

# SODOM OR SALEM?

Genesis 14:17-24

PAT NEMMERS

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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](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

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

- Use a few of the “Would You Rather” questions on the next sheet to start a conversation about choices.
  - TIP: Ask simple follow-up questions, like “Why would you choose that option?” or, “Has anybody actually done that?” to get everybody involved in the discussion right away.

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

### **Intro:**

- **Read** Genesis 14:17-24 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Pat spoke to two groups of people: those who are followers of Jesus, and those who are not yet followers of Jesus.
- 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)?

### **Follower of Jesus:**

#### **#1 - Some of your greatest tests will come after a victory - not before**

- A. Why do you think we are sometimes most vulnerable to temptation after great victories?
- B. **Read Matthew 4:1-11**. How did Jesus respond when Satan tempted Him after his baptism? How might you apply these principles from Abram and Jesus in your life this week?

#### **#2 - Your first response after a victory should be to worship - not boast**

- A. What can we learn from Abram’s response to his test in this passage?
- B. **Read Galatians 6:14**. As a parent, spouse, employee, friend, neighbor, etc. - what does it actually look like to “boast in the cross”?

### **Not Yet a Follower of Jesus:**

#### **#1 - You need a king who can mediate for you - not just rule over you**

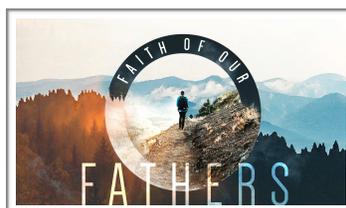
- A. Do you find yourself picturing Jesus as the warrior king who punishes evil or the compassionate savior who feels your hurts and pains? Why do you think that’s true?
- B. What would be different in the world, and in your own life, if Jesus was all warrior and no savior? What if He were all compassion and didn’t punish sin?

#### **#2 - You need a king who can give you righteousness - not just stuff**

- A. “Sodom’s king can give you stuff, but only Salem’s king can give you righteousness.” Be honest - are you more concerned about having more stuff, being more comfortable, and keeping up with your neighbors in this life, or having a right standing before Jesus for all eternity?
- B. Does your schedule, your bank account, your priorities show others that you believe Jesus is better?

## PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Before you pray together, listen to the song, “Jesus Is Better” (or sing it together!). Here’s a link to the [song](#), and here’s an [article](#) that gives some Biblical commentary to the truth behind the song.
- Take several quiet minutes to personally respond to our great Jesus.



# WOULD YOU RATHER?

1. ...be able to fly or be invisible?
2. ...speak every language in the world or play every instrument?
3. ...live in the future or in the past?
4. ...be the best player on a losing team or the worst player on a winning team?
5. ...live in the city or the country?
6. ...walk the Great Wall of China or Amazon River?
7. ...live without a cell phone or a television?
8. ...meet the president of the United States or your favorite movie star?
9. ...be a rhinoceros or a horse?
10. ...go to the beach in the summer or skiing in the winter?
11. ...be famous and poor or unknown and rich?
12. ...win an Academy Award or an Olympic Gold Medal?
13. ...have to eat a bowl full of crickets or a bowl full of worms?
14. ...lose your sense of taste or your sense of smell?
15. ...live in space or under the sea?
16. ...always have the same song stuck in your head or always have the same dream at night?