

Growth Group Questions

11th Sunday after Pentecost, August 9, 2026

Introduction

Our theme this week can be an intensely personal one. Every Christian has doubts about what we believe at times, but we're often afraid to say anything or ask others. Why do you think we are afraid to ask? How would we (and the whole Church) be different if we looked for answers instead of hiding our doubts?

Into the Word – 1 Kings 19:9-18

1. Elijah was at perhaps the lowest point of his whole ministry. He believed he was alone. He was persecuted. He was crestfallen. Pastors today can sometimes feel the same. If you were counseling "Pastor" Elijah what would you say to him?
2. What was God teaching Elijah by not being in the big and obvious signs but in the whisper instead? What are some of the "wrong places" where we, or others, look for God?
3. Describe the small and seemingly powerless parts of our Christian faith that in fact contain immense power from God.
4. God told Elijah to anoint three men to serve him. The nation of Aram would bring God's judgment to idolatrous Israel. Jehu would replace sinful King Ahab. Elisha would continue Elijah's ministry. **God always has a plan.** Discuss.

Into the Word – Romans 8:31-39

5. Read these verses from the Bible's best chapter together and enjoy some of the greatest Gospel in Scripture. This is a great section to memorize to share with someone suffering.

6. These verses say that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. But Scripture also is clear that faith can be lost. While nothing outside of us can take us away from Christ, how can we become separated?
7. What do you think Paul means in verse 37 when he says we are "more than conquerors"? (It's a made-up word in Greek, found nowhere but in this verse of the Bible.)

Into the Word – Matthew 14:22-33

8. After the feeding of the 5000, Jesus knew his disciples would be tempted to join in the crowd's sinful focus on earthly blessings. So he sent them away. Discuss ways that we are sometimes blessed when we don't immediately see earthly blessings from God.
9. It is said we are naturally least able to fight sin when we are hungry, tired, or angry/upset. Have you found that to be true in your life? Which of these were the disciples experiencing?
10. We are quick to judge Peter for this event, but list the things he does well here, both before and after standing on the lake.
11. Choose one blessing you have because Jesus "Truly is the Son of God."

Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith and Christian fellowship. Bless me in my faith and let your promises move me to overcome my doubt as I trust in you. Bless me every day in your quiet Word. Amen.