

Growth Group Questions

3rd Sunday after Pentecost, June 29, 2025

Introduction

The theme for worship this weekend is really just another call to turn our eyes away from the world and refocus ourselves on Christ. As a group, share a distraction in your life that can sometimes pull your focus away from Jesus. Then pray for one another to find undivided attention on our Savior.

Into the Word – 1 Kings 19:19-21

1. One of the most obvious questions for our readings this week is why Elijah allowed Elisha to go back to his family here, while Jesus denied virtually the same request in our Gospel lesson. How could the same thing be permissible in one instance and sinful in another? What is God MOST looking at when he looks at what we do?
2. Evidently, Elisha was blessed in wealth and family. (Normal families don't have 12 teams of oxen.) Share examples, if you haven't already, of ways that Satan turns those specific blessings from God into temptations for God's people.
3. Cloaks could apparently serve as a sign of authority. (See Pharaoh's coat given to Joseph in Genesis 41:42.) Read 2 Kings 2 for more references to Elijah's cloak. What does the cloak mean there?
4. How does Elisha show where his heart was at, even though he did ask to say goodbye to his parents?

Into the Word – 2 Corinthians 11:21b-30

5. In this chapter Paul is responding to the false teachings of the "false apostles" that at least some of the Corinthians were apparently listening to. Paul's reference to himself as a "fool" is playing off of that, saying in effect, "If you'll listen to a fool, then listen to me."

6. Paul is trying to help the Corinthians see the validity of his preaching rather than the boastful false apostles. What kinds of things do false teachers and churches boast about today?
7. Paul knows it is foolish to boast of anything we have done, rather than boasting in Christ alone. Since Paul is dealing with fools, though, what does he boast about?
8. Look ahead to chapter 12, specifically verses 1-10, and discuss why Paul would choose to boast in the kinds of things that showed his weakness instead of his strength.

Into the Word – Luke 9:51-62

9. Why did the Samaritans reject Jesus in verse 51-53? How do politics keep people away from Jesus today? What can we do about it?
10. The disciples wanted to call down fire on those who rejected Jesus. What does Jesus do instead? (One thing in v. 55 and one in v. 56)
11. Three men are recorded as potential followers of Jesus. What truth does Jesus reinforce with his words to each of them?
12. Obviously, God wants us to care for our families, young and old. If it came down to a choice, though we must choose God. How does one do that as a Christian spouse, parent, and church member?

Closing Prayer: I thank you, heavenly Father, for giving me your dear Son. Keep me this day and night from all harm and deliver me from all evil. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe would have no power over me. Amen.