

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)

- *If you could remove one tension in your life right now, which one would that be?*
- *If God has allowed that tension (and He has!), what do you think He's trying to teach you through it?*

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 2:17-20. In his message, Pastor Pat shared **the tensions most true followers of Christ experience in life**.

Tensions Most Believers Experience:**1. Longed-for Affections (vs. 17)**

- Paul explains the depth of his love by using the phrase “torn away” or “orphaned” in verse 17.
 - *Who are some people that have influenced you to be more like Jesus that have been taken away from you? How have you continued to grow more like Jesus since they have been removed?*

2. Satanic Disruptions (vs. 18)

- Here are four Satanic obstacles that are directly or indirectly referred to in 1 Thessalonians:
 - **Detachment:** Satan “hinders” us from living out the Bible’s “one another” commands.
 - *How have personally experienced the negative impact of being separated from other Jesus followers from time-to-time? What do you miss when you're not with other Believers?*
 - **Detours:** One of Satan’s greatest detours is to get us to be content with a weak view of God.
 - *What are you doing on a daily basis to be sure you avoid the detour of weak theology?*
 - **Discouragement:** If Satan can discourage you he can stop you in your tracks.
 - *What are the types of situations that seem to “remove your courage”? Verse 17 reminds us that discouragement is “for a short time”. How does it help to have the long view of things when you're in a time of discouragement?*
 - **Doubt:** This is the first Satanic obstacle in Scripture and might be his greatest weapon.
 - *What are some truths about God and about you that might help you overcome doubt?*

3. Heavenly Anticipations (vs. 19-20)

- Paul doesn't look back with regret, he looks forward with anticipation.
 - *If you're a Christian, what are some of the parts of Heaven you're looking forward to? How does that perspective of anticipation change the way you live right now?*

“When I cannot see His hand, I can always trust His heart.” - Spurgeon

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will manage the tensions of life by seeing them in the light of the Truth.

