


2024.10.20



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

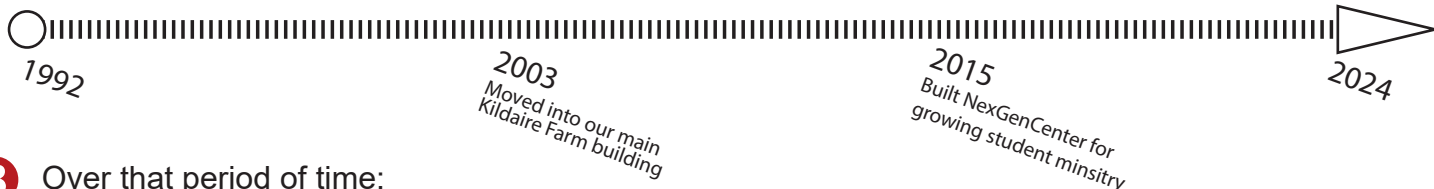
Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation 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.

Suggested Starter Question

- 1 What from Sunday's message interested you? ...surprised you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- 2 **When** did **you** join the unfolding story of TCC? Mark the following timeline.



- 3 Over that period of time:
What about TCC has changed?
What about TCC has stayed the same?
What role(s) have you played in the ways TCC has developed?
- 4 As a group, review the major providential acts of God which Pastor Doug recounted, then discuss:
- 5 Do you think Pastors Doug and Buddy were **surprised** by God's interventions? Why or why not?
- 6 **Before** each of God's interventions, what **biblical** confidence did they have to cling to?
- 7 **How possible do you think it is** that church involvement will turn out to be the most significant thing you do in your entire life? Why do you think that? Let 1 Timothy 3:15 shape your thoughts... *"the church of the living God is the household of God, the pillar and support of the truth"*.
- 8 What gifts, abilities or experience do you have which God could use to help your church grow?

- 1 This question is just designed to get the discussion rolling—which shouldn't be difficult with this encouraging and interesting message.

- 2 Have group members mark when (roughly) they began attending TCC. Then... Share your answers and enjoy each other's stories.

- 3 Again, share your answers and enjoy each other's observations.

- 4 These are found in the **Sermon Summary**.

- 5 Share your answers and enjoy each other's observations.

- 6 These thoughts are found in the **Sermon Summary**.

- 7 As we say, "familiarity breeds contempt", and this is nowhere more true than with the church. After hearing group members' thoughts, seek to expand their thinking with the following verses:
 - Matthew 16:18, in which Jesus says: "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." [1] the church belongs to Jesus, who is Lord of all, [2] Jesus promises to build it. [3] "the gates of Hades"—"hades" is the place of the dead, so this means that "death will not overpower Jesus' church". No other institution on earth can make these claims.
 - 1 Timothy 3:15 asserts that [1] the church belongs to God, the living God!, [2] the church is God's household (family), and [3] truth is supported and held up by the church. Again, no other institution on earth can make these claims!
 - Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16 and Revelation 21:1-4 state that the church is God's dwelling place, his sanctuary, and that he's so committed to it that he will destroy anyone who threatens it (1 Corinthians 3:17)! God is committed to his church!

- 8 Share your answers, and encourage folks to take the initiative to serve in those ways.

Sermon Summary

The story of TCC is one of God's faithfulness. Today I'd like to reminisce a bit, reviewing our history, and seeing God's fingerprints all over it. Reviewing God's faithfulness in the past is meant to encourage us to trust that he will be faithful to us in the future (Psalm 100:5). In 1989 my family moved to Dallas, Texas. Having served on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ for seven years at Duke University, I believed God was leading me into pastoral ministry. My first day at Dallas Theological Seminary I met a man named Buddy Walters. Buddy had played football at Mississippi College and had a short stint with the Washington Redskins. We quickly became close friends. Buddy and I shared a love for God's Word and a passion that others might come to know the God who had so powerfully changed us. Buddy and I also attended the same fast-growing, "contemporary model" church. Our experience there convinced us we'd never be content ministering in a "traditional model" church (where the music didn't sound like anything what we heard on the radio)

