

# **Growth Group Questions**

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 2023*

## **Introduction**

It is not an easy thing to have to confront someone about their sin. Can you think of a time you had to “call someone out” for sinful behavior? Describe what made it challenging, and what blessings came from it.

## **Into the Word** – Ezekiel 33:7-11

1. Who is held responsible when a wicked man dies in unbelief?
2. What does this mean for the question of Cain: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
3. What if you warn a fellow Christian but they don’t repent? What happens to you and to them?
4. I describe Ezekiel 33:11 as the greatest verse in Scripture that shows us the “heart” of God and the pain it brings him to see sinners lost. Picture a father pleading to his children. Memorize the reference so you can share it in the future.

## **Into the Word** – Galatians 2:11-16

5. What was Peter doing that was wrong? Why was this actually a big deal for Paul and the ministry?
6. Why did Paul confront Peter publicly instead of one on one as Jesus says in the Gospel lesson? In what situations might a person need to be publicly rebuked today?
7. Galatians 2:16 is an important verse for the Lutheran Reformation. Explain the beauty of this verse in your own words.

## **Into the Word** – Matthew 18:15-20

8. What is the goal of Christian discipline, whether it is in the home, with another person, or by the church? How does that potentially change the way we discipline?
9. What does Jesus mean by treating an impenitent sinner as a “pagan or a tax collector?” How do we carry that out today?
10. Explain the Law and the Gospel, and why both are crucial to calling sinners to repentance, and sharing God’s love and forgiveness.
11. We didn’t talk about verses 19-20 in the sermon this time, but discuss what it means that the Father answers every prayer of the believer. How is that possible when so much of what we want doesn’t happen?
12. The definition of “church” is one of the differences in doctrine between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synod Lutherans. We teach that the Church is found wherever believers are gathered in God’s name. How does verse 20 help us understand what a “church” is and where the Church is found? Does a group have to be officially organized to be called a church?

## **Closing Prayer**

Almighty Father, thank you for blessing me with your law and your gospel. Turn my heart from sin and let me pursue your righteousness in every walk of life. Give me opportunities this week to speak your praise and share your mercy. In Jesus’ name, Amen.