

Growth Group Questions

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2026

Introduction

Our worship theme comes from Cain's famous question to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Think back to Genesis 4 and discuss what you remember about the sad account of sin's first human casualty.

Into the Word – Ezekiel 33:7-11

1. Who is held responsible when a wicked man dies in unbelief?
2. What does this mean for the question of Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?"
3. What if you warn a fellow Christian but they don't repent? What happens to you and to them?
4. I describe Ezekiel 33:11 as the greatest verse in Scripture to show us the "heart" of God and the pain it brings him to see sinners lost. Picture a father pleading to his children. Memorize the reference so you can share it in the future.

Into the Word – Galatians 2:11-16

5. What was Peter doing that was wrong? Why was this actually a big deal for Paul and the ministry?
6. Why did Paul confront Peter publicly instead of one on one as Jesus says in the Gospel lesson? In what situations might a person need to be publicly rebuked today?
7. Galatians 2:16 is an important verse for the Lutheran Reformation. Explain the beauty of this verse in your own words.

Into the Word – Matthew 18:15-20

8. What is the goal of Christian discipline, whether it is in the home, with another person, or by the church? How does that potentially change the way we discipline?
9. What does Jesus mean by treating an impenitent sinner as a "pagan or a tax collector?" (Hint: think of how Jesus treated "obvious" sinners.) How do we carry that out today?
10. Explain the Law and the Gospel. Why are both crucial to calling sinners to repentance, and sharing God's love and forgiveness?
11. Usually we think of verses 19-20 in terms of praying for blessings, and that's fine to apply it broadly. What specifically is Jesus talking about in this context though? (Hint: see verse 18)
12. We teach that the (holy Christian) Church is found wherever believers are gathered in God's name. How does verse 20 help us understand what a "church" is and where the Church is found? Does a group have to be officially organized to be called a church?

Closing Prayer

Almighty Father, thank you for blessing me with your law and your gospel. Turn my heart from sin and let me pursue your righteousness in every walk of life. Give me opportunities this week to speak your praise and share your mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.