

DOING BETTER AT WHAT WE DO BEST

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

PAT NEMMERS

November 29, 2020

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)

- *How was your Thanksgiving celebration different this year than in years past? Despite the challenges, what are you thankful for this week?*
- *What are some practical ways you can be better at cultivating a heart of gratitude?*

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 4:9-12. In his message, Pastor Pat shared **two areas in which Christ followers can do better at what we do best**.

Introduction:

- *Brainstorm some names of people who have been successful at ending well, working hard until the final whistle, not coasting across the finishing line. What do those people have in common?*
- *Think about the things you do well at your job, in your family, or as a hobby - what are some keys to continuing to getting better at what you do best?*

As Christians, we can do better at what we do best...

1. In our pursuit of loving insiders (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

- Paul told the Christ followers in Thessalonica to get better at what they were already doing best - loving each other.
 - *What are some ways you have experienced the love of others during the Covid pandemic?*
 - *As a group, come up with one or two very tangible and specific ways you can share life with other Christ followers this month by using 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a template.*
 - *What are the negative versions of the positive aspects of love in 1 Corinthians 13? What does it look like when Christians do NOT love on another?*
- Pastor Pat asked, "Can we be a little more loving toward other Christians that disagree with us?"
 - *How do you personally respond to Pastor's personal question?*

2. In our perception we're giving outsiders (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

- Christians should work hard to be friends with lost people whether they win them to Jesus or not.
 - *Would you love someone even if you knew they would never accept Jesus as their Savior*
 - *Would your unsaved friends, family, or neighbors say that you see them as people or as projects? What evidence would they have either way?*
 - *According to verse 11, what key behaviors should Christ followers focus on if they want to win the lost to Jesus? Which of these three is most difficult for you?*

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will be good at loving others, and then get better at it, then do it best!



Saylorville Kids Sermon Questions

November 29, 2020

Share with your family a favorite memory from your Thanksgiving celebration from this past week?

Pastor Pat shared the quote, "God wants me to do better at what I do best". Share as a family something that you are good at and then talk about how you can use that skill, talent, etc for God's glory and to further God's kingdom.

Discuss John 8:47--He who is of God will listen to Him. What has God been saying to you? Are you listening or ignoring God?

Are you an "insider"? Has the truth of the gospel changed your life? Or are you still on the "outside"? (Mom & Dad, this is a great opportunity for you to share your testimony with your kids!)

Pastor Pat mentions a couple types of love that are mentioned in the Bible - brotherly love (phileo) and unconditional love (agape). Discuss what each of those types of love look like (maybe find a definition of each) and then share how you can love others in each of those ways.

Love is shown by being patient and kind and by not being jealous, irritable, and rude. Discuss 1 Corinthians 13 and how you can show love to others.

Other people (your teachers, your friends, your siblings, etc.) are watching you, what are they seeing? Do they see Christ in you? Our lives should be a light to others, especially to those who don't know Jesus. (John 13:34-35)

While you have extra time at home, do you spend some of that extra time reading your Bible or do you spend it on other things (social media, worrying about what is happening, or arguing with friends/family). Let's spend more time in God's word!

Discuss the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). How can you be more like Mary and less like Martha?

This week's memory verse:

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Next week's verse:

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.