

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)

- Tell your group about a favorite school teacher of yours - whether in grade school or college. What are some ways he/she ought that helped you “get it” as a student?
- Matthew 7:28-29 explains that Jesus’ listeners were “astonished” when they heard Him teach because He taught in a way they had never experienced. What are some of Jesus’ teachings that have astonished you over the years, or even more recently?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what your group has been talking about, praying for, or experiencing together recently. 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, **Pastor Curt challenged us to bear fruit that lasts.**

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed:**1. The first soil represents the *hard heart* (Matthew 13:19)**

1. Jesus was referring directly to the religious leaders of the day. Spiritually speaking, they had blind eyes, deaf ears, and hard hearts. They refused to respond positively to the truth of Christ’s Words. How about you? When was the last time you recognized something in your life that needed to change based on a truth from Scripture? Tell your group what that truth was, and how you changed as a result.
2. Read Hebrews 3:12-13 together as a group. According to this passage, what is the role of community in protecting us from becoming callous like the Pharisees?

2. The second soil represents the *shallow heart* (Matthew 13:20-21)

1. In the heat of sun, some of the seed seemed to take root, but then was scorched and died. Have you ever gone through a trial or trouble that has threatened to make you walk away from your faith in Jesus? Explain that experience to your group.
2. Talk about the implications of the quote, based on the old hymn, “It is Well with My Soul”: *There is a difference between things being well with my circumstances and being well with my soul.*

3. The third soil represents a *divided heart* (Matthew 13:22)

1. Christ tells His listeners that the thorns illustrate the comforts or cares that divide and distract our soul. As a man or woman who is trying to make more people more like Jesus, what are some of the comforts or cares in your life that tend to pull at your soul?
2. Pastor Curt shared a picture of Niagara Falls along with this quote from Hebrews 2:1, “Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” How are you personally fighting against the “flow” of the world? In what ways are you simply giving in and going with the flow?

4. The fourth soil represents a *receptive heart* (Matthew 13:23)

1. The receptive heart is one in which the truth of the Gospel takes root, grows, and begins to produce lasting fruit. Read Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 4:16-17, and Romans 16:5 and talk about specific fruit that seems to be evident, or lacking, in your life right now.
2. As the new season of Community Groups launches, how will you commit together to help each other produce fruit that lasts? Come up with some ideas you can start implementing together this week!

