

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.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Go around your group and share one or two difficult events that have dramatically changed the direction of your life. How did you respond to those events?

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, **Brad Bigney showed us several important things God would say to people who are shattered by hard circumstances.**

When You Are Shattered By Hard Circumstances:

- 1. You better know Who your God is in the midst of shattering circumstances**
 - A. God's power and authority are never frustrated by the decisions of earthly rulers (vs. 15-17; 22-24)
 - When was the last time you let the "what" of your circumstances overwhelm the "Who" of your God?
 - B. God's love for His people is never diminished even in the worst of circumstances (vs. 10b-11)
 - Have you ever thought, "If God really loved me, He would make me happy"? Why do you think it's so easy for us to associate God's love with our own comfort?
- 2. You'll need to love God's Word and be living for more than this present moment if you're going to keep from losing heart in those difficult circumstances**
 - A. God's Word is set in contrast to the frailty of God's people (vs. 6-8)
 - Do you love the Bible? Tell your group about what you do to regularly dive into God's Word. Maybe you need to strengthen this habit. Ask your group for a few ideas of what you could do this week.
 - B. God's Word has already been fulfilled in the past (vs. 3-5)
 - Jesus Christ fulfilled hundreds of prophecies. Brainstorm as a group and encourage each other by recalling some of the prophecies that have been fulfilled in Jesus.
 - C. God's Word points us to the future (Vs. 5)
 - Compare this passage to Matthew 24:29-30. How do these verses change how you see Jesus both now and in the future? How should your confidence in the future change the way you live today?
 - D. God's Word changes your ability to persevere right now (vs. 29, 31)
 - Brad said, "The bulk of your Christian life will be walking by faith daily, not necessarily soaring." Are you in a season of walking or soaring right now? How are you responding?

As a group, ask each other, "What's your next simple step of faith?"

Scripture wasn't just written to give us information about God, but to bring transformation in our lives.

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, worship God through prayer - adoring Him, confessing sin, giving Him thanks, and praying for Him to show Himself great in the lives of those around you.