

The questions below are intended 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 are some recent news headlines that have caught your attention?
- As a group, come up with your top three concerns about the state of our world, our country, or our community.
- How have you seen Christ-followers respond to world crises in the past?

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

- Read Nehemiah 1:3-2:5**
- NOTE:** For more context and further study in the book of Nehemiah, use commentaries or online study resources like [www.biblia.com](http://www.biblia.com).
- In his message, Dr. Ware encouraged us to have **four responses to crisis news in these critical times**. 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 about something)?

**#1 - Crisis news should arouse great concern (1:1-4)**

- How do you respond when you see crisis in the world? How do you respond in times of personal crisis?
- What can we learn from Nehemiah's response to crisis in his world (vs. 4)?
- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Why is it sometimes difficult to pray for our government and world leaders?
- Pray right now** for those whom God has allowed in positions of influence and authority in our world.

**#2 - Crisis news should arouse confidence in God (1:5)**

- Nehemiah put his confidence in God during times of crisis. What do you put your confidence in during times of personal crisis? Respond to these examples:
  - Your finances. "If I could just make a little more money, then I'd be comfortable."
  - Your job. "I don't know what I would ever do if I lost this job."
  - Your independence. "I don't need anybody else to help me through this, I can handle it."
  - Etc.
- Can you think of examples in your life when God has proven Himself to be worthy of your confidence?
- Pray right now** that God will cause you to run to Him in times of personal crisis.

**#3 - Crisis news should evoke confession before God (1:6-10)**

- Why do you think confession is such an important part of our response to crisis in our lives and in our world?
- Pray right now** and confess personal sins of pride and selfishness and corporate sins of apathy and hypocrisy.

**#4 - Crisis news should arouse a desire to contribute to the cure (1:11-2:5)**

- Based on Nehemiah's example, develop a simple strategy that your group might implement the next time you hear global, community, or personal crisis news.
- How do these three Commitments of a Disciple relate directly to the way we should respond to crisis news?
  - The Gospel - Jesus rescued me from eternal death, so I will live my life on earth for Him.
  - Mission - Jesus sent me to live on mission, so I will make disciples as I go.
  - Service - Jesus made Himself nothing for me, so I will consider the needs of others before my own.
- Pray right now** that your group will be committed to making more people more like Jesus during times of crisis.

**Matthew 28:19 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."**

**Our mission to make more people more like Jesus is a multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural mission. It is not exclusive to people who look like us, talk like us, or come from the same background we do.**