

The questions below are intended 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 needs of their unique group.

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- On Sunday, Pastor Brad Bigney spoke in all three morning services at Saylorville. Brad was the speaker for this year's Thrive Marriage Conference that took place last Friday and Saturday.
  - ➔ Did you attend the Thrive Marriage Conference? If so, what are you taking away from that weekend that you don't want to forget about and need to be practicing already this week?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- What is your one thing from Sunday's message? What stuck out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, a challenge, a question, or a new thing you learned)?
- **Read Matthew 18:21-36**
- How would you respond to this quote that Brad used to open his message on Sunday:  
*Whenever forgiveness becomes optional, relationships become fragile, unsustainable and ultimately disposable.*
- Brad gave us three biblical steps to help us move toward forgiveness:
  - 1. Start by looking past the other person and back to God**
    - In Matthew 18, Jesus uses a parable to help His listeners understand a spiritual truth. Put into one sentence the truth that He wants us to learn from this parable.
      - The first servant owed approximately \$9.6 billion in today's currency. How did the master respond to this servant?
      - The second servant owed the first servant approximately \$15,000. How did the first servant respond when the second servant couldn't pay him back?
      - Which character do you identify with in the parable? Why?
    - How can you practice the Apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 4:30-32 this week?
  - 2. Stop expecting payment and choose to absorb the cost of their sin**
    - How would you feel if Jesus had the same attitude about forgiving you as you have about forgiving others?
    - Do you ever find yourself bitter, holding a grudge, or harboring an unforgiving spirit?
      - Think about how Christ has forgiven you, then talk about how you will absorb the cost of those who have "sinned" against you recently.
  - 3. Refuse to let all the sin in your relationship define or defile the whole relationship**
    - In your relationships (spouse, parents, children, friends, coworkers, etc.), do you tend to keep score of how and how many times others have hurt you?
      - What might change in your attitude, outlook, and overall view of life if you woke up every morning and said, "Today, because Christ has forgiven me, I'm going to work hard to forgive others. I'm going to look past their "sins" against me, and try to see grace and mercy in all of this."?
      - Husbands, wives, parents, children, friends, coworkers, can you think of specific "sins" that you need to look past right now?

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray together, asking God to remind you of how much you have been forgiven (the Gospel), and then to cause you to show mercy and forgiveness to those around you this week.

