

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)

- When do you start preparing for Christmas?
 - Buying gifts, decorating, Christmas cards, listening to Christmas music, etc.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)**Intro:**

- **Read** Hebrews 10:1-10 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Pat asked **four questions to help us prepare our hearts to make room for Christ this Christmas**.
- Look back at the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, an illustration, a challenge, a question, or a new way of thinking)?

#1 - Do you want a God Who adjusted His plan on the fly or prepared in eternity past? (Hebrews 10:5)

- A. Using just a word or two, how does it make you feel to realize that God the Father planned in eternity past for Jesus to be born, die, and be resurrected?
- B. Talk about an area in your life where you are behaving as though your plan is better than God's plan.
- C. Respond: What must you do this week to **be calm and trust Him**?

#2 - Do you want a Savior far removed from your experience or Who actually sympathizes? (Hebrews 4:14-16)

- A. Do you tend to think of God as One Who is generally uninvolved in your daily life, OR as One Who relates to you in an intimate and personal way? Why do you think that way?
- B. As a group, brainstorm some ways that you can focus on the nearness of God this Christmas season.
- C. Respond: What must you do this week to **be encouraged and know Him**?

#3 - Do you want your sins covered up or cleansed away (Hebrews 10:1-3)

- *In the Old Testament, animal sacrifices covered sin but could not cleanse from sin. They could remind of sin but not redeem from sin. But Jesus is better! We can now confess our sins and be redeemed from our sins! However, many people still try to cover their sins instead of confessing them.*
- A. When you think of covering sin in your own life, what's the first thing you think of? Is it unconfessed sin in your life? Will you confess that now to a forgiving Father and your Cell Group?
- B. Respond: What must you do this week to **be humble and confess to Him**?

#4 - Do you want to be constantly reminded of your sins or completely redeemed from them?

- A. If you have not come to the place in your personal life where you know for sure that you will spend eternity in heaven, why not give your life to Jesus right now?
- B. Do you find yourself struggling with the same sins over and over? Have you truly confessed those sins (1 John 1:9)? What's stopping you from feeling the freedom of forgiveness?
- C. Respond: What must you do this week to **be saved by believing in Him**?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Spend specific time confessing your sins one to another (James 5:16)

