

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community 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.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out **Thomas Constable's Expository Notes**, available free online [here](http://www.StudyLight.org). (www.StudyLight.org)
- Watch an **overview of Ezra and Nehemiah** from the Bible Project online [here](http://www.BibleProject.com). (www.BibleProject.com)

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Can you think of the last time someone in the public eye apologized for something they had done or said? Why do you think this kind of public confession doesn't happen more often?
- Can you think of the last time you personally apologized to someone for something you had done or said? What did you do after you confessed? What happened to your relationship with that person?

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** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat reminded us that genuine repentance produces ongoing obedience in the life of the Christ follower.**

INTRODUCTION

- Pastor Pat urged us to be *pocăitii*, (repenters) like the Romanian Christians. To "repent" means to turn away from sin and turn toward God for forgiveness. Why is repentance a vital component to confession?
- Tell your group about a time in your life when you said, "I'm sorry" to someone but didn't actually change your actions. What happened?

Genuine Repentance Produces Ongoing Obedience:**1. Separating from sin is never easy, it's just essential (Ezra 10:3)**

- Ezra led the people in purging the sin from among the people. The obedience involved radical action. How does this passage correlate to Matthew 18:7-9? What are some other biblical principles that might help us understand how to defeat sin in our lives?
- What are some areas of sin in your life that you struggle to conquer? What drastic actions might you need to take this week in order to defeat your sin? Tell your group out loud.

2. Persevering through the consequences of sin is always hard, but God's grace is always stronger (Ezra 10:12b-17)

- Pastor Pat said, "You can choose your sins but you can't choose your consequences." How have you seen that to be true in your life? What have been some of the consequences of your sinful choices? What are some of the consequences of genuine repentance in your life?
- Why do you think we try to cover our sins instead of openly confessing and repenting? How might 2 Corinthians 12:9 give us a different perspective on our sin and struggles?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and those in your group will confess, repent, and live in ongoing obedience.

