

It's Time for Your
Annual Spiritual Check-Up

TALKING WALKINGPOINTS

Leaders' Guide

2021.1.3



A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community

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 Community Group Discussion

- 2 TCC's purpose is to "transform ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ." Describe the most "extraordinary follower of Jesus Christ" you know personally.
- 3 Review Pastor Doug's five questions which we can use to evaluate our spiritual progress (see the [Sermon Summary](#)). Which of these traits did you most observe in that friend?
- 4 What event or person has most helped you become more serious in following Christ?
- 5 Look over the list of **Spiritual Disciplines** listed at the end of the [Sermon Summary](#). Which **one** is **most lacking** in your life **now**?
- 6 What **one change** could you make which you think would bring the **most** growth in 2021?

Ready to grow and change in 2021?

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Application-Challenge

- 7 In order to grow in 2021, make sure you're cultivating the following spiritual disciplines:
 - **Bible Study**—make it regular, personal, and with an emphasis on application
 - **Prayer**—just talk with God throughout the day
 - **Service**—to others in your family, neighborhood, and church
 - **Fellowship**—spend time building up God's people
 - **Worship**—express gratitude to God for his greatness, mercy, love and provision



- 1 This paragraph is a great introduction to this sermon, to the importance of getting off to a fresh start in the new year, and a great segue to 2. Just read the first half, then go directly onto 2.
- 2 This question not only prepares them for 3, it also is designed to help them think warmly and positively about spiritual growth (in order to prepare them to be willing to take the steps necessary to grow. Ask follow-up “why” and “how” questions to help people give enough “texture” to their descriptions in order for group members to be able to envision these extraordinary people. If group members are remaining too vague or abstract, ask, “What’s an example of that, that impressed you so much?”
- 3 Now you’re zeroing-in on what **made** that person so remarkable, so attractive. Your hope is that this will plant seeds of desire within group members to likewise “discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness” (1 Timothy 4:7b).
- 4 This question is a transition away from the friends they admire, to what has helped **them** become more serious in following Christ. Keep attentive for whether they mention any of the five disciplines Doug highlighted (Bible Study, Prayer, Service, Fellowship, and Worship). They may not use those terms, but if you’re able to make the connection, it will help with 5.
- 5 Now the focus moves away from the positive (what’s helped group members grow in godliness) to the negative (what’s keeping them from making even more progress). You can help group members be honest with this question if you go first. You can say something like: “For me personally, _____ is the weak spot in my spiritual discipline. What do you think it would be for you? Which **one** is **most lacking** in your life **now?**” If time permits, you can follow up with questions such as: “Why do you think _____ is hard?”
- 6 Try to get really specific and concrete on this. Not just, “Start doing _____ [the discipline they’re weakest at].” Changes may include rearranging priorities, deleting something from their schedule, creating a context for practicing that discipline, getting into a PointMan or Women’s Ministry Bible study, signing up for a service team, committing to not missing Sunday services, except for when ill, etc. Get very specific. Jot these down—your group members will need your help in about five weeks when the luster has worn off their zeal for change!
- 7 This is where the rubber meets the road. Growth and change does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. But—help people choose **manageable** goals.
- 8 **Please** point group members to TCC’s free biblical counseling. We’re here to help. Giving and receiving help is the **normal** Christian life.

Men—
Don't miss this opportunity
for spiritual growth in 2021!



JOHN

JESUS—THE WORD, THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD

Men's Bible Study

- Gospel of John
- 13 weeks, beginning January 11
- Open to all men
- Just \$10 (for materials)
- Choose the time that fits you best...

Life is best lived
in circles not
rows.

MEN'S
GROUPS
TCC.org/Men

Mornings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mondays• 7-8:30am• begins January 11 (ends early April)• zoom only	Evenings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mondays• 7-8:30pm• begins January 11 (ends early April)• zoom or face-to-face option (at TCC)
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• **Go to:** tcc.org **Keyword:** **PointMan**