In the late 1980's Americans were dropping out of church by the thousands; 3,500 churches a year were closing their doors. It was my generation, the baby boomers, who were staying home. So Buddy and I decided to plant a church targeting unchurched baby boomers with children. By the early 1990's many Boomers began coming back to church. Once they came along, they couldn't figure out how to impart a spiritual/moral base apart from the church. But if they found church to be just as boring and irrelevant as it had been when they last attended, they dropped right back out. Buddy and I were convinced that if the church was to recapture these returning Baby Boomers it had to radically redesign itself. It had to be just as committed to being culturally relevant as it was to being Biblically faithful.

Buddy did some demographic research on southeastern cities, and the Research Triangle Park had a high population of unchurched Boomers. Also, back then there was only one contemporary model church of any size in the whole area. One of our seminary classmates knew a couple in Fuquay-Varina who might be interested in what we were doing, so we gave them a call. We asked if they would like to meet with us, and they said: "We would love to, and we'll invite some other couples who might be interested in hearing what you are doing." Listen we were thrilled! We hadn't even landed in N.C. and our church had already doubled in size! We held our first worship service in their home on October 25, 1992. Over the following weeks a few more families joined us. On December 6th, 1992 we began meeting at West Lake Elementary School with an average attendance of about 20. We had not yet "gone public"; our plan was do so on Easter Sunday.

We had almost no money at all, so how do you inform the broader community that you are even there? We prayed, and we got the idea to call the News and Observer and let them know that we were starting a new church in the area targeting Baby Boomers. They thought that was pretty cool, so they sent a writer and a photographer to interview us (see the March 8, 1993 N&O). A couple of days later, Time Magazine called. They were preparing an issue on Baby Boomers returning to church and they wanted to interview us too! They interviewed us, and followed us around for a day as we went door to door in neighborhoods inviting people to our Easter service. The April 5th issue of Time magazine came out and we were in there! Clearly God was working. Our little church family was just amazed at the goodness and power of God. A couple of days later "Good Morning America" called. No Joke! They wanted to do a live broadcast from our church on that first Easter Sunday morning. We turned that one down—we didn't want a media circus on Easter—but the next day a local news station, WTVD called. They assured me that they would be unobtrusive, and they did a very positive report. We never could have afforded this kind of publicity. But when God is your press agent, you don't need money! You just need faith. We had lots of that.

Easter Sunday, April 11, 1993, 142 people attended! (About half were my relatives—but over the next several weeks we leveled out to about 70 people). TCC has grown steadily ever since. Later we relocated to Oak Grove Elementary. As our church continued to grow, we felt the limitations inherent in using rented facilities, so we began to search for property of our own. We built this facility, moving in on Palm Sunday 2003. We had an incredible celebration! (I'm so glad Buddy got to see this building; as some of you know, on September 11, 2003, just five months after we moved into this building, God called Buddy home.)

When we moved into this facility we had an average attendance of 250. A year later we were averaging about 450. Today somewhere between 900-1000 people gather here for worship. God continues to bring people our way, and He is sovereignly working to transform ordinary people like us, into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. I believe that we have a bright future; did you know that Wake County is now the most populous county in the state? The new 540 loop is half a mile from here; our church will be readily assessable to even more people. As these new neighbors move into our neighborhoods we need to take the initiative to befriend them and seek to share God's love with them.

About a third of those moving into our area will be looking for a church home—and the rest are unchurched. We want to share God's love with them as well! We are expanding our discipleship ministry, offering biblical training in finances, marriage, parenting, theology, counseling, Bible studies and individual mentoring. One of our elders, Jim Diffenderfer, is working hard to improve and expand our Community Group system. Michelle Underwood and Latisha Hunt give leadership to our children's ministries, and Daniel Havener and Mary Stryner give leadership to our student ministry. And of course, we couldn't do what we do without the many volunteers who serve faithfully in these areas. I believe that the best years of ministry at TCC are in the future. I can't wait to see what God is going to do in the next 30 years! Will you pray with me to that end?

“Remembering” is an important biblical concept. This week we’ll explore this interesting topic.

