

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 Reflection or Discussion

- 1 Pastor Ryan told us about his first, frustrating exposure to Ikea furniture. Tell us about a time when you "ignored the instruction manual"—and lived to regret it!
- 2 Now, tell us about something you've learned from Scripture—God's instruction manual—that's made life work as it should. It could be a lesson about godly speech, motives, actions, priorities or perspectives.
- 3 Look at the "mechanical lay-out" of 2 Timothy 3:10-17 found inside today's *Talking Points, Walking Points*. For each of the nine aspects of Paul's example that Timothy followed (v. 10-11a), what do you think it might have **actually looked like** to "follow" (eg. "teaching"... "faith"... "suffering")? Be specific.
- 4 2 Timothy 3:13 speaks of "evil people and imposters" who "deceive and are [themselves] deceived". Who are some "evil people and imposters" today who try to deceive others regarding Christianity?
- 5 Timothy had **"learned and firmly believed"** the Christian gospel (v. 14-15) from his godly mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). Compare and contrast the two sources of teaching (v. 13 *cf.* 14-15). **Why** do you think Timothy would even need to be warned about evil imposters—*aren't they obvious?*!
- 6 Review the **four key elements to the doctrine of Scripture** (see the [Sermon Summary](#)). As a group, come up with a simple definition of authority, truthfulness, clarity, and sufficiency.
- 7 Which element seems **most** obvious and self-evident to you? ...least? **Why** those two?
- 8 For you personally, what is **the major obstacle** to Scripture being the **absolute authority** which controls your desires, values, thoughts, words, and deeds?

Application-Challenge

- Make Scripture your **absolute authority**.
- Make Scripture the **top priority** in your personal walk.
- Make the heartbeat of Scripture—**love**—your heartbeat.
- Make the hero of Scripture—**Jesus**—your hero.

- 1 This is just an easy—even fun—question for getting the discussion started. Don't let this take up too much time. Two or three “fail stories” are sufficient. Have a good laugh—but move on to substantive stuff!
- 2 You want to get some serious responses to this—examples that involve real repentance and life-change. Be prepared with your own example of a time when you were convicted and made a change. Take some time in Ephesians 5:3-4 before your group meets, asking God to bring to mind an example. Give others an opportunity to answer the question first, but be ready with your own. You can even take the group to Ephesians 5:3-4 as a segue to your story or to help them think of examples of their own.
- 3 Some of these are obvious (for example, following Paul's teaching, conduct, patience or endurance), but what might it look like to follow Paul's purpose? Changing one's “purpose in life” is earth-shaking. What does it look like to follow Paul's faith? How do we **choose** to believe? Can we turn faith on and off? And how about love. Some people are simply hard for us to love. Concretely, how do we **“do”** love? What would it take to be willing to follow Paul in persecution and suffering? **How** do we do that?
- 4 This one could be explosive. But we've got to ask it. Paul often “named names”—see 1 Timothy 1:18–20; 2 Timothy 2:16–19 & 3:1–9). When Paul didn't know the identity of those who were leading believers astray (eg. Titus 1:10–16 and Galatians 5:7–10), so he would warn them of the character traits of these deceivers. They are smooth talkers, greedy, and sensual—and stealthy. They often appeal to visions and unique insights that they alone discovered (Colossians 2:18). They seek followers. One of the most important roles for a Christian leader is to protect the sheep from wolves (see Acts 20:28–31). Jesus' half-brother Jude warns: *Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.* (Jude 3-4)
- 5 Deceivers are, well, **deceptive!** They are not what they appear. Take for example Joel Osteen. **Millions** of people follow him, yet he denies that Jesus is the only way of salvation (John 14:6 & Acts 4:12). Timothy knew his mother's and grandmother's character. He lived with them; he observed them day-in and day-out. Anyone can perform for an hour on TV. When false teachers insinuated themselves into the Corinthian church (after Paul departed), they said this about Paul: “Paul's letters are demanding and forceful, but in person he is weak, and his speeches are worthless!” (2 Corinthians 10:10). Paul readily admitted that he was not the best orator—but his message was true, and did not enrich him in any way.
- 6 The goal is simply to rephrase these points in your own words, making sure that you understand them.
- 7 Hear group members' various responses and make sure that everyone understands these four concepts. Pastor Dan will be glad to help answer any questions folks have (Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com).
- 8 This question calls for honesty and transparency. Be ready to “prime the pump” with your own answers. Remember: our goal is life-application. Most of the questions thus far have focused on information; make sure you take time for application and transformation.

