

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)**

• **My Life as a Jigsaw Puzzle:**

- Cut the attached picture into pieces - one piece for every person in your Cell Group
- Ask everyone to write down a few words or phrases that represent some of the greatest hurts or struggles they have walked through in their lifetime.
- One by one, ask each person to talk briefly to the group about those hurts. It's okay if some people don't elaborate - don't force it.
- As each person shares, ask them to place their piece of paper on the table, or in the middle of the circle, with the picture side facing up.
- Once everyone has shared, work together to put the pieces of paper together to form a completed picture.
- Ask:
  - How did you feel as other people were sharing their hurts and struggles?
  - At what point did you begin to understand where your piece of the puzzle fit into the bigger picture?
  - If your puzzle piece were removed, what would be missing from the picture?
  - If the big picture actually represented your whole life, what would be missing if God had not allowed the hurts and struggles in your life?
  - How is this picture an illustration of this Cell Group?

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

**Intro:**

A. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:7-10**

- B. In his message, Pastor Pat shared **four encouraging words for hurting people**. 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)?

**#1 - There's purpose in the pain**

- A. Paul understood that part of the purpose of the pain in his life was to "keep me from becoming conceited" (vs. 7). What is the one thing right now that God might be using to try to keep you humble? Are you fighting it or embracing it?

**#2 - There's evil in the mix**

- A. Satan is like a dog on a leash, but God is holding that leash. Are you a person that stays far away from the dog, or do you find yourself getting as close to that dog as possible without getting bit? Share some examples.

**#3 - There's glory in the big picture**

- A. Pastor Pat said, "*The tools of satan are often gifts from God...disguised as pain.*" As a group, talk about some steps you can take to begin changing your perspective on the pain in your life. What would it take for you to begin seeing your grief as a gift? Your pain as a present from God? Your trials as triumphs?

**#4 - There's power (grace) in Christ's provision**

- A. Read verse 9 like this, "GOD'S grace is sufficient for ME, for HIS power is made perfect in MY weakness." How can your life provide evidence to those around you that you really believe that statement?

**PRAY FOR EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)**

- Praise God that He raises the barriers of His sufficient grace to prevent us from being overwhelmed by our pain.

