

Growth Group Questions

2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2023

Introduction

All three of our texts this week are Gospel treasures, and all three connect to each other in important ways. Every week we have a theme for our service. What was the theme this week and what did each Scripture lesson add to that theme?

Into the Word – Genesis 12:1-8

1. Abraham figures prominently in the Hebrews 11 “Heroes of Faith” chapter. Read verses 8-19 and enjoy the example of faith that Abraham sets for us. How do verses 10 & 16 help us understand Abraham’s willingness to leave his home?
2. What does Abraham do twice in verses 7 & 10, and why is that significant? How does that tie into our service theme?
3. In the sermon I mention that it is 25 years between God’s promise of a son and the birth of Isaac. How can we become more patient in waiting for God to answer our prayers and keep his promises to bless us? (*Don’t just say, “do better”!*)

Into the Word – Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

4. Explain Paul’s main point in verses 4-5 as he contrasts wages paid by obligation versus faith credited as righteousness.
5. If people could be saved (“are heirs”) by law, then God’s promise of a Savior to Abraham would be worthless. Instead, what does verse 15 say the law brings? Why? (See Romans 3:20 if you need help)

6. Some Christian Zionists believe that there will be a mass conversion of the Jews in the future, thus enabling God to keep his promises to save Israel. What do verses 16-17 say about that? (You might want to read Romans 9:6 as well.)

Into the Word – John 3:1-18

7. Ah, bask in some of the greatest Gospel truth in all of Scripture...and I didn’t choose it for the sermon! Explain what being “born again” means in John 3 versus the way that some in Christianity use that term.
8. Did you know that the “so loved” in John 3:16 is misunderstood by almost everyone? The phrase means “loved in this way” not “loved so much.” An unfortunate problem of the English language. How does that difference make Jesus even more closely connected with God’s love?
9. Americans love John 3:16 but ignore John 3:18, the reason I added that to the planned text. What is our natural condition before God, and how does this verse reinforce the necessity of Jesus? Will everyone be saved in the end, as some say?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the gospel you’ve shown us once again in this Sunday in Lent. In the darkness of your suffering we find the greatest light of our salvation by your gift. Open my eyes to one opportunity this week to share your love with someone. And give me the words and boldness to speak. Amen.