

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.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Are you someone who is usually good with directions, or do you find yourself getting lost often?
- What's the furthest you've ever traveled from home? How did you feel when you got back home?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

Intro:

- What is your **one thing** from Sunday? What stuck out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, an illustration, a challenge, a question, or a new way of thinking)?

Context (Review quickly as a group):

- In Genesis 12:1-3, God gives Abram the promises of land, seed, and blessing.
- Abram obeys God and travels to Bethel, in Canaan, to the land God had sent him.
- In a lapse of faith, Abram flees to Egypt, lies, and offers his wife to Pharaoh.
- In Genesis 13:1-4, Abram leaves Egypt and comes back home to Bethel, where he had previously built an altar and worshipped the Lord.
- Speaking to the Church at Ephesus, Jesus says, *"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."* (Revelation 2:4-5)

#1 - To come back home, we must Remember

- A. Tell your group about a point in time when you felt especially close to God. Who/what did the Lord use to draw you closer to Him during that time?
- B. What were some of the steps you took to slowly (or quickly) fall away from that point?
- C. If you've wandered, what is preventing you from returning home - to the closeness you once had with Jesus? Sin? Apathy? Selfishness? Family baggage? Your reputation? Pride?

#2 - To come back home, we must Repent

- A. In Genesis 13:12, Abram settles in the land God had for him, while his nephew, Lot, sets up camp right outside the wicked city of Sodom. Can you give some examples of how people try to get as close to sin as possible without actually sinning?
- B. By Genesis 14:12, Lot is unable to avoid sin's magnetism and is living in Sodom. Think about your own life (what you watch on TV, how you speak, your motivations, the way you treat other people, etc.). Do you tend to run from sin, or see how close you can get without stepping over the line?
- C. Are there areas of your life where you need to repent this week?

#3 - To come back home, we must Renew

- A. Abram returned home and renewed his worship after a period of major struggles. What are some simple steps you can take this week to renew your relationship with Jesus?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray something like this, "Lord help me to get to the place where I'm looking back at how far I've come from sin instead of how close I am to sin."

