

Growth Group Questions

7th Sunday after Pentecost, July 16, 2023

Introduction

This weekend we're talking about the blessing of God's Word. Go around the room and share your confirmation verse with the group. If you don't remember it, pick a new verse to be your "life" verse!

Into the Word – Isaiah 55:6-11

1. Look at verse seven. What must a person do to find God's forgiveness? Is that something we do on our own or something God gives to us? (Look up Eph. 2:4-5, Col. 2:13)
2. Think of the worst sinners you can. Read verse seven again. Is there any sinner too terrible that God won't pardon? Why is that difficult for us to accept? What do we need to remind ourselves when that ugly pride rears up?
3. It's interesting that God says his word "accomplishes what [he] desires" so closely to telling us that his thoughts are not our thoughts. If people don't always come to faith when they hear the Word, how can God say it always works?

Into the Word – 1 Corinthians 3:5-11

4. Truly humble pastors love these verses and take great comfort in them. How do you think these verses keep us humble? How do you think they give us peace when we leave work undone?
5. Jesus is the foundation of our faith. What do others try to build their faith on, and what is the inevitable consequence of that?

6. Discuss the meaning of verse 8. What "rewards" can we expect from Jesus for the labors we do in faith? (Read Luke 17:7-10 for an important truth to remember.)

Into the Word – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

7. Walk through this parable carefully, noting the four kinds of soil and the results for seeds on each kind.
 - Path –
Meaning
 - Rocky Places –
Meaning
 - Thorns –
Meaning
 - Good Soil –
Meaning
8. Note that the seed among thorns doesn't die, but is made "unfruitful". (verse 22) Describe some things in life that don't kill our faith but make us less fruitful than we would otherwise be.
9. For one week, choose something that makes life busy and set it aside so that you can read Scripture, help a neighbor, or whatever you need to do to be "fruitful."

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank you for the gift of faith you have given me through your Word. Bless me to grow in faith and understanding, and let that growth lead me to greater love and service. In Jesus, name. Amen.