




# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



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

- Tell about a time when you were homesick, longing for familiarity and loved-ones. (You may even have been in pleasant circumstances—**but it just wasn't "home"!**)
- Now, read Psalm 84 aloud as a group, marking words which express longing and eagerness.

Sometimes those who **are** home—such as this sparrow (v. 3)—don't appreciate it **as much as they ought!** Tell about a time when you grew in appreciation for the home you'd previously taken for granted.

It appears in the first half of v. 2 that the psalmist longed **for a location**, but the latter half of v. 2 reveals for what his heart and flesh actually cry out. ~~What~~, er, **WHO** is it?

"The living God" is described in other ways. What are they and what is the significance of each?

(v. 1) "LORD of \_\_\_\_\_", which signifies \_\_\_\_\_.

(v. 3) "my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_", which signifies \_\_\_\_\_.

(v. 8) "God of \_\_\_\_\_", which signifies \_\_\_\_\_.

- Three times (v. 4, 5 and 12) the psalmist describes those who long for God as "happy" or "blessed". In v. 4, the blessed man is **wistful** as he contemplates the great distance he is from God (v. 1-4). In v. 5, the blessed man is **resolute** in his journey, his pilgrimage, "home" to be with God (v. 5-9). In v. 12, the blessed man is **contented** as he meditates on the joy of being with God (v. 10-12).

As you consider your Christian life **at this time**, which of those three emotions **best** describes you?

**How can we use** our **present longings** (v. 1-4) to spur us on to **resolute pilgrimage** (v. 5-9), while **even now** responding to God in **delightful, contented trust** (v. 10-12; cf. John 20:29)?

- At this moment, as our heavenly home is still future, our resolute eagerness to be with God should cause our stride to lengthen and strengthen (v. 7). Do you see that in your own life? If so, **how?** If not, **what exactly** is distracting you? (Consult the list of possible distractions found in Luke 8:14.)

# Psalm 84

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of Armies.  
2 I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God.  
3 Even a sparrow finds a home, and a swallow, a nest for herself where she places her young —  
near your altars, Lord of Armies, my King and my God.  
4 How happy are those who reside in your house, who praise you continually.  
5 Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.  
6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a source of spring water;  
even the autumn rain will cover it with blessings.  
7 They go from strength to strength; each appears before God in Zion.  
8 Lord God of Armies, hear my prayer; listen, God of Jacob.  
9 Consider our shield, God; look on the face of your anointed one.  
10 Better a day in your courts than a thousand anywhere else.  
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than live in the tents of wicked people.  
11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield.  
The Lord grants favor and honor; he does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity.  
12 Happy is the person who trusts in you, Lord of Armies!



A large, rounded rectangular box with a dark grey drop shadow, containing ten horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see next page) is a simple way to study any passage.  
Let's use it to explore the believer's longing for our home in heaven...*

**Monday**—Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**Tuesday**— Read Romans 8:5-8

**Wednesday**— Read Titus 2:11-14

**Thursday**— Read John 14:1-3

**Friday**— Read Philippians 3:17-21

**Saturday**— Read 1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: [Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com](mailto:Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com)



Your children are experts at longing ~ whatever it is that they want at this moment consumes their entire attention! They've got it down to a science ~ they'll whine, cajole, lie, or throw a tantrum to receive what their heart desires.

Now obviously, we don't approve of, or give in to, their methods, but you gotta admit it ~ they've mastered that desire thing!

When it comes to longings, your children conduct a Master Class. Study them to learn how to increase your longing for heaven.

- How do they focus with laser precision on their desires?  
How are they able to sustain their commitment to it?  
How are they able to convince themselves of its necessity?  
How do they clear their minds of competing concerns?  
How do they use their imagination to sustain and even to increase the appeal of the object of their desire?

## Five Question Bible Study

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?]