



TALKING WALKING POINTS

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 Pastor Doug noted that we have been given a mission. Read 1 Corinthians 3:9 and 1 Thessalonians 3:2.
Whose "fellow workers" are we? What does this tell you **about God?** **About us?**
- 3 Who is the **most famous person in the world** who shares your same occupation or role in life?
How would you **feel** if he/she asked you to be **their** "fellow worker"? Would you say yes?
- 4 How do you feel about God calling **you** to be his fellow worker in ministry? Have you said "yes"?
- 5 Tell about a time when you served someone less fortunate, someone "on the margins of society".
- 6 Reflecting on that experience, how did you observe Acts 20:35 prove true in your life?
- 7 Tell about a time when, because someone knew you were a Christian, you were more ethical or hard-working.
What did you learn from that? How did it impact your witness? Has your witness continued to improve?
- 8 Read Isaiah 6:5 and Job 42:5–6. Have you ever felt that way in the presence of God, your fellow-worker?
Why or why not? What do you think it would take in order for you to grow in that response?
- 9 Pastor Doug noted that most people are not called to walk away from their occupations in order to serve God.
Read Luke 9:23. **To whom** was it written?
What might that look like in **your** life?

Application-Challenge

- 10
 - Jesus calls us to apply our faith to our work. Does anyone in your workplace, school, or neighborhood know that you follow Christ?
 - Jesus calls us to reach out to the marginalized. To whom can you show compassion this week?
 - Jesus models the importance of prayer. At tcc.org, drop down the **Grow** tab, and click on **Prayer**. Select one of the opportunities found there.



- 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 Believers are **God’s** fellow-workers. That means that God works, and he gives us the mission and the privilege of working alongside him. God is all-wise and all-powerful (he created the world in six days, just by speaking it into existence), so he clearly doesn’t **need** our help. This shows that God is gracious and patient—he could do it better and quicker without us! But he’s generous and dignifies us with the **opportunity** to work with him in meaningful labors. This means that we are privileged and dignified; no matter what our limitations (mental, physical, age, etc.), as long as we are alive we have meaningful labors to engage in. The truth that we **are** God’s co-laborers is present tense: this means that as long as we are alive, God has work for us to do. Christians are never useless (fruitless, maybe, but not useless.)
- 3 This question is **important** only because it serves as a segue to 4. Don’t spend too much time on it.
- 4 Help folks be honest about these. The temptation will be to stay superficial and give the “right” answers! Model vulnerability as needed. If needed, ask a question such as: “Does it ever feel like a burden to come to a Sunday service (or Community Group!), to share your faith or to serve another Christian?” Likewise, with the question, “Have you said ‘yes’ to God’s calling to be his fellow-worker?”—try to get beyond a quick “yes”. Follow up with something such as: “How are some ways that you typically co-labor with God in his kingdom?” or “What’s a recent opportunity you took to further God’s mission?”
- 5 This question is **important** only because it serves as a segue to 6. Don’t spend too much time on it.
- 6 We all love receiving, but Jesus said that it is **more blessed** to give than to receive. Help folks grapple honestly that, since it is in the Bible, this **must** be true. Help them dig until they are able to verbalize how it was more blessed to serve that vulnerable person rather than to be served. (Ultimately, we can count on heavenly blessing [see 1 Corinthians 3:10-15], but try to find answers about current blessings too.)
- 7 Be prepared with your own story of this, but try to get others to volunteer their stories first. Consider asking (in advance of the group meeting) one or two of the more mature members to come prepared with a story.
- 8 Contrary to the casualness of contemporary Christianity, the consistent testimony of biblical characters when they came face-to-face with God was terror and fainting (see Revelation 1:9-18)! True, Jesus’ terrifying holiness was robed in flesh, but folks still “beheld his glory” (John 1:14) and Peter said, “Master, depart from me—I’m a sinful man!” So if we are experiencing God as he truly is (rather than as we too often project him to be—just all squishy, accepting love!), then we will have the fear of the Lord. Help group members probe and examine their reactions to God—and how to grow in our fear of him.
- 9 Help group members grapple with the clear meaning of this passage. I may not mean give everything away, but it clearly means that following Christ costs us dearly. Explore what it has cost group members.
- 10 Take time as a group to discuss their responses to these three points of Application-Challenge. Ask two to three group members to respond to each of these points. Be ready with your own answers. Pull out a cell phone or laptop for the third item, and explore the options which exist there (submitting a prayer request; receiving prayer requests others have submitted; joining the weekly men’s or women’s prayer meetings).