

Part 4 Easter's Call
A Call to Wonder


2021.4.4



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

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 us to "discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness." "Talking Points, Walking Points" is useful both for individual reflection and for group discussion. The section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time" helps us continue to grow and change throughout the week, and prepares us to gather again as a family on Sunday.

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 **the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a paradigm-shattering historical event** (see **Sermon Summary**) in that a lot of people **do not want** Christianity to be true (for then there is a God to whom we are accountable) and that it demolishes the idea that "all religions are basically alike" (John 14:6). Which of those two ideas did/do you find harder to let go of—and why?
- 3 Since **the resurrection of Christ is the key to understanding the message of the entire Bible**, we can use it to better understand puzzling things in the Bible. What are some things which puzzle you?
- 4 As a group, try to "connect the dots" between Jesus' resurrection and some of those puzzling issues.
- 5 Finally, **the resurrection is the strongest message of hope for the world possible**, giving us a hope for a future that is **personal**, **certain**, and **unimaginably wonderful**! Which of these three aspects of resurrection hope **clarifies some confusion** you've had regarding life after death?
- 6 Which aspect of resurrection hope is **most meaningful** to you personally—and **why**?
- 7 Who do you know personally who needs to hear about Jesus Christ's paradigm-shattering resurrection?

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Feel hopeless about your future?

For free biblical counseling, e-mail:

BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

Trust the resurrected Christ to pay for your sins—and to give you a hope for the future which is **personal**, **certain**, and **unimaginably wonderful**!

- 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 It's probably not necessary to read the entire paragraph (**1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a paradigm-shattering historical event**) in the Sermon Summary (some of it will have been discussed in 1). The two points (that many people don't want Christianity to be true, and that it demolishes the idea that all religions are basically alike) are found at the end of the paragraph. You decide how much of that paragraph to read, but then end with the question, “Which of those two ideas did/do...”

Notice that wording, “did/do”—**don't assume** that folks in your group have fully abandoned the desire for personal autonomy or the idea that all religions are essentially the same! Make sure that folks feel free to admit that they still have hesitancy on one or both of those issues. Remember—we're aiming at real life-change, and that requires real honesty. You'll have to set the tone for your group.

- 3 Read this point (again, deciding how much of the Sermon Summary needs to be reviewed). It's your decision. Then, ask the question: “What are some things which puzzle you?” Don't move on to 4 until you've generated several items to discuss further.
- 4 Select several “puzzling issues” to shed light on by exploring their connection to Christ's resurrection. It may be obvious which items to choose, or you can ask the group which ones they'd like to explore. This question will require doing some “theological thinking”—we're not asking you to be scholars; just do your best. And remember, “Let me ask Pastor Dan about that and get back to you.” is a totally fine response! (Just send them to: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com). Here's a starting point for puzzling through this issue: the grand sweep of the biblical narrative is: **Creation** (Genesis 1-2), **Fall** (Genesis 3), **Redemption** (Genesis 4 ⇨ Revelation 4), **Consumation**” (Revelation 5-22).
- 5 This question **begins** the glide path toward personal application. Take **some** time on this question, but not too much—you want to save time for items 6, 7 and 8.
- 6 This question is a “window into the soul” of group members. Take note of which aspect of hope is most meaningful, and **why**. There's not a “right” answer here; it helps you know individual group members. Don't short-change the “why” answer—that's the pay dirt of this question!
- 7 This question helps you turn outward. Urge folks not to give names/relationships if it would lead to gossip, but each group member needs to envision **somebody** who needs to hear about Christ's paradigm-shattering resurrection. After folks have thought of someone, if time permits, you can ask for volunteers to suggest how and when they will try to initiate that discussion. At the very least, close with prayer for boldness for group members so that those convos to happen, and for God to bless with illumination, conviction and faith.
- 8 Close by emphasizing that we truly do wish to assist them via biblical counseling. One of your objectives each week is to **normalize** the idea of receiving counsel. Biblical counseling is simply “focused discipleship”, helping in an area in which you feel “stuck”. It is nothing other than the sanctification process—transforming ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that **everyone** needs biblical counsel.

Sermon Summary (Key Text: Luke 24:36-49)

Luke 24 is unique in that it actually covers the entire day: the first part talks about what happened in the morning, when Jesus rose from the dead; the middle of the chapter talks about Jesus' discussion on the road to Emmaus; the final part of the chapter talks about Jesus' evening appearance to his disciples.

