

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2026-7-19



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

Note: For each of the following questions, refer to the **Sermon Summary** inside.

- Pastor Jim observed that humans have an ability to detect that design has an objective basis, that the design found in nature is beyond the reach of chance, and that only God is capable of producing such design. How convincing did you find his arguments to be—and why?
- The two criteria for recognizing design are that an object or event must be both highly improbable (complex) and match a recognizable pattern (specified). How does Mt. Rushmore fulfill these criteria?
- Read Romans 1:18-20. How does this text support the main ideas of today's sermon and help explain why many people reject the conclusion that creation points to God?
- Why does specified complexity point to intelligent design rather than chance?
- Why must Special Revelation have priority over General Revelation?
- What habits can give Scripture its proper authority when scientific theories appear to conflict with it?
- Why is patience and grace important when discussing creation and evolution with others?
- How should Romans 1 shape our evangelism and conversations about creation?

Next Sunday!



***Next week come hear special guest
Dr. Terry Mortenson of Answers In Genesis!
Sunday morning, 10am, and
Sunday, Monday & Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8pm!***

Special children's content each evening (Pre-K to 5th grade)!

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| • Sunday evening, July 26 | Ape-men, Adam and the Gospel |
| • Monday evening, July 27 | Millions of Years: Unscientific Origin, Catastrophic Consequences |
| • Tuesday evening, July 28 | Noah's Flood: Washing Away Millions of Years |

Learn more about Dr. Mortenson's here:



Sermon Summary

The creation-evolution debate is fundamentally a conflict between competing worldviews: naturalism and theism. Using abductive reasoning ("the inference to the best explanation"), four questions are applied to determine the most adequate explanation for the complexity and diversity of life. Last week we saw that (1) the so-called "Darwin's Tree of Life" actually conflicts with the fossil evidence, (2) archaeopteryx is better understood as a "mosaic organism" rather than a transitional fossil, (3) evolutionary interpretations of human beings are better explained as ape-like creatures and fully human populations which have become extinct, and (4) bacterial drug resistance is an example of existing genetic variation and mutations that do not generate novel genetic information (as evolutionary theory claims). Today we will consider two additional questions: whether evolutionary mechanisms are capable of producing biological complexity, and whether an alternative cause better explains the evidence.

I. How We Detect Design Design can be recognized objectively through the concept of "specified complexity", as articulated by William Dembski. Two criteria that distinguish intelligent design from chance are: complexity (the event or arrangement is highly improbable) and specification (the arrangement conforms to an independently recognizable pattern). Both criteria must be present before design is reasonably inferred. This method is employed in numerous disciplines, including: forensic science, archaeology, insurance fraud investigations, intellectual property law, financial fraud detection, and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence ("SETI"). Specified complexity is therefore presented as an objective indicator of intelligent agency rather than a subjective intuition.

II. Beyond the Reach of Chance DNA contains the information required to produce proteins essential for life. Functional proteins require highly specific amino acid sequences that fold into precise three-dimensional structures. Researcher Douglas Axe notes that: functional sequences within a given protein fold are extraordinarily rare, functional enzymes of any kind are even more improbable, and even the total estimated number of cellular replication events throughout Earth's history does not provide sufficient probabilistic resources for chance to generate such proteins. Because living cells require hundreds of interacting proteins, the probability of producing a functioning cell through unguided processes is presented as overwhelmingly beyond the reach of chance. The only known cause of specified complexity is argued to be intelligent agency.

III. Only One Candidate Up to the Task—God Design is presented as existing at every level of reality: DNA, proteins, cellular systems, human physiology, the laws of physics, and Earth's life-supporting environment. The argument concludes that evolutionary mechanisms lack sufficient causal power to account for this specified complexity, while intelligent agency adequately explains it. The design inference is presented as a positive argument based upon known causes of specified complexity rather than merely an argument from ignorance ("God of the gaps").

Conclusion Specified complexity provides an objective basis for detecting design. The complexity found throughout living systems is argued to exceed the explanatory power of chance and natural processes. Intelligent design is therefore presented as the best explanation for biological information and complexity. Scripture teaches that creation reveals God's existence and attributes, while humanity suppresses this truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18–20).

