

Growth Group Questions

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023

Introduction

This weekend is Youth Confirmation Sunday at Salem! Go around the room and share your confirmation verse for others to enjoy. If you don't have (or don't remember) your verse, choose a verse that serves as your "life verse" and share that.

Into the Word – Acts 4:8-12

1. Peter and John had healed a lame beggar in the name of Jesus, prompting their arrest by the priests and temple guard and now their appearance before the Sanhedrin. To what does Peter point to as the source of their ability to do this?
2. There is no salvation other than salvation in Jesus' name. Obviously this means trusting in Jesus as our Savior. For fun though, come up with as many names of Jesus as you can.

Into the Word – 1 Peter 2:4-10

3. We had to cut the second reading today for time and theme reasons. You get to enjoy it today though.

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^c to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

⁸and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

4. A cornerstone in 1st century Israel was more than a decorative thing. It was the first stone laid and had to be perfect in order to make a strong building. Discuss what ways Jesus serves as the cornerstone for the "temple" that is his church
5. How is Jesus a stumbling block for some? Have you come across someone that just couldn't accept him?
6. Explain each phrase of verse nine and what it means for us.

Into the Word – John 14:1-11

7. Jesus calls himself "**the** Way, **the** Truth, and **the** Life." What is the significance of the three definite articles (the "the"s)?
8. How does each of those three dispel cultural assumptions today?

Closing Prayer

Risen Savior, because you live – we live. Thank you for the message of hope and joy that you share with us through the empty tomb of Easter. Let us never tire of singing your praises and trusting in you as THE complete and perfect Way to our heavenly home. Amen.