

## What Child is This?

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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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 you to “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” Since “Talking Points, Walking Points” is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to “dive deep” too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled “Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time”, are perfect for private reflection.

## Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?

- Based **only** on the description found in Hebrews 1:1-4, how glorious was Jesus? Mark this scale:



Yet how did he actually appear to the human eye? How do you explain that?

- Imagine for a moment that the God who merely spoke, and the universe was created, wished to visit you. What descriptions do you think would apply to your emotional reaction to him?

Read Isaiah 57:15. Which half of that verse is more surprising to you—and why?

Now read Matthew 19:13–14. Which half of Isaiah 57:15 didn't register with Jesus' disciples?

Read Matthew 18:1–6. How serious is Jesus about our need to receive the humble and powerless?

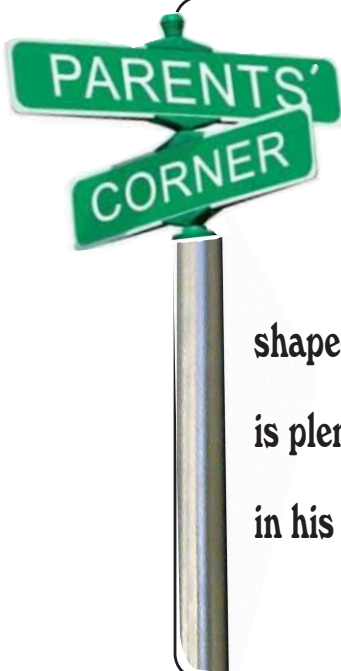
- What does it say to you that Jesus **came to us** as a defenseless, dependent infant?

Have **you** come **to Jesus** as a defenseless, dependent infant?

## Sermon Summary

At Christmastime we consider a sleeping babe, who is nothing less than God himself, embodied in a child! We sing about it in our carols. Sometimes even non-religious folks find themselves wondering, “Who really was that child named Jesus?” The Old Testament predicts his coming (John 5:39). The book of Hebrews (1:1-2) focuses on the identity of that special child, demonstrating that Judaism finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christianity. In these last days, God has spoken to us directly and personally through his Son, Jesus Christ—a far superior revelation to that which came to us in the Old Testament. The baby Jesus, born to the Virgin Mary, is literally the son of God (Mark 1:1, 11)! Even though great men such as Moses, Abraham, Isaiah, and John the Baptist each had a close relationship with God, Jesus was uniquely related to God. As phenomenal as this sounds, that baby lying there in that manger in Bethlehem was God the Creator. It was He, who in eternity past by the power of his word, spoke the Universe into existence. And yet on that first Christmas morning, that same Creator found himself a helpless baby in a manger (Colossians 1:15-16). The New Testament is clear: if you want to know what God is really like—read the gospels, for Jesus came to reveal what God the Father is like (Hebrews 1:3 & John 14:6-9). Not only is Jesus the unique Son of God and Creator of the universe—he would grow up to become our Savior, the One who would cleanse us from our sins.

Many today are asking, “What do I need a Savior for? What do I need to be saved from?” Romans 5:9 makes it clear that we need to be saved from the wrath of God. We cannot appreciate the good news of God’s love until we understand the bad news of God’s wrath. Our problem is not “out there” somewhere; the problem is in the human heart. In my heart and in yours (Matthew 15:19; Romans 3:23). God won’t grade on a curve; his standard is absolute perfection, and all of us have flunked that test. We all stand guilty and without excuse before God. God’s justice and holiness require that He punish the guilty (Romans 6:23), but his love moved him to send his Son into the world to die in our place, as our substitute. At the cross, a great exchange took place. Jesus took our sin, and in exchange offers us His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21)! Hebrews 1:3 shows that Jesus’ redemptive work on the cross completely satisfied God. When you think about it, Christmas really is about gift giving, because on that first Christmas so many years ago, God offered us the gift of his Son. It was the greatest gift that He could offer. If you have received that gift, 1 John 5:13 gives you great assurance. If you have not yet placed your trust in Christ as your Savior, today would be a great time to do that, don’t you think?



**Christmas is a magical time for children—not just because of the lights, food, and gifts—but also because Christmas fundamentally is about a child!**

**One wonders if perhaps Jesus' own experience as a child even helped to shape his thoughts about kids? This Christmas take a little time—fifteen minutes is plenty—to share with your children the special place God has for them in his heart. The following passages may be of help:**

**Luke 2:25-32    Matthew 18:1-5    Matthew 19:13-14**

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) *is a simple way to study any topic.*  
*Let's look at just a few of the hundreds of prophecies Jesus fulfilled...*

**Monday**—Read Genesis 3:15 & 12:3.

**Tuesday**—Read Isaiah 7:14 & Micah 5:2.

**Wednesday**—Read Isaiah 53.

**Thursday**—Read Psalm 22.

**Friday**—Read Isaiah 65:17 & 66:22.

**Saturday**—Read Matthew 5:18 & 24:35; Deuteronomy 18:21-22.

Need blank copies for doing more  
"Five Question Bible Study"?  
e-mail: [Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com](mailto:Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com)

### 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?]