

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)**

- What is the story behind the most meaningful gift you ever received?
- Talk about a time when you gave a gift reluctantly.
- Jesus talked a lot about giving. What is your immediate response when you hear preaching about giving? Why do you think you respond that way?

**APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)****Intro:****A. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

- B. In his message, Pastor Pat shared **three times when a conservative should act like a liberal**. 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 - When God's grace produces a bleeding heart (8:1-4)**

- A. Paul says that the Christians in Macedonia "welled up in rich generosity" even though they were in the middle of a "severe trial." Who are some people in your life that give generously in the midst of difficult times?
- B. Pastor told a story of a poor woman in Togo who gave him several small bananas out of her meager supply. What is your "stash of bananas" that you need to willingly and joyfully give up for God's glory?
- C. What are you afraid will happen if you tell God, "Everything I have is yours. Use it the way you want to."?

**#2 - When God's love produces a surrendered heart (8:5-8)**

- A. A surrendered heart is one that is caught up in the love of God and responds by giving generously. If someone were to take a look at your budget, would they assume that you are "caught up in the love of God" or caught up in your possessions, your house, your job, your family, your spiritual gifts and abilities, etc.?
- B. What might have to change in your life in order for you to feel "caught up in the love of God"?
- C. According to our Saylorville Value of Generosity, we believe that *God owns everything, so I will invest for eternity what He has given me temporarily*. How are you investing for eternity right now?

**#3 - When God's Son produces an active heart (8:9)**

- A. If you're a follower of Jesus, you've been made rich through His poverty. How does it make you feel to know that, regardless of how much money you have, you are rich in Christ?
- B. Read or recite John 3:16 as a group. God could have provided us with the Gospel in any way He chose, but He gave us the gift of Jesus. What are the implications of this gift to you specifically?
- C. What actions are you going to take this week to be more like Jesus in the area of giving?

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

- Pray that we will be characterized (as a church, as a Cell Group, as families, and as individuals) by a God-like love that gives liberally.

***God can have your money without your heart, but He can't have your heart without also having your money.***

