

# Growth Group Questions

*11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 2023*

## Introduction

Everybody experiences doubt about some part of our Christian faith. Share with the group (if you wish) a time when you faced doubt in your faith. What or who helped you overcome it?

## Into the Word – 1 Kings 19:9-18

1. Elijah was at perhaps the lowest point of his whole ministry. He believed he was alone. He was persecuted. He was crestfallen. Pastors today can sometimes feel the same. If you were counseling “Pastor” Elijah what would you say to him?
2. What was God teaching Elijah by not being in the big and obvious signs but in the whisper instead? What do we learn from this for ourselves?
3. Describe the small and seemingly powerless parts of our Christian faith that in fact contain immense power from God.
4. God told Elijah to anoint three men to serve him. Aram would bring God’s judgment to idolatrous Israel. Jehu would replace sinful King Ahab. Elisha would continue Elijah’s ministry. **God always has a plan.** Discuss.

## Into the Word – Romans 8:31-39

5. Read these verses together and just enjoy the greatest Gospel chapter in Scripture. This is a great section to memorize to share with someone suffering.
6. Why is Paul hopeful for heaven according to verses 33-34?

7. These verses say that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. But Scripture also is clear that faith can be lost. While nothing outside of us can take us away from Christ, how can we become separated?
8. What do you think Paul means in verse 37 when he says we are “more than conquerors”? (It’s a made-up word in Greek, found nowhere but in this verse of the Bible.)

## Into the Word – Matthew 14:22-33

9. Jesus knew the disciples would be tempted to join in the crowd’s sinful focus on earthly blessings so he sent them away. Discuss the blessings that God hasn’t given you and take a moment in prayer to thank God for that.
10. We are naturally least able to fight sin when we are hungry, tired, or angry/upset. Have you found that to be true in your life? Which of these were the disciples experiencing?
11. We are quick to judge Peter for this event, but list the things he does well here, both before and after standing on the lake.
12. Choose one blessing you have because Jesus “Truly is the Son of God.”

## Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith and Christian fellowship. Bless me to hold on to this precious gift and bless me to share it freely with others. Keep me safe until you bring me home to heaven at last. Amen.