

REAL CONFESSION

James 5:16

PAT NEMMERS

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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.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “confession?” What kind of experience do you have with confession? Are most of your experiences positive or negative? Why do you think that’s true?

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, **Pastor Pat challenged us with several key thoughts on real confession from James 5:16.**

Two Commands to Real Confession (James 5:16):

1. **“Confess” - to admit your sin to God and others**
 - Read Psalm 32:1-4. What are the consequences of unconfessed sin? According to Psalm 32:5, what is the cure for the affliction of sin? Have you ever found yourself in between verses 1-4 and verse 5? Talk to your group about those circumstances.
2. **“Pray” - to admit your dependency on God**
 - Read Luke 18:1-7 and talk about something you’ve been praying about for a long time. Like the widow in this parable, do you really have faith that God is able to answer those prayers?

Let’s Confess:

1. **By recognizing your sin is first and foremost, to God (Psalm 51:4)**
 - What might change in your life if you truly saw your sin as an offense to God, like David did?
2. **By admitting your worship has stopped (Matthew 5:23-24)**
 - If worship is “surrendering the moment,” how can you build habits into your life that will help you say no to sin before it happens?
3. **By owning your sin to the one you’ve sinned against (Luke 15:18)**
 - Every time you sin, a relationship is impacted. Is there a relationship in your life that has been strained because of your sin? What’s stopping you from asking them to forgive you this week?
4. **By bringing your sin to its true hiding place (Psalm 32:7)**
 - Be honest, are you trying to hide in your sin or are you hiding in Christ? What is at risk if you continue to try to hide in your sin without confessing it?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Take time to confess your sins to God and to one another right now.