Application

1. Evaluate scientific claims concerning origins carefully, recognizing that worldview commitments influence interpretations of historical science.
2. Give priority to Scripture over conclusions drawn from general revelation because:
 - **Purpose:** General revelation reveals God's power and glory, while Scripture reveals God's character, redemption, origins, and future (Romans 1:21).
 - **Plainness:** Scripture communicates propositional truth; nature requires interpretation.
 - **Purity:** Creation has been affected by the Fall, whereas Scripture has been inspired and faithfully preserved (Romans 8:19–22).
3. Show patience and grace toward those holding different views, recognizing that deeply held beliefs often change gradually.
4. Continue studying biblical creation through reputable Christian resources.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

We learned a new word from Pastor Jim—"abductive" reasoning! It simply is the process of drawing the most plausible explanation from a set of observations. The word "abductive" may be new to us, but humans have been using this sort of reasoning since the dawn of time! Let's study a biblical example. (Let's also learn to be equally logical with the so-called "evidence for evolution"!)

Monday— Skim the account in 1 Samuel 4–5 to familiarize yourself with the historical situation.

Israel went to battle against their perennial enemy, the Philistines. They took the Ark of the Covenant into battle (as a "good luck charm"), assuming it would guarantee victory. Instead, they were routed and the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines! The Philistines placed it in the temple of their false god, Dagon. The next morning, Dagon was found fallen face down before the Ark, with his head and hands broken off! Then Yahweh began afflicting the Philistines with severe tumors and death. Soon enough they were looking for a way to get rid of that hot potato! They used **abductive reasoning** to confirm the source of their woes.

Tuesday— Read 1 Samuel 6:1-12, then focus on v. 1-6.

The Philistines had experienced devastating plagues after capturing the Ark. Two hypotheses were possible: (#1) either the God of Israel was afflicting them or else (#2) it was mere coincidence. How to know? Notice that they did not immediately embrace a supernatural explanation simply because unusual events had occurred. Good abductive reasoning begins by identifying all reasonable explanations rather than assuming the first one is correct.

Wednesday— Again read 1 Samuel 6:1-12, then focus on v. 7-9.

The Philistines devised a test to distinguish between these two possible explanations. They selected a brand-new cart (even if hypothesis #1 were correct, now Yahweh may be peeved because they used a dirty, used cart!). The cart was pulled by two cows that had never been yoked (if Yahweh made untrained cows behave themselves and pull the cart, it would give extra proof!). The baby calves of these two mama cows were separated from them (ain't no mama gonna leave her baby—unless God makes her do it!). This was a brilliant experimental design with multiple safe-guards against mere happenstance. If the cows ignored every natural instinct and traveled directly toward Israel, then Yahweh clearly was responsible for the tumors.

Thursday— Again read 1 Samuel 6:1-12, then focus on v. 10-12.

Against every natural instinct, these mama cows took the road straight to Israelite territory, never turned aside, and continued lowing in anguish for their calves as they traveled. The Philistines—like every good scientist—carefully observed the entire journey. The evidence matched precisely what would happen only if Israel's God were directing the animals. These scientists didn't manipulate the outcome or reinterpret the facts. They accepted what the evidence most naturally indicated. Abductive reasoning requires intellectual honesty. Evidence must be allowed to challenge prior assumptions.

Friday— Once more read 1 Samuel 6:1-12.

Notice that the Philistines accepted the best explanation (v. 3-12), even though it was distasteful to them personally. ("Yahweh, the Jewish god, truly is God—and is more powerful than their idol, Dagon.") Although they still did not repent and worship Yahweh, they nevertheless acknowledged where the evidence pointed. This illustrates both intellectual honesty (accepting the evidence of their experiment) and also the fact that saving faith is more than mere intellectual assent; it requires submission of the will to the One True God (cf. James 2:19). The goal of abductive reasoning is not mere intellectual curiosity (discovering the most plausible explanation—you can be right, but still go to hell!). We must also respond submissively to God's truth.

Saturday— Now, let's apply abductive reasoning to the question: Does evolution or divine creation fit the facts?

1. Observe a surprising fact or puzzling phenomenon in the world around you (eg. the human eye).
2. Generate hypotheses — brainstorm possible explanations that could account for it.
3. Evaluate each hypothesis on criteria like simplicity, explanatory power, and coherence with existing knowledge.
4. Select the hypothesis that best (most plausibly) explains the observation.
5. Accept that hypothesis as a working conclusion, while remaining open to revision if new evidence emerges.