

CURING A HARD HEART

Exodus 7:1-13

PAT NEMMERS

November 3, 2019

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)

- Have you or someone close to you ever had physical heart issues? How important is a healthy physical heart to the rest of our wellness?

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 7:1-13. In his message, Pastor Pat gave us **four realizations to cure a hard heart**.

EXODUS 7:1-13

1. There are many Bible truths about the heart. Why do you think that's true?
 - What Scriptures comes to your mind when you think about the heart?
2. Assign each person in your group a verse from the list below, or pair up people together to look up each verse. What does each passage tell us about the heart?
 - Jeremiah 17:9-10; Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 21:2; Psalm 37:4; Psalm 51:10; Matthew 5:8; Matthew 6:21; Matthew 15:8-10; Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 3:12-13
3. Pastor Pat said: *A heart without truth is empty sentimentalism. And truth without a heart is empty platitude. Both are empty. Both produce empty results. Fluffy so-called Christians make us laugh. Arrogant so-called Christians make us roll our eyes.*
 - How do you respond to that quote? Which would you personally lean toward more: A heart without truth, or truth without a heart? How might you correct your imbalance?
4. How do you know if you have a hard heart?
 - Do you struggle to submit to authority, or believe you can always do it better?
 - Do you find it difficult to love people who are made in the image of God?
 - Do you have a hard time giving God control of your whole life?
5. Hardened hearts occur over time. The gods (idols) of this world are heart-hardening agents. Any of these resonate with you? The god of pornography; the god of alcohol; the god of children; the god of work; the god of sports; the god of pride; the god of control; the god of money; etc. Any others?
6. Curing hard hearts takes time too. It starts with knowing truth; confessing sin; inviting accountability; recognizing the good gifts God has given you; and resisting temptation. What are some other ways that you have seen God soften your own hard heart, or the heart of someone close to you?

Four Realizations to Cure a Hard Heart:

1. Your enemy doesn't want your health - he wants your heart!
2. Your heart doesn't need a sign - it needs a change!
3. Your hardened heart doesn't need reforming - it needs redeeming!
4. Your Savior didn't just taste your hard heart - He swallowed it!

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that God will bring His Word, His Spirit, and His people into your life to soften your own heart where it is tempted to grow hard.
- Pray for those you know who have allowed their hearts to be hardened - and consider how you might be used to care for them and challenge them.