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a paradigm-shattering historical event. It's very common today for people to say that Jesus' resurrection didn't really happen. These miracle stories, they say, were written to symbolize the kind of life we should live. If that were the case, what "life principles" are we to glean from Jesus eating fish with his disciples (24:41-43)? Truth is, it doesn't symbolize anything. Luke included this account because it's evidence. The issue wasn't Jesus' hunger, it was the disciples' unbelief. He ate fish in order to prove that he wasn't a ghost. Luke recorded it because it happened. The historical accounts record lots of obscure details which serve as evidence that Jesus was actually raised bodily from the dead. For example, women were the first to report the resurrection—but women's testimony was not accepted in Jesus' day. If you were making up the story of the resurrection you would have chosen men of high social status as your witnesses. That Jesus rose from the dead is a paradigm-shattering historical reality. A lot of people do not want Christianity to be true (for then there is a God to whom we are accountable)—and that makes a mockery of our perceived independence. The resurrection shatters the paradigm that "all religions are basically alike" (John 14:6). It makes our desire to pick and choose which parts of the Bible we'll believe and obey irrelevant. Historical facts are often inconvenient; you can't just dismiss them.

2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the key to understanding the message of the entire Bible. Jesus told his disciples, "The whole Bible is about me." (v. 44-45). They'd been with Jesus for three years, but they couldn't really understand the message of the Bible, until they saw him risen from the dead. Like Saul of Tarsus, when they heard Jesus' claim that he was the Messiah, they thought it was crazy! But after he dramatically met Christ on the road to Damascus, in a flash of insight, it all came together for him. Take the book of Isaiah for example. The first half of Isaiah is about a strong, kingly Messiah, but the second half of Isaiah is about this mysterious suffering servant figure who suffers for the sins of his people. Saul realized, "Wait a minute—it's all talking about the same person! That's it! Jesus was the suffering servant who died for the sins of his people. And then, just as predicted, he rose from the dead as our resurrected Lord! Wow—why didn't I see it before?!" The same is true for God's promise to Abraham, the sacrificial system, and the books of Ezekiel and Jeremiah; the New Covenant is all about the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. From the vantage point of the resurrection, Saul was forced to rethink everything he thought he knew about the Bible and the Messiah.

3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the strongest message of hope for the world possible. Back in Jesus' day, just as today, many people thought, "When you die, that's it. There's no future beyond this life." But the resurrection gives us a hope for a future that is personal, certain, and unimaginably wonderful! At death, everything doesn't go permanently dark. Our future is **personal**. False, eastern religions promote the idea that when we die, we become part of the All Soul of Universe (the "circle of life" of the Lion King). But the deepest desire of our hearts isn't to be stardust or worm food—it's to continue to exist in love relationships. Only persons can love. If there is no one to love, and no one to love you then all that awaits us is an eternity that is loveless, meaningless, and hopeless. But because more than 500 eyewitnesses saw Jesus after he conquered the grave, his resurrection guarantees ours, and that we have a future that is personal. Our future also is **certain**. Other (false) religions promise heaven—but only if you're good enough. Doesn't that just fill your heart with confidence?! But the resurrection is proof that Jesus completely paid our sin-debt, so our future is certain! The resurrection is our "receipt"—marked "Paid in full"! Our future is **unimaginably wonderful**. The resurrection guarantees a real, physical, glorified "us" in a glorious new heaven and new earth. Everything sin took from us is restored—and more! Because the resurrection of Jesus is true, if you believe in him, you are not going to miss out on anything! Do you believe Jesus Christ was raised from the dead? You should, because of all the historical testimony, and because only the resurrection meets the deepest needs of the human heart.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to learn about the power and significance of the resurrection...*

Monday—Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-3a. **How important** is the gospel? How important is it to "hold fast" to it?

Tuesday—Read 1 Corinthians 15:3b-6. **What** is the content of the gospel? **How important** is eyewitness testimony?

Wednesday—Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. List the six disastrous consequences if there is no resurrection.

Thursday—Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. List, in order, the events which flow from Jesus Christ's resurrection.

Friday—Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. Take some time now to review your learnings and to worship your risen Lord.

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping the risen Lord with your church family,***
read **Luke 6:47-49.**

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]

Time is
RUNNING OUT!



MARRIAGE



The Power of Promise
April 8 - May 2

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