**Growth Group Questions for May 20-21, 2023**

**This week’s sermon theme is “The Prosperities of Salem Congregation” with a scripture reference of PS 106:1-5**

**1**Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PS+106%3A1-5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15653a)]

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
    his love endures forever.

**2**Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord
    or fully declare his praise?
**3**Blessed are those who act justly,
    who always do what is right.

**4**Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people,
    come to my aid when you save them,
**5**that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
    that I may share in the joy of your nation
    and join your inheritance in giving praise.

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**Sermon related questions for discussion:**

1. One of Salem’s prosperities that we’re recognizing today is it’s called workers. Specifically, we’re today expressing appreciation for three who’ve reached a major milestone in their ministry; Nancy Hasselquist, Debbie Hansen and Roger Zolldan.
* Do you have a memorable story/experience to share about one or more of the three?
* Recall a called worker – somewhere in your life - who made a particularly major impact on who you are today.

2) In what ways do you view Salem as being prosperous? In what ways do you believe we’re somehow lacking in prosperity?

3) What thoughts come to mind when you read verse 1?

4) What do you think the psalmist is expressing in verse 2?

5) As none of us can fully do what is described in verse 3, what thought is the psalmist expressing?

6) In verse 4 the psalmist could have simply stated: ”Remember me Lord, show favor to me, come to my aid and save me”. Why do you think he involved others in the conversation?

7) Verse 5 seems like one which could be used by the “prosperity” church to justify their position that God wants all of his people to achieve great earthly prosperity – e.g., wealth, positions of power, etc. What do you think the psalmist had in mind here?

**Ascension related questions**

The three readings for this day (Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53) each focus on Jesus’ ascension into heaven. One could have a lengthy series of Bible studies on the topic, but I’ll just touch on it as we’re celebrating the event in this service.

8) I’m sure most of you have heard the story of ascension day since you were a child. What details of the day stick in your mind? If you peruse the three readings, are there any significant events that you didn’t recall?

9) Is there a message for us today in Jesus’ message prior to his ascension and his ascension story as a whole?

10) What does Jesus’ ascension prove or solidify?