

Growth Group Questions

17th Sunday after Pentecost, October 5, 2025

Introduction

This week we come to the end of our worship series on “Wounds that Heal.” (Next week is *Welcome Home* – see you in church!) What are some of the “hard” things God tells us that you struggle to submit to and believe?

Into the Word – 1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-28

1. In this reading, David shows us a better use for worldly wealth – using it to praise the LORD! Of course, giving to church is a good and important thing, but what other God-pleasing ways are there to use God’s gifts?
2. How does it change the non-church parts of your budget to know that all things belong to God? (v. 16) Why can things like mortgage payments, taxes, and grocery bills be considered gifts to God?
3. A large, ornate church exudes “transcendence” in worship. A simpler, plainer church exudes “familiarity” with God. Why do we need both in worship, and how does this affect the way we design and furnish our churches?
4. Ask AI or Google what the value of Solomon’s temple would be in modern currency. In Ezra 3:10-13 the older priests wept at how inferior the rebuilt temple was going to be, but Haggai said this “inferior” new temple would be greater. (Haggai 2:9). Why? What does that tell you about the *real* value of a church building?

Into the Word – 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

5. In Paul’s standard greeting to open the letter, how are “grace” and “peace” related to one another?

6. What two things in verse 3 prompted Paul’s thanksgiving?
7. So many people think they have to “prove their worth” to God in order to be saved. How is it different when Paul says in verse 11 that he prays that God would make the Thessalonians “worthy of his [God’s] calling”?
8. Verse 12 – How is Jesus’ name glorified in us? In what ways are we glorified in him?

Into the Word – Luke 17:1-10

9. Which is more difficult – the command not to cause someone else to sin in the first paragraph OR the command to forgive repeatedly in the second paragraph? Defend your answer to the group.
10. Explain how Christians can forgive fully and often without being doormats that others abuse and take advantage of.
11. How can faith as small as a mustard seed move a mulberry tree? (To help answer that consider which matters more - the strength of faith or the object of faith?)
12. Our worship theme is based on the last verse of this Gospel reading. What does Jesus mean when he compares our works of faith to a servant who is only doing his duty?

Closing Prayer – Jesus, we say with the disciples, “increase our faith!” Help us to see clearly the gift of heaven that you have earned for us and given to us freely. As our faith increases, lead us to greater service to you and others, that your name would be glorified by all. Amen.