

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 unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, talk about the difference between Christianity as a *religion* and Christianity as a *relationship*. Be honest - is your personal faith more about religion or relationship right now?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Acts 8:28-31, 35. In his message, Pastor Brad gave us **bad news, then good news**.

1. The Bad News (Romans 3:23)

- a. If you were to ask a neighbor or co-worker, "What's wrong with the world?" What do you think they would say?
- b. Saying that there is something "wrong" with the world assumes that there is a standard of "right". According to Romans 3:23, what is that standard?
- c. What are some ways people try to measure up to/reach the standard of being "good with God"?
- d. Why is this bad news such an important part of the gospel message?

2. The Good News (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- a. Because of our sin, we deserve to die and be separated from God forever (Romans 6:23). Since there was no way we could come to God, God came to us! Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How is the gospel message a "gift"? What implications does this have for how we "get" salvation?
- b. On Sunday, Pastor Brad told a story about getting a \$120 speeding ticket, and then receiving \$120 as a gift to pay for the ticket. Has anyone ever paid a fine, a bill, or a fee that you owed? Talk about how that situation is like what Jesus did for you.
- c. For a biblical example, check out the story of the criminals on the cross next to Jesus (Luke 23:39-43). What was the one man assured of before his death? What did he do to earn that gift?
- d. How about you? Are you trying to earn salvation right now? Was there a time when you were?

3. The Example of Philip (Acts 8)

- a. Philip followed the Holy Spirit's leading (vs. 29).
 - a. Tell your group about a time when you didn't do what God was telling you to do. How do you think this story would have been different if Philip didn't obey the Holy Spirit?
- b. Philip was invited into the Ethiopian's chariot (vs. 31).
 - a. Who is someone in your life right now that you are building a Gospel relationship with? Who are some people that you could start to build a Gospel relationship with this week?
- c. Philip knew and explained the Bible (vs. 35).
 - a. How would you explain the gospel message in 60 seconds?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, pray that the good news of the gospel will impact your daily decisions and actions.