Monday—Read Deuteronomy 8:1-9

- According to v. 2, the Jews were to **remember** something. Summarize what it was.
- Now, let’s dive deep into what the Jews were to remember, and what that remembering accomplishes for them:
- According to v. 2c, what was the **purpose** of God’s leading, humbling, and testing?
 - According to v. 3, God first made them hungry, then fed them supernaturally, so that...**what?**
 - According to v. 5, what was God trying to accomplish through forty years of testing?
 - What three things are commanded in v. 6?
 - According to v. 7-9, **why** are they to do those three things? Explain the connection between v. 2-6 and v. 7-9.
 - *How about you*—describe a time (ie, “remember”) when the Lord disciplined you as a father disciplines his child..

Tuesday—Read Deuteronomy 9:1-7

- Explain how v. 1-3 are designed to keep the Jews from **being afraid**.
- Explain how v. 4-6 are designed to keep the Jews from **boasting**.
- How many times does God repeat the same thing in v. 4-6? Why did he do that?
- Circle the words “**remember**” and “**forget**” in v. 7. How does God underscore the “reality check” he delivered in v. 4-6?
- In v. 4-6, how are the Anakites (or, “sons of Anak”) described?
- In v. 6c-7, how are the Jews described?
- So, if the Jews aren’t paragons of virtue, why is God giving them that land (v. 5)? What does that mean?
- *How about you*—explain how God’s blessings to you also are not “all about you” (see Romans 5:6-10)?

Wednesday—Read Deuteronomy 15:12-15 and 24:17-22

- Deuteronomy 15:15 and 24:18 and 24:22 all command them to **remember** same thing, and for the same purpose. Explain.
- What does God command in Deuteronomy 15:12-14. In Deuteronomy 24:17? In Deuteronomy 24:19-21?
- If you were to “boil those passages down to a principle level” (ie, so it’s not about garments and grapes), what is commanded?
- What is the logical connection between those commands and the reasons given in 15:15; 24:18; and 24:22?
- *How about you*—connect your former enslavement to sin (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 6:17 & 8:15) to how you should treat others.

Thursday—Read Deuteronomy 8:7-20

- According to v. 7-9, what is the Lord about to do for his people?
- According to v. 18, what are the Jews commanded to **remember**?
- Mark the word “**forget**” in v. 11, 14, and 19, then...
 - What does v. 14 command them not to **forget**?
 - According to v. 11, what does **forgetting consist of, how is it done?**
 - According to v. 19, what is **forgetting** God **evidenced by?**
 - According to v. 19-20, what did God promise the Jews he would do to them if they **forgot** him?
- Relate “**remembering**” / “**not forgetting**” to God’s jealousy (see Deuteronomy 6:14-15).
- *How about you*—connect God’s jealousy to your life. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-3. V. 2 casts salvation as marriage to Christ, with Christ as the groom and believers as his “pure virgin”. “Marital faithfulness” in the Christian life means “sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (v. 3)—and the risk is that we might be “led astray” from it. Christ is jealous for your devotion—how’s your “marriage to Christ” going?

Friday—Read Deuteronomy 16:1-3, 12 and Deuteronomy 7:17-21

- The Jews were commanded to celebrate the Passover each year. Mark the word “**remember**” in Deuteronomy 16:3 and 12.
Exactly what does Deuteronomy 16:12 commands them to remember?
Exactly what does Deuteronomy 16:3 commands them to remember?
How long, and **how often**, were the Jews to think about **the day of their deliverance** from slavery?
- *How about you*—Write a brief “press release” about the day you were saved.
- Mark the word “**remember**” in Deuteronomy 7:18. **Exactly what** are they commanded them to remember? According to v. 18 and 21, how was remembering what God did to Pharaoh supposed to impact their emotions?
- *How about you*—according to Romans 8:31-39, how should God’s deliverance of you impact your emotions?

Saturday—Read Joshua 1:1-2, 10-11 and Joshua 3:5—4:24

- Outline **how remembering** was to be accomplished by the Jews.
- *How about you*—Write your plan for remembering your deliverance from sin: _____

