

## GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

June 21, 2026

“I Will Serpentine but Not Divert”

### SCRIPTURE

#### **Psalm 121**

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;
- <sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

#### **Exodus 13:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” <sup>18</sup> So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. <sup>19</sup> The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

#### **Jude 1:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

#### **Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction***

“There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.”

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Psalm 121:2 says: “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” What does that mean to you?
2. Pastor Paul said that there is a danger in us, as followers of Jesus, becoming tourists rather than pilgrims on our spiritual journey. What do you see as the difference between being a spiritual tourist and being a spiritual pilgrim?
3. Carefully read through the Eugene Peterson quote from his book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* that Pastor Paul used in his sermon. What do you think he is saying in this quote?
4. The title of this week’s sermon is “I Will Serpentine but Not Divert.” How does this phrase describe the path on which we, as Christians, find ourselves?
5. Pastor Paul said that when we take our eyes off Jesus, we can stumble and slip. What can cause us to take our eyes off Jesus?
6. What can we practically do to help remind ourselves and each other of God’s promise of protection?
7. The Bible is full of God’s promises to us. Which Bible verses help you to understand and remember God’s promise of protection and help?

## **PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS**

1. Can you think of a time when God used what seemed like a “detour” to teach you something important?
2. How do you keep your eyes on God when the path is not clear and the road is uncertain?