# PENETRATING THE DARKNESS

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

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 Nemmers told the story of the release of Pastor Saeed Abedini from an Iranian prison. Freedom stories are powerful - narratives, movies, books, or personal experiences in which people are freed from some kind of slavery or imprisonment.
  - → What's your favorite "freedom story" and why do you think these stories are so powerful?

### **APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)**

- What is your one thing from Sunday? 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 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
- On Sunday, Pastor Nemmers shared four ways that we can penetrate the darkness that still imprisons so many today:
- 1. Renounce man-centered ministry (vs. 1-2)
  - · Is there a man-centered ministry you are putting too much emphasis on?
    - ➡ How is this affecting you and your thinking? Are you being deceived?
  - Share an experience in which you have seen Satan (or his followers) at work, disguising himself as an angel of light.
    - ➡ What guidance are we given in Scripture to help us identify our enemy and know where he is hiding?
  - How about you? Are you hiding anything? If we had an all-access pass to your life for a week, are there areas of your life that you would be embarrassed to show us?

### 2. Realize the dilemma that the lost are facing (vs. 3)

- What might change in your perspective of people around you if you saw them in light of eternity either on their way to heaven, or on their way to hell?
- Knowing the truth of the fate facing the lost, name someone with whom you are motivated to share the Gospel.
  - → How can you make that happen this week?

### 3. Recognize our formidable enemy (vs. 4)

What's the danger if we don't understand how much Satan hates Christians?
On the other hand, is there a danger in giving Satan too much credit?

### 4. Reclaim the power of the Gospel (vs. 5-6)

- · Are you claiming the power of God in the gospel of Christ?
  - → What's one step you need to take to get closer to making that a daily, visible reality in your life?

### **PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)**

• Pray together, asking God for opportunities to penetrate the darkness in this world with the light of the freeing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

