

# **Growth Group Questions**

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 15, 2024

## **Introduction**

American Christians live pretty comfortable lives. We don't face much in the way of physical persecution or even harassment for our faith. In what ways is that a blessing of God, and in what ways does it become a tool of the devil?

## **Into the Word** – 1 Kings 18:21-39

1. The page division in our bulletin worked out in our favor. What question does Elijah ask in verse 21 and why is the people's silent response so damning?
2. Were the prophets and followers of Baal zealous in their faith? Were they eager and sincere in what they believed?
3. As sincere as their faith in Baal was, the prophets received no response. Apply this to the way we think about faith today. Why must a person have both sincerity in faith AND faith in the right Savior?
4. What did Elijah have to do to get a response from God? What does that tell us about God's watchfulness? About our supposed "need" to sacrifice and make shows of faith?

## **Into the Word** – Ephesians 6:10-18

5. What did Paul mean when he says that our struggle is not against flesh and blood? Why do we need to remember this?

6. In this description of the armor of God we find not only defensive equipment, but an offensive one. What is it, and why is it an important part of our battle equipment?
7. This text shows us both the seriousness of the battle we're in as Christians AND the great blessing in how God equips us for that battle. Explain.
8. Agree/Disagree: Christians are strong enough to fight against Satan and the demons who follow his lead.

## **Into the Word** – Mark 9:14-27

9. What tone do you imagine Jesus using when he says the words of verse 19? What was he saying?
10. Just as we saw last week in the miraculous healing, it isn't the faith of the person being healed that causes the miracle. Discuss the father's growth in faith from verses 22-24
11. Why must every believer raise the same prayer as this boy's father: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
12. Remember the privacy of last week's miracle to the deaf-mute man. Not again what prompts Jesus to cast out this demon. (First phrase of v. 25) Why does Jesus deliver us from evil?

## **Closing Prayer**

Savior Jesus, protect me from my every spiritual enemy and empower me to fight in faith to your glory. Forgive my sins and raise me up to stand firm in your power by your Holy Spirit. Amen.