

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)

- What “draws you” to the Christmas season? What do you love about it? What do you miss about it when it’s over? What part of Christmas gives you the “warm and fuzzies?”

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

- **Click this link** to watch the YouTube video called, “Is Jesus as Reliable as a Fingerprint?”. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Pat suggested **four ways to personally apply the prophecies of Jesus**.
- 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 - The prophecies call you who are thoughtful to believe (Matthew 1:22-23)

- A. On Sunday morning, Pastor Pat mentioned that it was prophecy that first drew him to consider Jesus. What first drew you to Jesus? Was it a friend who’s life was different? A certain passage from the Bible? A question that was answered in Scripture? An interest in prophecy? Etc.
- B. What is the difference between being intellectually convinced that Jesus fulfills prophecy, and being convicted of your sin?

#2 - The prophecies comfort you who are sinful to hope (Matthew 1)

- A. In ancient times, it was unusual to include the names of women in one’s genealogy. However, Matthew’s record of Jesus’ family tree lists five women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary - all women who were shrouded in suspicion. Why do you think God had Matthew list these women?
- B. These women were like busted, broken, and burned out bulbs on a string of Christmas lights. Do you ever feel like there’s something about you that is so broken that God could never use you to shine?

#3 - The prophecies confront you who are skeptical to repent (Matthew 2:1-8)

- A. Try to put yourself in the place of the chief priests and scribes when Herod asked them about the birth of Jesus. Why do you think they didn’t respond with excitement when they heard the news?
- B. Someone has said, “The Bible was not only written for our information, but for our transformation through its application.” Do you lean more toward “information” or “application” when it comes to how you view Scripture? What might happen if you take that view to the extreme?

#4 - The prophecies compel all of us to worship (Matthew 2:9-11)

- A. Although we don’t know exactly who the “wise men” were, we do know why they came to see Jesus - to worship Him (see verse 2). Other than participating in church services, how could you intentionally worship Jesus the Creator, the Wise One, and the King this Christmas?
- B. What do you need to do this week to “Prepare Him Room?”

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Which of the above applications do you need to focus on this week? Pray that God will cause you to be transformed by His Word this week.

