set their spiritual course for years to come, and so it is critical that we invest in their spiritual development. Failing to accurately transmit Biblical truth to the next generation can be devastating (Judges 2:10-11). If our teens are going to rise above our culture and impact it for Christ, we must counteract the rise of relativism, of religious skepticism, and the "chameleon complex". The world says that truth is situational and cultural; it chafes against Jesus' exclusive claims, and our students have a tendency to present themselves differently, depending on the peer group they happen to be interacting with. The solution is to give our students historical evidence to back up the exclusive truth claims of Christianity, to help them develop personal convictions concerning what is right and wrong, and to equip them to take a stand for Christ, no matter who they're with. We gather them in small groups where they can interact with one another face to face, helping them develop the social skills our culture is failing to nurture.

God has blessed us with a lot of students, but right now, we have zero room for growth. Our student center is often uncomfortably full—it feels claustrophobic. There is no space to connect with guests and their parents. Our present student facility does not provide an environment for ministry the way we like to do it. We can do better. We must do better. The spiritual health of the next generation depends upon it. Our "Next Gen Discipleship Center" will not be about bricks and mortar, but about creating a compelling environment where redemptive relationships are formed and biblical discipleship takes place. Right now, if all our teens decided to invite a friend, we would have no place to put them. Our present facilities provide no room for growth. Our Next Generation Discipleship Center will be highly functional, yet with a "cool" factor. It will give us room to grow, and is designed to promote authentic worship and seamlessly blend small group conversations with dynamic, life-changing large group teaching. It will provide a new and welcoming café space that can be enjoyed throughout the week and additional ministry space for Bible studies, counseling, etc.

It will cost us \$1.6 million—and we can afford it! Yes, it will require that all of us give above and beyond what we are giving right now. We plan to pay off our short-term, low-interest, construction loan in two years and significantly decrease our long term debt. We will be using what is called a "One Fund Approach" to accomplish all this. Rather than having a separate building fund, we want to link all four components of our Extraordinary Challenge into one fund representing the entire vision for TCC ministry (ie, build our Next Generation Discipleship Center AND strengthen our current ministries AND expand our outreach both locally and globally AND mobilize resources for multi-site ministry).

The projected cost of ALL of that, over the next two years, is 3.9 million dollars. There is no question that this will stretch us. It will require 100 % participation from all who consider TCC their church home, and that all of us increase our giving over the next two years. But the sacrifices we all make will be worth it. Our sacrifices will result in eternal destinies being reversed and lives transformed. April 6th will be our commitment Sunday, so please begin asking God what He would have you commit toward our next two years. I want to ask you to join Susan and me in giving generously and sacrificially. The next generation is depending upon us.

Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

At TCC, we take seriously the Extraordinary Challenge of reaching the next generation for Christ. It's imperative that we build "redemptive relationships", so let's explore this vital (but scary!) topic of evangelism...

Monday—Today's Question: **Who** should evangelize?

- Read Matthew 28:16-20.

According to v. 16, **to whom** was this command given?

In v. 19, the eleven disciples (aka "apostles") were commanded to "make disciples, baptizing people in the name of the Trinity". But what does v. 20a command the apostles to do?

Let's follow the logic to its conclusion: Step 1: The **disciples** were commanded to **make disciples**, baptize, and instruct converts to obey everything Jesus commanded **them** to do. Step 2: Since these new disciples were commanded to "do all that I commanded **you**", then we can conclude that these new disciples are commanded to do... what?

- Let's see what the "second (etc.) generation disciples" did. Read Acts 8:1-4.

According to v. 1b, **who were**—and **who were not**—scattered about as a result of persecution?

According to v. 4, **who** "went about preaching the word"?

- According to 1 Peter 1:1-2, **to whom** is the entire book of 1 Peter addressed?

According to 1 Peter 3:15, what are **all believers** commanded to do?

Tuesday—Today's Question: **How** should we evangelize?

- Will **this** (see photo) do it?

Seriously, what advantages and disadvantages does **this** have?

