

## THE WILL AND WORK OF GOD'S PLEASURE

Philippians 2:12-13

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)

- Eric Liddell, the Scottish sprinter, famously once said, "When I run I feel God's pleasure."
  - How would you complete that same statement? When I \_\_\_\_\_ I feel God's pleasure.
- Talk about a recent time when you believe **God** took pleasure in **your** life.

### 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** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
  - **Read** Philippians 2:12-13. In his message, Pastor Pat explained how we can bring God pleasure.
- **Intro:** What is the difference between working for our salvation and working out our salvation?
- 1. You have the ultimate example of humility and exaltation in Jesus - Follow Him!**
    1. Re-read Philippians 2:5-11 and talk quickly about the ways Jesus is our example.
    2. Think about the people and situations you'll interact with in the next few days. What would it look like this week if you followed Jesus' example of humility?
  - 2. You need the confidence that everything you need to bring God pleasure already resides in you - Believe It!**
    1. Sometimes it's difficult to think that we could actually bring God pleasure. What are some reasons that some people might find it hard to believe that they could please God?
    2. How does it bring you hope to read, "It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."?
  - 3. You're powerless to please God and impact the world in your flesh - Acknowledge This!**
    1. Have you ever tried (or are you trying right now) to do something great for God in your own power? Talk about how that turned out.
    2. This passage helps us understand that we need God's power to thrive. In your group, complete this prayer out loud, "Lord, I need you in this specific circumstance right now..."
  - 4. If you delight yourself in the Lord, He will give you the desires of your heart and the power of your actions - Begin This!**
    1. Read Psalm 37:4 as a group. Are you naturally good at delighting in the Lord, or do you tend to delight in other things more often? Can you give some examples?
    2. Imagine out loud what our church, your Cell Group, and your life would look like if we had the same desires as God.

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

- Pray that you and your group will live lives that bring God pleasure this week.

### MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME

- *Philippians 2:12b-13 - "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*

