

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](http://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](http://www.StudyLight.org))

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Have you ever had an experience with a terrible smell that come from something in your house, your office, or maybe even your car? What was your reaction to that smell?

## 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 Jason taught us to follow Ezra's model of confession and repentance.**

## INTRODUCTION

- What do you think people outside the Church think of when they hear the word "confession"?
- What kind of personal experience do you have with the idea of confession and repentance?

## Steps on the Road to Repentance:

### 1. Call Your Sin What It Is (Ezra 9:1-2)

- The Israelites disobeyed God's command to separate from the pagan nations, which led to a watered down form of worship. How do you think Christians might fall into this same sin today?
- What are some other words you've heard (or used) to describe "sin" that might make sin sound more acceptable?
- Think about your own life: What are the areas of sin that you tend to downplay, justify, or ignore?

### 2. See You Sin Like God Sees It (Ezra 9:3-4)

- Look through verses 3-4 again and note Ezra's reaction to the news that the Israelites were living in sin. Now compare that to the reaction you had the last time you discovered sin in your own life, or in the life of someone you care about. Is there a difference? If so, why do you think that's true?
- Respond to this statement from Sunday: *You won't get real joy until you get real about your sin.*

### 3. Confess Your Sin To God And Others (Ezra 9:5-15)

- Most Community Groups have been together for several months at this point. If you don't make it a regular practice to confess your sins in front of each other, begin that practice today. Allow each member of the group to say out loud a sin struggle they would like to confess. For ideas, read through Romans 1:29-32 as a group. (If you have a mixed/married group, consider splitting up.)

### 4. Claim The Promises Of Forgiveness For Your Sin (Ezra 9:8-9)

- What is your personal response to the concept that God hates sin, but loves to forgive?
- Take out a pen and paper, or open a note on your device, and make a list of all the ways God has shown you His love and forgiveness in spite of your disobedience.

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray together, asking the Spirit of God to give you the honesty and courage to confess your sins.

