

Growth Group Questions

Welcome Home, Week 5 – November 11, 2025

Introduction

Review the themes of our Welcome Home series so far and craft an opening prayer thanking God for one point from each week:

- 1) Welcome Home – A Place of Christian Community
- 2) Welcome Home – Where Christ works IN and THROUGH us
- 3) Welcome Home – Where You are Free to Be Yourself (Reformation)
- 4) Welcome Home – Part of an Everlasting Family (All Saints)

Into the Word – Hosea 3:1-5

1. Several months ago Pastor Enter preached on the book of Hosea and explained how God used his life as an object lesson for Israel. How did Hosea's marriage teach Israel about faithfulness and unfaithfulness? (Verse 1 & 3 may help)
2. "Raisin cakes" – It seems these were eaten or offered as a part of Canaanite idolatry. (Look up Jeremiah 7:18 for a similar reference.)
3. What idolatry and "raisin cakes" takes hold of Christians today and steals them away from the one true God?
4. What time period is Hosea describing in verse 4? What (two) time periods does he describe in verse 5?

Into the Word – 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

5. While it's not universally accepted, most commentators believe the person referenced here is the same as the person Paul spoke of in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. Read that section, then describe the man's actions and Paul's instructions to the church of Corinth.
6. If the man is described as having "excessive sorrow" what was likely the condition of his heart over his sin now?

7. Explain the practice of excommunication in a Christian church. What is its purpose? To whom is it applied? In what two ways can it end?
8. Describe the different "layers" of forgiveness Paul describes in verse 10.
9. Who is ALWAYS behind a refusal to forgive (Verse 11)? Explain why this is true.

Into the Word – Luke 19:1-10

10. Explain the difference between how Jesus saw Zacchaeus and how the crowd saw him. Who today would we be tempted to view with sinful "crowd" eyes instead of loving "Jesus" eyes?
11. Discuss the beauty of the Almighty Son of God saying, "I MUST stay at your house today."
12. Zacchaeus makes a generous vow right in the moment. (Imagine his wife's reaction if he was married!) When was the last time the Gospel message moved you into grateful action? Have we become lukewarm in our faith?
13. Some might read this and think that Zacchaeus' actions led to his salvation because of the order of Zacchaeus' vow and then Jesus' words. But what does Jesus say is the reason salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house?

Closing Prayer – God in heaven, thank you for your blessing in another week. Guard the life and faith of all your children and protect us until you bring us home to heaven. Open our eyes to the needs of the lost and lead us into a life of forgiveness received and granted to others. Amen.