

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)

- Other than the age you are right now, what has been your favorite age? Tell your group about it.
- Do you ever wish you could go back to that stage of life? Why or why not?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last week. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Exodus 5. In his message, Pastor Pat gave us **four pictures of the dreadful realities of choosing to live in a sinful place.**

Four Pictures:**1. Egypt is a picture of the *place* of sin.**

- a. Have you ever been in a place of sin? What are some of the temptations that led you there? Did you realize you were in a place of sin while you were there? How did you escape from your "Egypt?"
- b. Later in the book of Exodus, after God leads the Israelites out of Egypt, they long to go back. When you're tempted to go back to a place of sin, how do you stay faithful where God has you?

2. Pharaoh is a picture of the *person* of sin (Satan).

- a. Satan can't have you if you know Jesus but he might be given permission to "sift you like wheat" (Luke 22:31-32). What do you think that means?
- b. This week, how will you develop habits that help you "submit yourself to God and resist the devil" (James 4:7)?

3. Burdens are a picture of the *pain* of sin.

- a. Sin deceives. Can you or someone in your group testify to being deceived by the pleasures of sin?
- b. The *pleasures of sin* always give way to the *pain of sin*. What are some of the "pains of sin" that serve to remind you to not pursue the pleasures of sin again?

4. The Israelites are a picture of the *problem* of sin.

- a. The Israelites cried out to Pharaoh for help instead of calling out to the Lord. Think about the last 30 days of your life. Who/what have you gone to for help, for provision, or for your identity instead of the Lord?
- b. 1 Corinthians 3:12 warns us of building our lives on a foundation of straw and other materials that won't last. What are some of the priorities, pursuits, or pleasures that might be considered "straw" in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Sin is truly a hard task master. The way of the unfaithful is hard (Proverbs 13:15). You're in a hard place if you're choosing to live in sin, ignoring God. Take time to pray for the wayward loved ones represented by the people your group.