Sermon Summary (Key Text: 2 Timothy 3:10 - 17)

TCC unapologetically stands on the Bible as our authority and the foundation for everything we do, because what Scripture says, God says! Our text reveals **three priorities we must practice** to be a faithful church.

I. As a church, we must fully commit to following Christ (v. 10-13). Paul teaches that we need each other to follow Christ, just as Paul modeled to Timothy through his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance. We also need to expect to suffer for following Christ—something that Paul experienced throughout his ministry. As we strive to follow Christ we encounter evil people and imposters who seek to deceive (and are themselves deceived).

II. As a church, we must faithfully continue to trust the Scripture (v. 14-15). Knowledge of the Lord persuades us to faithfully continue, as Timothy well illustrates. The example of others' faithfulness propels us to faithfully continue, even as the promise of salvation pushes us to faithfully continue. The hope of salvation is the only thing that will motivate us through persecution.

III. As a church, we must find certainty in the inspiration and instruction of God's Word (v. 16-17). There are **four key elements to the doctrine of Scripture**:

(a) Authority of Scripture - "The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God" (Wayne Grudem). The very words of Scripture—all of them—are inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). God did not simply inspire concepts or theories, but the very words and grammar—every bit of it!

(b) Truthfulness of Scripture - The Bible is wholly true and reliable in all it addresses; it is without error and is completely true in the original manuscripts (John 17:17). "When all facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences" (Paul Feinberg).

(c) Clarity of Scripture - God communicated His Word in a clear and effective manner. The Lord is not hiding His expectations, but has revealed exactly what He expects of His creation. "The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible can be comprehended and understood by all who are aided by the Holy Spirit and by ordinary means" (Matthew Barrett).

(d) Sufficiency of Scripture - Scripture alone is our final authority and reveals all that we need for faith and practice. "Scripture is the school of the Holy Spirit. Just as nothing is omitted that is both necessary and useful to know, so nothing is taught except what is expedient to know" (John Calvin).

We experience certainty in the Christian life because Scripture is directly from God and is perfectly designed to equip us. It is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training, with the result that we are effective, and completely equipped. As a result, **our response to the Scripture is four-fold**:

[1] We commit to making Scripture the absolute authority in our church. In TCC's worship, we read the Bible together, sing the Bible together, preach the Bible to one another, pray the Bible over one another, and "see" the Bible together when we observe the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

[2] We commit to making Scripture the top priority in our personal walk... through personal Bible study (Psalm 119:9-16), through daily obedience to the Scripture (1 Peter 1:16), through commitment to the local church as the Bible commands (Hebrews 10:24-25), and through encouraging others in the Scripture weekly (Ephesians 4:12).

[3] We commit to making the heartbeat of Scripture our heartbeat, as we love God (Deuteronomy 6:5), love people (John 13:34), and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

[4] We commit to making the hero of Scripture our hero. Jesus is Savior (John 1:29), Lord (Philippians 2:9-11), and King (Revelation 19:16).

¹⁰ [Timothy] followed [Paul's]

teaching,
conduct,
purpose,
faith,
patience,
love, and
endurance, along with the
persecutions and
sufferings

that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.

What persecutions I endured—and yet the Lord rescued me from them all.

¹² In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

¹³ Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and
firmly believed.

You know those who taught you, and

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and
is profitable

for teaching,
for rebuking,
for correcting,
for training in righteousness,

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete,
equipped for every good work.

"Mechanical Lay-Out"

of

2 Timothy 3:10-17

(Christian Standard Version)

PointMan

- Monday, 7-8:30 PM, NGC Cafe
- Wednesday, 6:30-8 AM, 2nd Modular
- Wednesday, 6:30-8 PM, NGC Cafe
- Wednesday, 7-8:30 PM, home in F-V



- Follow the life-lessons of the pagan moon-worshipper who went on to become the father of the Judeo-Christian faith!
- Ever wrestled with God? Find out who else did—and won!
- Learn how God can use flawed men to "bless the nations".
- Join other TCC men as we study God's unfolding promises to us.
- Beginning September 13.
- Four locations and times to choose from.
- **Interested?** Go to: **tcc.org/PointMan**



The Bible, and only the Bible, has the authority to define the church. So, what IS the church? An institution? A club or voluntary association? It's much more than most of us realize! In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul referred to the church as "the household of God", "the assembly of the Living God", and "the pillar and support of the truth".

Monday—Key Truth: The true church is God's redeemed people. It belongs to God.

