




TALKING WALKING

Leaders' Guide

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

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 Gallup reports that 90% of Americans believe that God (of one sort or another) exists, while only 70% believe that Satan does. Do **you** believe in a literal devil? Why or why not?
- 3 How have your views changed over the years? What (or who) produced that change in you?
- 4 Pastor Doug spoke of the "complexity" of evil—that it **cannot** be explained simply by economic, social, physical, or environmental factors. Sometimes healthy, wealthy, well-educated people do unspeakable evil while some others, who are deprived of basic needs and dignity, are capable of righteous acts. How would secular society explain this paradox? How do you explain it?
- 5 He also noted the progression of **beliefs** ⇒ **thoughts** ⇒ **emotions** ⇒ **actions** (see [Sermon Summary](#)). Using this truth—and factoring in the involvement of Satan—dissect the following common events:
 1. becoming impatient in traffic or in a check-out line
 2. being rude to a family member or coworker
 3. giving in—*again!*—to porn or gossip
- 6 Review Satan's crafty use of **consequences** and **accusations** in tempting us ([Sermon Summary](#)). Who will tell us how you've seen those dynamics in your own life?

Need help resisting temptation?

For free biblical counseling, e-mail:

BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

- Adopt a biblical world view of evil. Don't think that evil is due to external conditions; there is an actual devil who promotes and magnifies the evil in our hearts.
- Understand the biblical concept of grace. Until we appreciate the radical, costly grace Jesus came to offer, temptation and accusation will continue to have great power over us.
- Call upon the truths of God's Word. Jesus knew that he couldn't handle life without it; he meditated on it and memorized it. What role is Scripture playing in **your** life?

- 1 This is a handy, “go-to” opening question. Easy to answer, yet often exposes misunderstanding or strong negative reactions. These can be gently dealt with, either in the meeting or individually afterward. Sometimes it tips you off to key growth opportunities.
- 2 Pretty straightforward. It begins in a non-threatening way—“others believe X, Y, Z”— and then permits them to open up a bit about their own beliefs. As time permits, an additional question could be:
 - Why wouldn’t everyone who’s willing to believe in God and a spiritual realm not also believe in Satan? I can understand not believing in **anything** in the spiritual realm, but if a person is willing to believe that **some** unseen things exist—why pick and choose? Why not believe all of it? It seems like life
- 3 Although the previous question probed their beliefs, it still remained rather cerebral: “What do you think?” Now it’s time to ask for a bit more self-disclosure. This question may uncover pivotal events (pleasant or unpleasant) which occasioned a re-evaluation of personal beliefs. If a group member mentions a particularly traumatic event, make sure you acknowledge the pain. Take note of anything that you should follow up on.
- 4 Read this opening statement, then, if necessary, review **[1] The complexity of evil.** in the Sermon Summary. Then ask the questions. You can either ask them all at once, or sequentially, but do make sure that both questions get discussed. Our goal is to distinguish where our thinking is secularized—and why.
- 5 Spend a major chunk of time on this one. Take one example at a time, but complete all three. Try to do detailed analysis. After reading the first “event”, thoroughly analyze the **beliefs** that may lie behind it. Beware that individuals may differ greatly on their beliefs. One may say that the belief that “I **must** be on time for this meeting” lies behind it while someone else may say that it’s just their general sense of entitlement (“You’re getting in **my** way! My grandmother drives better than you!”). Whatever their answer, don’t just leave it at that. Ask **why** that’s important to them. As others who react the same way why **they** do it. Different beliefs may lie at the root of identical actions among different people. Then, move onto **thoughts**, and so on. Don’t forget to ask about the “Satan factor” as well. Complete event #1, and then work through #2 & 3.
- 6 Again, a rather straightforward question, but a good bit of vulnerability will be required for some to answer. Listen well. Probe for more details as indicated. We don’t want to push folks further than they wish to go, but we also don’t want this to remain in the realm of vague generalities.
- 7 Consider saving time for a more extended prayer time at the close of this discussion.