

# **Growth Group Questions**

*Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 21, 2024*

## **Introduction**

This weekend's Gospel lesson is Mark's "short" account of Jesus' baptism. As we think of his we naturally think of our own. Go around the room to share your baptism stories – when, where, who, etc.

## **Into the Word** – 1 Samuel 3:1-10

1. Describe the unique circumstances of Samuel's birth.
2. "The word of the Lord was rare." How is our time similar to Samuel's in this way?
3. What does verse seven mean when it says that Samuel "did not yet know the Lord"? (Remember who is writing this book.)
4. What model attitude does Samuel display for Christians? How can we follow Samuel's example?

## **Into the Word** – 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

5. Paul had just warned us about believing the lie that our good works can save us from hell. Now he changes topics. Who gets the credit for saving us?
6. Why did God call us "to belief in the truth"?
7. How have we received the teachings the Apostles passed down to us?

8. True or false? As long as we trust that Jesus died for us, it doesn't matter if we believe a few lies.
9. Agree or Disagree: Church membership is a confession of what a person believes.
10. How does God strengthen us to do what he commands here?

## **Into the Word** – John 1:43-51

11. What did Philip do when Jesus commanded him, "Follow me."?
12. How did Nathanael react to Philip's news?
13. Philip doesn't answer Nathanael's objections. What does he do instead? What can we learn from Philip's example for our own witnessing?
14. Why might Jesus have called Nathanael a "true Israelite"? (See v 49)
15. What now unites heaven and earth, like the stairs that Jacob once saw in Israel?
16. Think of the great things that Nathanael would eventually see as one of Jesus' disciples. What is the relationship between proof and faith?

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, bless us as your children in your Word and through your Word. Give us opportunities and boldness to share that Word with friend and stranger alike, to your glory. Amen.