




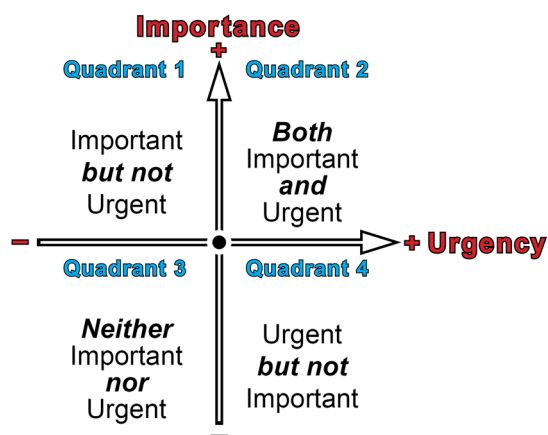
TALKING POINTS WALKING POINTS

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 Discussion & Reflection



- 1 Pastor Doug mentioned the helpful booklet entitled "*The Tyranny of the Urgent*". From the following chart: As a group, come up with three to five real-life examples of activities from each of the four quadrants.
- 2 **Why** do you think management experts have attached the following names/descriptions to each of the quadrants?
Quadrant 1 is called the quadrant of "Quality".
Quadrant 2 is called the quadrant of "Crisis".
Quadrant 3 is called the quadrant of "Waste".
Quadrant 4 is called the quadrant of "Deception".

- 3 **How** would giving the Scriptures a more prominent place in your life reshape your commitment...
...to "Quality" (Quadrant 1) activities?
...to "Wasteful" (Quadrant 3) activities?
...to "Deceptive" (Quadrant 4) activities?

Be specific and concrete, please!

- 4 **How** might developing greater authenticity in your life **help you to** reshape your commitment...
...to "Quality" (Quadrant 1) activities?
...to "Wasteful" (Quadrant 3) activities?
...to "Deceptive" (Quadrant 4) activities?

Be specific and concrete, please!

- 5 **How** could growing in graciousness toward one another **help us all** reshape our commitments...
...to "Quality" (Quadrant 1) activities?
...to "Wasteful" (Quadrant 3) activities?
...to "Deceptive" (Quadrant 4) activities?

Be specific and concrete, please!

Application-Challenge

- Commit to learning and applying God's Word.
- Be a person of authenticity.
- Be a gracious person.



6

Need help living by God's priorities?
write to:

BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

- 1 Some folks may be familiar with this diagram; for others it'll be brand new. Regardless, take a moment to look it over, noting the two axes ("importance" vs. "urgency"), and the "+" signs to the top and right (ie, more important and more urgent) and the "-" signs to the left and bottom (ie. less important and less urgent). Then, as a group, come up with three to five real-life examples of activities from each of the four quadrants. Be prepared to ask clarifying questions, such as: "Hmm, what about ____ qualifies it as "important"? or "Hmm, are you sure that's not just urgency—masquerading as importance?" Make sure you get three to five examples of each quadrant before moving onto 2.
- 2 Quadrants 2 & 3 are pretty obvious, but you may need to look back at your lists created in 1 in order to tease out the reasons for the names given to Quadrants 1 & 4 (especially Quad 1). Work hard; this is key. Make sure group members are convinced of the accuracy of these descriptions before moving on.
- 3 Since Quadrant 2 activities scream for our attention (eg. "Car stalled on the train tracks, train approaching" is a prime example of both urgent and important!), focus now turns to Quadrants 1, 3 & 4. Here the question is how could each group member upping **his own** commitment to the Scriptures help him reshape **his** responses to Quadrant 1, 3, & 4 activities.
- 4 Here the question is how could each group member upping **his own** commitment to authenticity help him reshape **his** responses to Quadrant 1, 3, & 4 activities. The focus remains on what I can do to find improvement in my own priorities.
- 5 Since Pastor Doug's third priority was to become more gracious **toward others**, this question pivots to how each group member upping **his own** commitment to treating others graciously could help others reshape **their** responses to Quadrant 1, 3, & 4 activities. The focus now has shifted toward what we can do for others.
- 6 Please remind folks of the standing offer of personalized discipleship help.



PointMan

Men's Summertime Bible Study

- Genesis 1-11 "Creation, Sin, and the Nature of God"
- June 7—August 30
- Open to all men
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Time is
RUNNING OUT!



