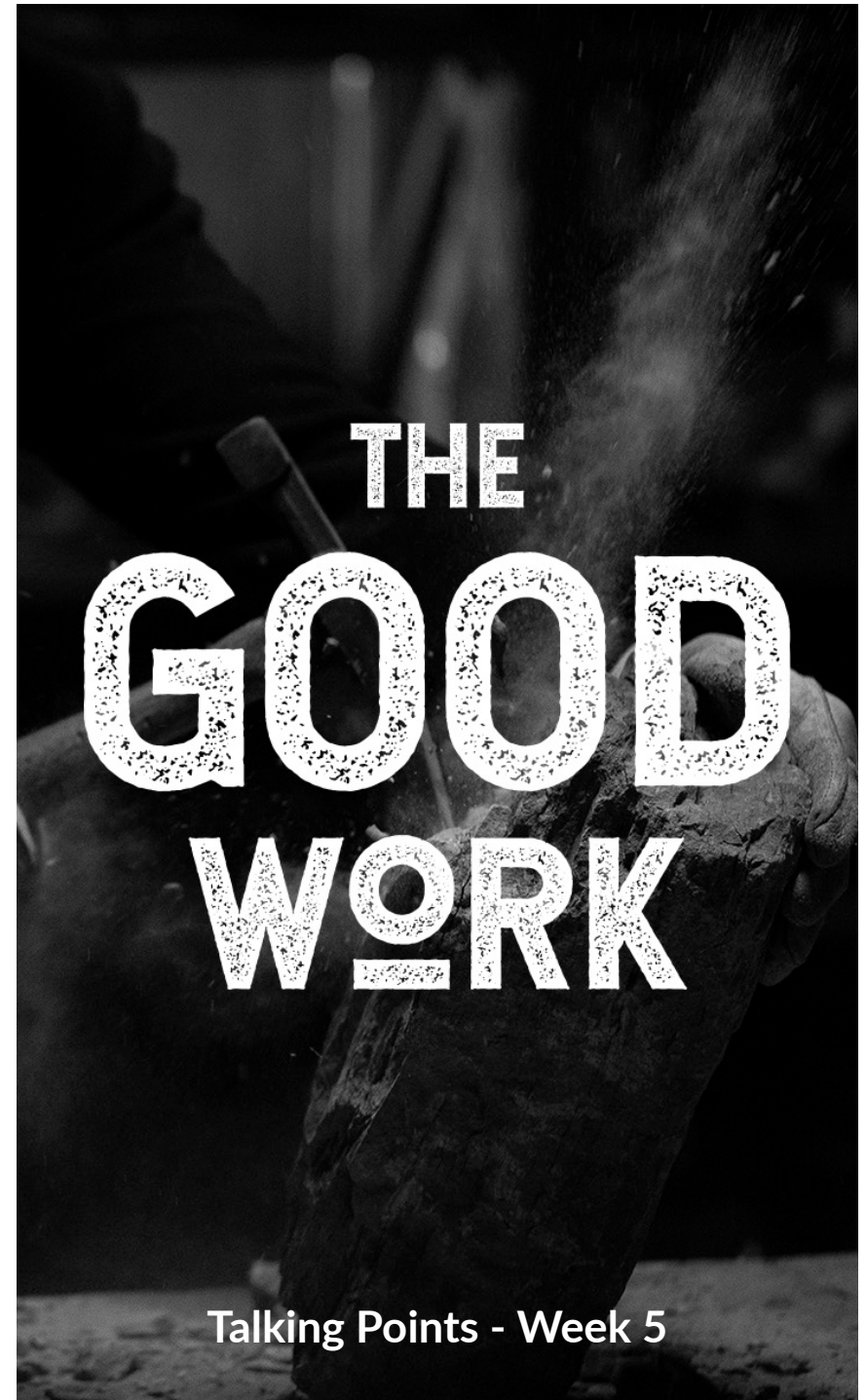


NOTES & QUOTES



CONNECT (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. Has there ever been a season in your life when you have felt most spiritually alive?
2. When it comes to the Bible, what is your favourite verse, passage or book?
3. What is something in your life that brings you abundant joy?

THRIVE (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

4. In verses 1-2 of Nehemiah 8 it mentions Ezra, the scribe and priest, who had been ministering in Jerusalem. Read Ezra 7:10. How was Ezra qualified to preach and explain God's Word to God's people? How might this verse help us prepare our hearts for God's Word?
5. What was the attitude of the people of Israel toward the Scripture? (Reference verses 3, 6, 9, and 17 of Nehemiah 8). How does each of the following New Testament passages reflect the attitude we should have towards God's Word? (1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12)
6. Discuss the cooperation between Nehemiah and Ezra in Nehemiah 8:9 – a layman and a priest with very different personalities (see Ezra 9:3 and Nehemiah 13:25). Do you see any example for us in this?

7. Read Nehemiah 8:9-12. How do you feel we receive the "joy of the Lord", and in what ways does it provide us with strength?

COMMIT (BE ON MISSION)

8. Why is having a heart that is prepared to receive from God's Word so important, and how can you prepare yourself to hear from God's Word?
9. Why do you think the people responded first in grief and then in joy once they heard and understood God's Word? How might this progression relate to people's responses to the Gospel today?
10. What do you feel are barriers that might be hindering corporate and personal revival among the people of God today and how could these obstacles be overcome?
11. Spend some time praying for spiritual renewal in your life, in Compass, across our region and in the world.

PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY

"Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10