

Part 4
A Divine Light in a Dark World
Jesus: Lord of the Sabbath

2021.1.28&31



TALKING WALKINGPOINTS

Leaders' Guide



A publication of **U of DISCIPLE**, 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. 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

- 1 What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- 2 Pastor Doug noted that God's Law doesn't restrict us—it promotes human freedom and flourishing. Read Psalm 119:45. Has this been **your** experience—or not? Tell us about it, please.
 - In Eden, God commanded, "Eat anything you want—except from that one tree. And have alot of babies." Later, a bunch more Laws were added (read Galatians 3:19–20; v. 16 explains who the "seed" is).
- 3 **Why** were all these additional Laws added? What happened in the world that necessitated more laws?
- 4 Read Romans 13:10. How do you see this in operation in Jesus' healing of the man's withered hand (Mark 3:3)?
- 5 If we all consistently "did no wrong to a neighbor", do you think we would feel "restricted"? Explain.
- 6 In what ways might we "flourish"? Be specific.
- 7 What do you think it will take for you to view God's Law as more restorative than restrictive?

Application-Challenge

Jesus is "Lord of the Sabbath", so make sure you...

- Don't miss out on the of rest, replenishment, and restoration found only in him.
- Don't make him your enemy by turning his Law into a burden rather than a blessing.
- Don't anger him by replacing his Lordship with your own man-made rules (Mark 7:9–13).

Do you delight to obey God's Law?
To connect with a discipler, e-mail:
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- 1 The standard, soft-ball opener—and a great opportunity to have your antennae up for misunderstanding of concepts, or, correct understanding, but strong reaction to them (positive or negative).
- 2 That the law brings “freedom, not restriction” is **not** the commonplace view, so Psalm 119:45 may be a hard pill for folks to swallow! This question is simply asking “Have you experienced freedom as a result of ‘living within the rules’?” Folks should give their opinion whether or not they’ve experienced liberation, or bondage, through law.
- 3 The proliferation of sin in the world made it necessary to multiply laws (to restrain sin). [Much like the invention of cars necessitated a proliferation of laws regulating them---speed limits, registrations, drunk driving laws, etc.]
- 4 Jesus aimed at “doing right to people”—so when he saw suffering, it wasn’t important whether it was a workday or a Sabbath day, he “did good to people”. But, to those religious leaders who cared more about self-righteous law-keeping than they did about loving their fellow man, it was more important to observe their made-up regulations about the Sabbath, even if people suffered as a result.
- 5 We’d probably be inconvenienced from time to time (eg. allowing someone else to merge into traffic, in front of us, etc.). It may also cost us some money (eg. assisting someone who’s lost his job, etc.). These are only “big deals” if radical autonomy is our supreme goal (for then, even the slightest inconvenience is annoying or “unbearable”).
- 6 Envision the examples above (merging traffic, financial assistance)—what if we all routinely “paid it forward”? Wouldn’t that be a **delightful** world to live in? One might even call it “flourishing”. Of course, this won’t happen on a large scale until King Jesus is on the throne (see Isaiah 11:1-10), but if each of us allowed King Jesus to be on the throne of our individual lives, we would experience the first-fruits of the kingdom in our lives. When we’re generous with others, God sees to it that we continue to receive enough to live on and enjoy. Sounds like “flourishing” to me.
- 7 This is wide open for group members’ opinions. However—getting to know God, his generous character, his kindness to us, his commitment to our good, etc.—getting to know God is the key to trusting him. When we trust him, we don’t have to be self-protective.
- 8 TCC’s biblical counseling ministry stands ready to help folks delight in following God. Please call on us!