

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 needs of their unique group.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Talk about the last time you were physically “spent” - when you were so exhausted that you didn’t think you could take another step.
 - How did you feel when you were in the middle of that experience?
 - How did you feel when the experience was over?
- Why do you think it’s more common for people to work themselves to the point of exhaustion physically, but struggle to put much energy toward their relationship with Jesus?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)**Intro:**

- A. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-21**
- B. In his message, Pastor Pat shared **four reminders from Paul in the midst of his exhaustion**. 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 way of thinking)?
- C. **REVIEW**: Why was Paul so exhausted at this point in his letter to the Corinthians?

#1 - The power of Christianity is not in wonders but in weakness (vs. 10)

- A. What are the weaknesses in your life that God wants to use to bring Himself glory?
- B. How are you relying on God and pointing other people to Jesus through your weaknesses?

#2 - The signs of Christianity are not in miracles performed but in lives changed (vs. 12)

- A. No-one can argue with a changed life. Tell your group about someone whose life has influenced you to be more like Jesus. Have you ever told that person how much they have influenced you?
- B. What changes have you seen in someone else’s life because of Christ? (Maybe even someone in your Cell Group) How about your own life?

#3 - The reward of Christianity is not the purse but the people (vs. 14)

- A. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:19-20. When all was said and done, what did Paul consider his reward, his glory, his joy? What might need to change in your life for you to view people the way Paul did?
- B. What is stopping you from truly investing in the lives of people? Is there something that you are waiting for before you commit to loving people like Jesus did?

#4 - The cost of Christianity is not in monies given but lives spent (vs. 15)

- A. Do you find yourself **gladly** spending yourself, or do you invest for Christ begrudgingly?
- B. The positive view of a budget is commonly referred to as a “spending plan.” When it comes to investing your time, talents, treasures, testimony, etc. for eternity, what’s your personal spending plan?
- C. In his journal, missionary **Jim Elliot** wrote, “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*” A few years later, Jim and four other missionary men were killed by Auca Indians in Ecuador. What is Jim referring to as “what he cannot keep”? What do you think he’s referring to as “what he cannot lose”?
- D. As a parent, a spouse, a sibling, a co-worker, a neighbor, a citizen, a child, etc., how can you give what you cannot keep in order to gain what you cannot lose?

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Warren Weirsbe said, “*One of the dangers of the Christian life is that of getting accustomed to our blessings.*” Take a few minutes to praise God for the blessings He has given you.