- Read Matthew 16:18. **Whose** church is the church?
How do you typically feel about things that are yours? How do you think God feels about his church?
- Acts 20:28 says: "...God purchased the church with His own blood."
How do you typically feel about things that cost you dearly? So, how do you think God feels about his church?
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says: "**Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man corrupts the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.**"
English does not distinguish second-person **singular** from second-person **plural** ("you" vs. "you all"), but Greek does, so I've clarified them for you below. Let's dig deeply into this rich passage.
⇒ "**Do you (plural) not know that you (plural) are a temple of God...**" What does Paul say that the church in Corinth is?
⇒ "...and that the Spirit of God dwells in **you (plural)**?"... Believers are God's temple. Who dwells in them?
⇒ "... **If any man (singular) corrupts the temple of God, God will destroy him (singular)...**" Who protects the church?
But what does it mean to "corrupt" the church ("the temple of God")?! Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-13 & 3:3-7 to find out!

Tuesday—Key Truth: The church as we know it on Earth is a mixture of "wheat and weeds"—true believers and lost people.

- Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43. Complete the following chart:

The sower (v. 24, 37) is...
The field (v. 24, 38) is...
The good seed (v. 27, 38) are...
The bad seed (v. 25-27, 38) are...
The enemy who mixes unbelievers among believers (v. 25, 39) is...
When did the difference between the wheat and the weeds become evident (v. 26)?
When will the weeds be removed from the wheat (v. 28-30, 39)?
After the weeds have been removed, how will the church appear (v. 43)?
Do you know for certain that you're "wheat"? How can you know?

Wednesday—Key Truth: The entire Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—are committed to the church.

- Read Ephesians 1:3-5. **When** did the Father choose us (v. 4)? What does v. 5 call this act of choosing?
- Read Ephesians 4:12 and 5:25. **Whose body** is the church? How did Christ make us his body?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. **Who** places us into the body of Christ? What does John 3:6-8 call this act?
- Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. Show how each member of the Trinity is intimately involved in the origin and operation of the church.

Thursday—Key Truth: The church is the "pillar and support" of God's truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

- Look up "pillar" in a standard English dictionary (such as dictionary.com). What is a pillar? What function does it accomplish? Look up "support" in the dictionary. What does a "support" do? What happens when something is unsupported?
- Wait! Isn't God's Word powerful (Hebrews 4:12)?! Does truth **really need** to be supported?
(Before you answer, go to YouTube and watch: "Victoria Osteen: Worship for YOURSELF!")
- What role should pastors play in "supporting the truth"? What role should church members play in supporting the truth?
- Skim Revelation 2-3 and place a "✓" next to the names of the churches which did a good job "supporting the truth" and a "x" next to those which failed to support the truth: ☐ Ephesus (2:1-7), ☐ Smyrna (2:8-11), ☐ Pergamum (2:12-17), ☐ Thyatira (2:18-29), ☐ Sardis (3:1-6), ☐ Philadelphia (3:7-13), ☐ Laodicea (3:14-22).
- **How many** of the seven churches of Revelation still exist today? So, **how important is it** that the truth be supported?

Friday—Key Truth: The church "supports the truth" by **proclaiming** it and by **protecting** it.

- Read Acts 13:1-2. **Who** initiates the proclamation of the truth?
Read Ephesians 4:11-16. In v. 11, **who** proclaims the truth? In v. 15-16 **who** proclaims the truth?
- According to Titus 3:9-11, **who** protects the truth? (Hint: To whom was "Titus" written—to a pastor or to church members?)
According to Romans 16:17, **who** protects the truth? (Hint: To whom was Romans written—to a pastor or to church members?)
- According to 2 Timothy 2:15-26, **how** do we protect the truth?

Saturday—Key Truth: The purposes of the church include worship, evangelism, discipleship, and caring for one-another.

- Read John 4:23-24. What do you learn about worship?
Read Philippians 3:1-3. What do you learn about worship?
Compare Colossians 3:16-17 to Ephesians 5:18-21. What do you learn about worship?
- Read Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20. Although these originally were spoken to the Apostles only, what hints do we see in them which prove that they are for all believers to obey?
- What is commanded in Romans 14:19? How do you think disciples are "built up"?
Read Acts 2:41-47. What were all the things listed here that built new believers up in their faith?
- Read Acts 4:32-35. How do we see believers caring for one another in this passage?
 1. According to Romans 12:10, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 2. According to Romans 14:19, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 3. According to Romans 15:7, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 4. According to Ephesians 4:2, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 5. According to Ephesians 5:21, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 6. According to Philippians 2:13, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 7. According to Colossians 3:13, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
 8. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:13, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?