

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF HIS RETURN

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3; Acts 17:1-9

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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)

- *In a climate that seems to conjure up more complaints than gratitude, what are the things, people, circumstances, or opportunities you're grateful for right now.*
- *What is the connection between gratefulness and joy? Have you seen that connection in your own life?*

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time you met. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 and Acts 17:19. In his message, Pastor Pat reminded us **three evidences of salvation that caused Paul to be grateful**.

Introduction:

- Pastor Pat said, "You keep serving and God will keep leading."
 - *Where do you see God leading in the areas you are serving right now? Not really serving right now? How might you be able to play your part in the church and your community this week?*
- In Acts 17, Paul spent three weeks presenting (explaining and proving) the Gospel in the synagogue using the Old Testament Scriptures.
 - *As a group, brainstorm on how you might present the Gospel using truth from the Old Testament as well as your own personal stories.*

Three evidences of salvation that caused Paul to be grateful (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 9-10):

1. **Work of faith**

- *What are some of the fears you've struggled with over the last few months?*
- *How might Christ's return (the theme of 1 Thessalonians) help calm some of those fears?*
- *What small steps can you take this week to help turn some of your fears to faith?*

2. **Labor of love**

- *Love must be the motivation of all of our labor. What are some other motivations that sometimes sneak in to the good works that you do?*
- *How can we make sure that we are motivated by love when we serve, give, work, etc.*

3. **Steadfastness of hope**

- *Hope is vital in our world right now, but we don't always put our hope in Jesus, do we? Where have you put your hope over the last few months? How has that worked out?*
- *Have each person in the group share one way they plan to "live in light of Christ's return" this week.*

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your life will be characterized by these three evidences of salvation.