Compare what this can accomplish to what is commanded in Matthew 28:18-20.

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. What are the **facts** of the gospel?
- Read Romans 10:13-14. What must non-believers do? What must believers do?
- Read Acts 4:12. **Exactly what** are we to tell our neighbors and co-workers?
- Read 1 Peter 3:15. **How** are we tell them this?
- Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26. What is our role? What is God's role?
- "Gospel" literally means "good news". Why do you think so many people view it as **bad** news?



Wednesday—Today's Question: **What**—and **is not**—is evangelism?

- Review 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Romans 10:13-14, and Acts 4:12 from yesterday. In your own words, **what is** evangelism?
- Review 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (from yesterday) and read 1 Corinthians 3:5-7. Explain how evangelism is **not** *imposition of our beliefs*.
- Read John 9:1-15. Compare the **content** of the blind man's *testimony* with the **content** of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-5).
Could a person have been saved, have gained eternal life, through believing the blind man's personal testimony.
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. According to v. 9, what is the role of "good works"? According to v. 10, what is the role of "good works"?
Relate this to Matthew 3:10 and 7:17-23.
- How do we know that social action (feeding the poor, working for social justice, etc.) does not equal evangelism?
- If few respond to our message, have we evangelized? See Matthew 7:13-14; 13:18-23; and 2 Corinthians 2:15-16.

Thursday—Today's Question: **Why** should we evangelize—what is our motivation?

- According to Matthew 22:36-40, what is our motive for evangelism?
- According to Matthew 9:36-38, what is our motive for evangelism?
- According to Matthew 22:36-40, what is our motive for evangelism?
- What is the relationship between love and obedience (John 14:15)?
- What do you think was the motive of the person who led you to faith?

Friday— Today's Question: *Is evangelism a **solitary** endeavor?*

- Read Acts 2:40-47. List the lifestyle elements of believers revealed in v. 41-46. According to v. 47, who was observing the believers as they loved one another? What was the result (v. 47b)? Do you think that TCCer have this sort of sacrificial love for one another? If so, is it visible to non-believers.
- The Book of Acts is the record of the birth and growth of the church. It is punctuated by several "summary statements"—Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:21-24; 16:4-5; 19:18-20; and 28:28-31. How do these show "collective witness" taking place? Do you see collective witness taking place through TCC? If so, how? If not, what do you think is missing?
- List the principles for collective ministry you observe in 1 Corinthians 3:6-10.

Saturday— Today's Question: *Is evangelism worth it?*

- Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What obstacles did Jesus face in order to bring "good news"? According to v. 2, how did Jesus persevere?
- Pastor Doug unveiled TCC's "Next Initiative"—to use the words of Hebrews 12:1, it is "the race set before us". He said:
"It is our declaration of what we as a church are trusting God to accomplish in His power and for His glory over the next two years. It reflects our commitment to be fully engaged as a church family in building redemptive relationships with our nearby neighbors in our community and with our far away neighbors around the world. To achieve it will require that all of us who love this church, commit ourselves fully to this initiative. It will require sacrificial serving and sacrificial giving. It will require that we step out of our comfort zones and trust God in ways that we have not before. But I promise you, the vision for the future God has given us, is worthy of our full engagement."

Hebrews 12 commands us to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles".

Specifically, what hinders **you** in the marathon that is the Christian life? How can you "throw that off"?

Specifically, what sins easily entangle you? How can you "throw that off"?

Who is the "great cloud of witnesses" to which the writer of Hebrews refers? (Remember—"Context is King!"—so take a quick look at Hebrews 11:32-40.) **How** does their witness motivate you to endure?

According to v. 2, Jesus "despised" the shame of the cross. The Greek word means "to think little of" or "to look down on".

What biblical truths could help you "think little of/look down on" the endurance which will be required to faithfully fulfill TCC's calling?

How can your brothers and sisters at TCC help you "despise" the costs involved in faithful endurance?

How can **you** help your brothers and sisters at TCC "despise" the costs involved in faithful endurance?