

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)**

- Tell your group about a time when you got in trouble as a child.
  - What were you doing? Who caught you? Were there any consequences?

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

- A. Read Genesis 3:8-13.** On Sunday morning, Pastor Brad shared **two ways that humans respond to sin, and two ways that God responds to sinners.** 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 - How do humans respond to sin?**

- A. We hide from God (vs. 8-11)
- A. Sin separates our world from God. What are some ways that our culture has tried to be good enough to bridge that separation?
  - B. Sin makes us stupid. What are the fig leaves you use to cover up your real sins - the religious activity you're doing to justify the wrong in your life?
  - C. Sin isolates us from God and His people. Read Romans 3:9-11. When you sin, do you find yourself running from God or running toward Him? Are you pulling away from God or His people right now because you're ashamed of sin in your life? How can your Cell Group help?
- B. We shift the blame (vs. 12-13)
- A. We blame people for our sin. Do you agree or disagree with this statement, "*People don't cause us to sin, people simply reveal the sin that's already in our hearts.*"
  - B. We blame circumstances for our sin. How often have you said something like this:
    - "I'm just so tired."
    - "Work is so stressful."
    - "That's how I was raised."
  - C. We blame God for our sin. Godliness doesn't mean you never sin, it means you take ownership of your sin. Would people who know you well say that you take ownership of your own sin? What evidence is there?

**#2 - How does God respond to sinners?**

- A. He seeks them out
- A. When was the last time God sought you out when you had sinned? Who/what did He use to show you where you had walked away from Him?
- B. He pursues them with grace
- A. Our sin is an offense to a holy God. Do you confess sin because you've offended God or because you don't like the feeling of guilt? Be careful to not confuse repentance with simply removing the feeling of guilt!
  - B. When you have to confront someone (a friend, spouse, child) in sin, do you do it in grace, like God?
  - C. You can live in victory because Jesus died and rose again. Is there something you need to confess right now? Do it!

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

- Confess your sins to God and to one another. Praise God that Jesus has taken the blame for our sin on the cross.

