

Growth Group Questions

First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024

Introduction

We were blessed to witness a baptism in worship this weekend. Let's add some thoughts about the practice of baptism to our study today.

Thoughts on Baptism

1. Why do we prefer to conduct baptisms during the worship service?
2. Explain the difference between a sponsor (godparent) and a witness. Why does it matter? Are "godparents" a tradition that has run its course?
3. What responsibilities do parents have after a baptism?
4. What responsibilities does our church have after a baptism?

Into the Word –Genesis 22:1-18

5. How do Abraham's actions upon receiving God's command demonstrate his faith and obedience? What do God's promises to Abraham add to the difficulty of this task?
6. What do you learn from the conversation between Abraham and Isaac during the journey?
7. How does God's providing the ram for the sacrifice demonstrate *His* faithfulness?
8. How does this story (the test, the provision of the ram, the promise after) influence our understand of the trials God allows us to face?

Into the Word – Romans 8:31-39

9. Explain Paul's argument "from the greater to the lesser" in verse 32.
10. What reason does Paul give in verses 33-34 to trust that no one can condemn Christians for their sin or bring charges against us?
11. If nothing can separate us from the love of God, why do some fall from their faith? (Hint: Read Romans 2:8.)
12. How do these verses give you confidence in faith as you face tests, trials, and temptations?

Into the Word – Mark 1:12-15

13. Remember when I said a few weeks ago that Mark often gives us the most abbreviated of the Gospel accounts? This is a perfect example! Read Luke 4:1-13 or Matthew 4:1-11 for the full account.
14. Using the other Gospel accounts what do we learn about how Satan uses God's Word and how Christ (and Christians) use the Word?
15. Was this the only time Satan tempted Jesus? What does Hebrews 4:15 tell us about Jesus' temptations and the result of them?
16. Some wonder if Jesus' temptations were real since he is true God. The ask, "could he *really* have sinned?" But remember that Jesus came as our substitute. If the temptations weren't real, was he really perfect in our place? (Read Romans 5:18-19 and explain.)

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, protect me from every temptation and fill me with hope not in my life, but in Jesus' perfect life lived for me. Bring me home to heaven for Jesus' sake. Amen.