

Growth Group Questions

5th Sunday after Pentecost, July 13, 2025

Introduction

Too often, the things that are most beneficial to our spiritual wellbeing are the things we most quickly take for granted, including the people we gather with for our growth groups. This week, take turns praying for the person on your left without asking them first what you should pray about.

Into the Word – Ruth 1:1-19a

1. We only have the first part of Ruth's amazing life. Recap for each other the "rest of the story" and share your guesses why her life was chosen to be memorialized in Scripture.
2. Ruth and Naomi's life at this time would certainly be considered tragic. What was God setting up though? How might you use Ruth's story to share your faith with a friend or neighbor?
3. What challenges could Ruth have anticipated facing by remaining with Naomi?
4. We often hear verses 16-17 used as readings for Christian weddings. Why is it fitting? Why might some consider it not so fitting?

Into the Word – Galatians 5:1, 13-25

5. There's a lot more about slavery and freedom in the rest of Galatians. Read Galatians 4:1-7 for one fun section that unwraps even more about slavery and sonship.
6. Discuss the phrase from the sermon "freedom without direction can lead to destruction." How is this true in an earthly sense? How is it true for Christian freedom?

7. Why is it true that while we are both sinners and saints, we ought to see ourselves more truly as saints?
8. What does Paul mean in verse 18 when he says, "If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law?" Are we free to sin however we want?!
9. I didn't have time in the sermon to discuss verse 24. Discuss what it means to "crucify the flesh with its passions and desires"?

Into the Word – Luke 10:25-37

10. Why is the experts summary of the law in verse 27 correct?
11. Verse 29 is important to help us understand the point of this parable. What is Jesus specifically trying to teach here?
12. What legitimate reasons did the priest and Levite have for passing by the injured man? What legitimate reasons might we have for not helping someone in need and what would Jesus say to us?
13. What legitimate reasons would the Samaritan have had to pass the injured man by? How did he go the "extra mile" in helping?
14. Come up with people that we might "pass by" today that Jesus would have us recognize as neighbors and give help to?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, thank you for the gift of eternal life and for every blessing that we enjoy in this life already. Open our eyes to the needs of others, and let us use our freedom and gifts to serve you by serving them. In your name, Amen.