



# Men's Golf Fellowship

## Speaker Discussion Questions

### Governor Scott Walker

### Leader's Guide

Spiritual Topics: Sacrifice, Prayer, Faith and Following an Example

About the Talk: It was clear from Governor Scott Walker's talk that his faith in God has impacted both his personal and professional life. His faith has called him to act differently and ask difficult questions like: What does sacrifice in my life look like? What am I really trusting in? What am I saying to people by how I live my life? Let's take some time to discuss these and unpack them in our own lives.

#### Discussion Questions

- Gov. Scott Walker talked about his decision to suspend his campaign when it became clear that he would split the Republican vote and allow the Democrat challenger to win. That was an incredible personal sacrifice for a "greater cause". Have you ever made a sacrifice for a greater cause in your career or personal life? Please share it with the group. Is sacrifice difficult for you? Plato said, "An unexamined life is not worth living". Examine yourself. Do you look to your own interests more than the interests of those around you? Please share an example. *(Leader note: a good way to introduce this question is to ask about how they specifically sacrifice for their wife, children, important personal relationships, etc.)*

#### **Related Scripture: Genesis 22 – Sacrifice**

- Where we're going: Christ's sacrifice. The obvious connection here is the incredible personal sacrifice Christ made for the greater cause of mankind's salvation.
- Going Deeper: Two ways to go deeper here: 1) Read Philippians 3:4-10 aloud. Here we see that Paul has the right pedigree and a life of comfort and prominence ahead of him by being part of the upper class Pharisees. Nevertheless, he sacrificed it all in order to follow God's will. Many times, God puts something that's fairly valuable to you on the chopping block in order to test and strengthen you spiritually. (If this concept is confusing, you could read James 1:2-4.) Is there anything of perceived value in your life that this could be describing? How do you see the sacrifice of that strengthening you? 2) Read Philippians 2:3-8 aloud. As a group, explain

what Jesus sacrificed in order to become human (His glory, limitlessness, complete divine knowledge, etc.). Now discuss what He sacrificed in order to ensure your salvation (His very life).

- Gov. Walker told an interesting story of visiting a dying man in hospice who would pray to an empty chair next to his bed, envisioning Jesus sitting there. He explained how that affected his prayer life and how personal and conversational our prayers should be. How often do you pray to God? What is the content of your prayer like? Is it more focused on what God can do for you, or what God can do for others? When you pray, is it conversational, or formal? (*Leader note: is there “thee” and “thou” language, does your voice change, are you more formal, do you use “cannot” instead of “can’t”, etc.?*) Why do we feel the need to do these things? Is it wrong? Gov. Walker ended the story by saying that the man later died with his head on the seat of the chair. What do you think that means? (*Leader note: prayer at its most basic level is telling God that you need His help and trusting Him to accomplish what you cannot. This man was trusting God with his life.*) **Related Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13 – Prayer**
  - Where we’re going: Developing trust with God through prayer. Prayer should be a way of developing a trust relationship with your Savior.
  - Going Deeper: Read the end of Habakkuk’s prayer in chapter 3:17-19. In what ways does he exemplify trust in God (i.e. praying and trusting God and enduring through suffering as signs of trusting God)? Share a difficult time in your life with the group (i.e. when there were no grapes on the vines and no sheep in the pens). If you trusted in God during that time, what did that look like (praying, waiting on God, trusting in His timing)? If you did not, how did you rely on yourself instead of God (lack of prayer, acting instead of waiting on God or blaming God for some suffering instead of trusting Him) and what were the results?
- Gov. Walker talked about the question he was asked by a moderator in one of the presidential debates in 2016: “what impact does your faith have on your life?”. It has been said that everybody has a faith; it is just the object that many people put their faith in that is in question. What are some things that could be the objects of your faith (i.e. position, power, portfolio, a relationship, a higher spiritual power, etc.)? Another way to find out what one puts their faith in is to ask: what is the object that if you lost it, would change your life most radically? What is it that gives your life meaning, purpose, and value? How has what you put your faith in impacted or directed your life? Please share one of the ways it may have done so with the group. If you have a faith in God, what impact has that faith had on your life? What has changed? What decisions have been influenced by your faith? What relationships have been impacted (i.e. with your

spouse, parents, children, neighbors and friends) by your faith? **Related Scripture: Luke 19:1-10 – Faith’s impact**

- Where we’re going: Christ’s impact on a life. The direction of this discussion should be toward helping men who have a faith in God, or more specifically Christ, understand the deeper impact He should have on their lives.
  - Going Deeper: Read Luke 19:1-10 out loud and discuss the changes that came over Zacchaeus once he put his faith in Christ. As you list the changes, consider if that particular change would be hard for you. Now consider the excuses that one could give when a change is demanded of you. Perhaps read through Exodus 3:10 to 4:13 and list the excuses Moses gave God (I can’t do it, I don’t have the ability, I am scared, I don’t want to). Now consider what Gov. Walker said in response to the question in the debate. He said, “I’m an imperfect man and it’s only by the grace of God and the blood of Jesus Christ that I am saved and able to do the things I do”. How do you think a faith like that would direct a life, if you truly lived that out?
- Gov. Walker told the story of a man getting seasick on a boat and the captain telling him that the key to avoiding seasickness is to stare at a stable point on the horizon. He went on to say that his faith in God has always been his point of “stability” and that over the years his children saw how it steadied and guided his family. If you were to ask your spouse or children, what do you think they would say is your “stable point on the horizon”? It has been said that people learn more from observing your behavior than listening to your words. If you had to list just one thing, what behavior have you modeled most in your life? If you could, would you change what you have modeled to something else? What would you like your life to communicate to the people around you? **Related Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:1 – Modeling**
    - Where we’re going: Modeling Christ. The purpose here is to begin to help men understand that the gospel can change what they model (i.e. their behavior) from the inside out.
    - Going Deeper: Read Ezekiel 36:26. The great thing about the gospel is that it has the ability to actually change your heart and thus your behavior. What are some of the conflicts between what you do and what you want to do? Another way to put it is, what is something that you do that you wish you didn’t do? If you were the person you wanted to be, how would you act differently? How could you go about changing those behaviors? **(Additional verses: Matthew 23:25-26, Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 5:17)**

Closing Prayer: Lord, I know that I have not modeled perfectly what I want, nor what You want. I keep doing things that I know are not in line with how You want me to live. Please forgive me and help change my heart so that the people around me see what You are making me to be. (Prayer based on Romans 7:15-20.)