

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)

- Describe a time in your life when you were inspired/moved by the suffering of someone else.
 - Did that emotion lead to action on your part? Were you moved to DO something?
 - Why do you think we are especially inspired by people who suffer for their faith in Jesus?

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 Matthew 27:24-31**
- In his message, Pastor Pat shared three truths about Christ's suffering and death:

Truth #1: Jesus didn't die for our inspiration. He died for our salvation.A. Read Hebrews 12:1-2.

1. Is it possible to be inspired by Jesus' death but not saved? If so, what would that look like?
2. How would you respond to someone who says, "I'm really moved by everything Jesus went through on this earth, but He was just a man who inspires me to live a good life."

B. It's possible that the same people who were welcoming Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna!" in Matthew 21 were the same people who were condemning Him with shouts of "Crucify!" in Matthew 27. If you were part of that crowd both times, what would you have done?

Truth #2: Jesus wasn't brutalized to alleviate our pain. He was brutalized to illustrate our sins.A. Read Isaiah 52:14 in several different Bible versions.

1. How does Isaiah describe Christ's appearance during His suffering?
2. Take a few moments to try to picture your own sin hanging on the cross.
3. Now describe your sin out loud using the same kinds of words that are used to describe Christ's appearance during His suffering. (E.g., "My sin of pride is appalling.")
4. Talk about how that image of your sin might change your perspective on how God sees sin and how you might react this week when you are tempted to sin.

Truth #3: Jesus didn't suffer for His faith. He suffered for our faith.

A. 1 Peter 3:18 tells us that Christ "suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God."

1. According to Peter, what was the purpose for Christ's suffering?
2. What might change this Easter season if you remember why Christ suffered?
3. What do you think God's purpose is when He allows suffering in your life?
4. What might change this Easter season if you remember why God allows suffering in your life?

All God's ways are perfect. I must be content with that.

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- List by name those who your Group will be inviting to the Easter services at Saylorville.
- Pray that God will give you open doors to invest in the lives of those same people and opportunities to invite them to an Easter service in a few weeks.

