

THE JOY OF UNITY

Philippians 2:1-4

PAT NEMMERS

October 28, 2018

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Pastor Pat began his message on Sunday by saying, "Great visions require great sacrifices."
 - What are some visions/dreams/goals that have required great sacrifice in your life?
- What is your initial response to the announcement of our next Engage Network Church Plant?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
 - **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
 - **Read** Philippians 2:1-4. Pastor Pat reminded us of five ways we should lean into the joy of unity.
1. **For the joy of unity you must embrace the community (Philippians 1:27; 2:1-2)**
 1. According to Paul (vs. 1), what are some important characteristics of Christian community?
 2. Share some personal stories of how you've seen these characteristics lived out in your group.
 3. Eugene Peterson said, "I am not myself by myself." How have you seen this to be true in your life?
 2. **For the joy of unity you must get your head in the game (vs. 2)**
 1. Paul reminds us to think the same way on central matters. As a group, create a quick list of peripheral matters (that don't affect the gospel) that we might be tempted to make central matters.
 2. What are some potential consequences of making peripheral matters into central matters?
 3. **For the joy of unity you must pursue the joy of oneness (vs. 2)**
 1. We often say that Saylorville Church is a "Gospel-Centered" church. What does that mean?
 2. If we are going to be a church centered on the gospel, we must be gospel-centered individuals. How are you personally experiencing the joy of seeing more people more like Jesus in your life?
 4. **For the joy of unity you must embrace the grace of humility (vs. 3)**
 1. How can you tell if someone is a humble person? Talk about someone in your life who is humble.
 2. What are two or three areas in your own life where you could be more intentional about putting the needs of others before your own? Will you commit to working on those areas this week?
 5. **For the joy of unity you must get out of your own way (vs. 4)**
 1. Sometimes we think our plan is better than God's (Proverbs 16:9). How might your pride be preventing you right now from being part of something great that God might be doing?
 2. Is there an area of your life right now (a plan, a goal, an idea, a desire, etc.) that God might be asking you to sacrifice? How can you get out of your own way and let God do His work this week?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will be joyfully unified as part of the greater community of Christ-followers.

MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME

- *Philippians 2:1-2 - "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."*

