

Growth Group Questions

13th Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 2026

Introduction

Our last summer theme is “Unexpected Truths.” You could define it as “*things we wouldn’t know or believe if God hadn’t told us.*” What parts of our Christian faith are most unbelievable to unbelievers? What truths do you seek to understand better?

Into the Word – Exodus 34:5-9

1. What is the comfort of God knowing you by name? What is the comfort of knowing God by *His* name?
2. What does יהוה (YHWH) mean literally in Hebrew? What comforts do you find in that characteristic of God?
3. Why is God’s “slowness to anger” an important quality for our salvation? Why is it an important quality for us to seek to imitate?
4. God clearly tells us in Ezekiel that each person is responsible for their own sin. Explain what God might mean then when he says he “punishes the children for the sins of the parents”?
5. What elements of Moses’ response in verse 8-9 could we imitate in worship, in life, and in prayer?

Into the Word – Romans 10:5-13

6. The righteousness by law must always fail because we can never meet God’s holy standard. Instead of “going to God”

Paul says in verse 8 that the word is “near us.” What does that mean and what does it tell us about our salvation?

7. Nero the persecutor was the emperor at the time this letter was written. Confessing “Jesus is Lord” led to execution for those accused of Christianity. How does that context help us understand vv. 9-10?
8. What do vv. 12-13 say about what is necessary to be saved?

Into the Word – Matthew 16:13-20

9. Why is Peter’s confession about Jesus so worthy of Jesus’ praise?
10. Who does Jesus give credit to for that confession?
11. Some interpret this section as meaning that the church would be built on the Apostle Peter. What in verse 17 (see #9 above) and then in verse 23 would argue against that interpretation? What then IS the rock Jesus builds his church upon?
12. What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven? How do we use those keys today?

Closing Prayer Jesus, yours is the only name by which I can be saved. Lead me to declare your praise in all things and keep me in the saving faith until I stand with you in heaven’s glory. Amen.