

Matthew's Messiah The Fathers in Jesus' Genealogy

TALKING WALKINGPOINTS

Leaders' Guide

2020.12.3&6



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

- 1 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. 1 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 Reflection and Discussion

- 2 When Joseph found out that his fiancée was pregnant, he was faced with a dilemma: how could he be gracious to the woman he loves while also being faithful to the God who loves him (Matthew 1:19)? When have you been placed in a similar situation? Tell us about it. How did you resolve the tension?
- 3 Pastor Doug noted the exclusive claim Christ makes: **"No one comes to the Father but through me"** (John 14:6). We each have a lock on the door to **our** home and decide who to let in—so **why** do you think so many people find it difficult to accept that God also has **his own** entrance requirement?
- 4 How does "salvation by grace, through faith" actually give **everyone** an **equal opportunity** for heaven?
- 5 "Gospel" means "good news". Pastor Doug noted that *"When Jesus comes into our life, we forfeit the right to live our lives the way we want to. We lose the right to self-determination because Jesus is God and has ultimate authority."* Does that sound like "good news" to you? Why or why not?
- 6 Read Romans 6:20-23. Were we **ever** fully free (see v. 22a)? Explain.
- 7 According to this passage, what choice do we **actually** have?
- 8 How does this passage illustrate the truth that **"Whatever** a person sows, **that same thing** is what he will reap"?

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Application-Challenge

9 Embrace Jesus as your Savior and you can come to know the joy that only comes through glad surrender.

- 1 Jesus commanded the church to make disciples. A disciple is “a baptized believer who is learning to obey all that Jesus commanded” (Matthew 28:18-20). This content in the yellow box explains TCC’s approach to disciple-making (I put it in *Talking Points* from time to time, when space permits). Reading and discussing this in your group would be a good way to start your Community Group discussion (especially since item 2 is a bit more “hard ball” than my usual “opener”!)
- 2 This refers to the passage Doug preached from (Matthew 1:18-25). It’s short, and so you may wish to read it as a group, just to refresh their memories. Then as for volunteers to tell about when they’ve been in a similar situation.
- 3 Let folks grapple with the fact that we have trouble with God deciding how people are allowed to come into *his* house. Make sure you get to the “why” question!
- 4 Move onto this question only after you’ve grappled with the “why” question. A passage which addresses this issue is Romans 4:16 answers this question—if you’re able to follow Paul’s dense writing style! Here’s the gist of what Paul is saying: If salvation were through keeping the Jewish Law, all non-Jews would be excluded. But since it is by faith, it is available to anyone who will trust in Christ alone as Savior. Faith is the great equalizer; everyone is invited to believe and receive.
- 5 Just let folks grapple honestly with this question. Help them feel free to disagree (the next question will clarify things greatly!)
- 6 Like the Bob Dylan song, “Gotta Serve Somebody” (It might even be good to play it. See YouTube). Ever since Genesis 3, **absolute** free will has been a fiction (see John 8:34 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26).
- 7 Ever since Genesis 3, **every** person has been in **either** “the domain of darkness” **or** else “the kingdom of God’s beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13-14; 2:8-15). We **can** choose the kingdom we want to be in, but we **cannot** choose the outcome of that choice! It’s the “Law of Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6:7-9)... which is the topic of the next question.
- 8 You don’t need to, but if you wish, you can read Galatians 6:7-9 to your group. Romans 6:20-23 is a perfect example of “reaping what you’ve sown”. Enough said.
- 9 Urge group members to get the help they need. Show them the “Application-Challenge” and the offer of free biblical counseling.