Sermon Summary (Key Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-11)

A helpful little booklet entitled “The Tyranny of the Urgent” warns us not to let urgent things of life displace what’s truly important. In doing this, we find some help in Paul’s first letter to the church at Thessalonica, a letter written to a growing group of Christians who were not so different from us. In this book, Paul outlines the character traits exemplified in his life and ministry while ministering in Thessalonica. In doing so, he sets forth three essential priorities for every church in every era. In fact, I suggest that we adopt these priorities as our own.

I. Give the Scriptures a prominent place in your life. As a church planting ministry in Thessalonica, undoubtedly a constant barrage of urgent needs pounded away at Paul’s mind, but he made sure that his life and ministry were firmly fixed on the important: the truth of the Scriptures. The great tragedy among Christians today is that many of us are under the Word, in the sense that we hear it being taught each week, but we are not in it for ourselves. We need to change that! All of us should make personal Bible study a priority. When the study of God’s Word becomes a priority, inevitably it leads to self-examination. We begin to compare our lives with God’s standard. The truth of God’s Word touches us where no surgeon’s scalpel can penetrate—the soul, the spirit, the thoughts, attitudes, the very essence of our being. God uses his Word to help shape us, clean us up, and mature us in our walk with him (Hebrews 4:12-13). Let’s take this to heart. Let’s not allow the tyranny of the urgent to steal from us those all-important moments where we spend time with our Heavenly Father in his Word. Make it a priority.

II. Be a person of authenticity. Paul was authentic. He was upfront and honest in his dealings with people. He had no hidden agenda. He didn’t use flattery to advance his career or his bank account. Truth be known, there was only one person he wanted to please, and that was God (1 Thessalonians 2:5-6). For that reason, Paul was authentic. There are at least *three aspects of personal authenticity*: To be truly authentic, you must be *honest with yourself*. It may mean that you stop pretending that your feelings haven’t been hurt when you know good and well that they have been. It may mean that you stop pretending that you are not angry when you know that you are. An authentic person is in touch with what is really going on inside. Personal authenticity also involves being *honest with others*. Sometimes being authentic requires that you have a difficult conversation with someone that you would rather not have. In this situation, if you do nothing, the relationship is going to be strained anyway. In fact, it will probably get worse. Sometimes authenticity demands loving confrontation (Ephesians 4:29-31). Authenticity requires being *honest before others*. An authentic Christian doesn’t pretend to have it all together. Let’s face it, God has set before us some pretty lofty standards. Authenticity demands that you not portray yourself as having attained some spiritual plane that you know you haven’t. As fellow travelers in the faith, we need to be honest with each other about our struggles. When we do that, two things will happen. First, you will probably discover that you are not the only one who struggles in a particular area of weakness. And second, by being vulnerable, you may well find someone who can come alongside you and help you grow in that area of weakness. We need each other. That is how God has designed the body of Christ.

III. Be a gracious person. We see evidence of Paul’s graciousness in v. 7-11. Paul deeply desired that God’s people live lives worthy of their calling...but he didn’t berate them into submission. He didn’t try and put everyone on a guilt trip. He was gracious and tolerant. Christians have been accused of lacking compassion. We are more abrasive and judgmental than we are tactful and compassionate. If we are not careful, we tend to use people rather than love them. Let’s not be that kind of church. Let’s be committed to God’s Word—no apologies! But in our commitment, let’s be authentic—knowing that we also are in process. And let’s be gracious. That means that we allow other people to be in process too, as we love and encourage them to follow Christ faithfully. Here at TCC, you are free to question, admit failure or weakness, and confess wrongs done to others. We are free to admit ignorance.

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 how to live the Christ-controlled life...

Monday—Read Romans 8:5 & Galatians 5:16. What battle does **every** Christian face?

Tuesday—Read Galatians 3:1-5. What approach to the Christian life is **absolutely foolish**?

Wednesday—Read Romans 8:6-15. List all of the things the Spirit must do in and for us.

Thursday—Read Galatians 5:16-25. List all of the things the Spirit must do in and for us.

Friday—Read Ephesians 4:30. What must we **never** do to the Spirit of God living within us?

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping the risen Lord with your church family,***
study **Ephesians 2:10.**

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?]