

Growth Group Questions

2nd Sunday after Pentecost, June 11, 2023

Introduction

This week we begin a three-part series on the Holy Ministry. As a group, discuss what that term means to you. Who are the ministers of the church? What are a minister's responsibilities? Why do we designate some as "called", or "public" ministers?

Into the Word – Exodus 3:1-15

1. Moses is one of the most central figures in the Old Testament. Share what you remember of his life leading up to this account with the burning bush. How had God prepared Moses for the work he was going to do?
2. Why does God have Moses take his sandals off? Why does Moses hide his face? Does this have any bearing on how we prepare for worship? Should it?
3. The name God gives to Moses is "Yahweh", shown as LORD in the NIV translation. It's the same word as "I am" in Hebrew. It reminds us that God never changes, and that time has no meaning to him. Discuss the implications of God's eternity on his law, his love, and his timing.

Into the Word – 1 Timothy 1:12-17

4. Our theme this weekend in worship revolves around God's use of sinful people to carry out his holy ministry. Remind each other of Paul's life before and after his conversion to faith.

5. Who is truly the worst of sinners? (For help, find the answer in the closest mirror!) Now, why is that true?
6. Paul considered himself an example to others, but maybe not in the way that some people would think of this "hero of faith." What did God teach through his example according to verse 16?
7. BONUS: If you somehow have extra time, peek through Paul's letters for his "trustworthy sayings." (Google would help.) Rejoice with Paul in these important Bible truths.

Into the Word – Matthew 9:9-13

8. Our Gospel lesson records Matthew's own account of his call to follow Jesus. It's possible (even likely) Matthew had heard Jesus before and possibly followed him part-time before this. What catches your attention in this familiar story as you read it this time?
9. Explain Jesus' answer to the Pharisees in verse 12-13. How do we continue to remind ourselves that we are the sick sinners in need of healing?

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, comforter and guide, we thank you for your blessing as we study your word and grow in our faith and understanding. Bless us as we go from this place to live our faith as your ministers, serving in humility and mercy. Open our eyes and our mouths that we might sing your praises in every moment. In Jesus' name, Amen.