

Growth Group Questions

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024

Introduction

Our epistle and Gospel readings are two of the most important sections of Scripture for understanding how we are saved. Imagine you are sharing your faith with an unbeliever. Use either part of Scripture to help explain God's grace and the importance of Christ for our salvation.

Into the Word – Numbers 21:4-9

1. God had delivered Israel from a land of slavery in which their own sons were executed at birth. He miraculously provided manna in the desert and water from a rock. (The water just one chapter before.) Yet, now they complain, "There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Share a time when God blessed you in one way, yet your focus was on a lack of blessings elsewhere.
2. What does God sending venomous snakes remind us about him? What does creating the bronze snake tell us about him?
3. How could a statue of a snake actually heal people? What was really going on?
4. Centuries later, King Hezekiah would break this bronze snake into pieces. Read 2 Kings 18:4 to see why. Discuss what good blessings from God sometimes become temptations of idolatry for us today.

Into the Word – Ephesians 2:1-10

5. This section is the backbone of my Bible basics course. Use these verses to explain the four key concepts:
 - sin(vv. 1-3)
 - grace (vv. 4-8a)
 - faith (v. 8-9)
 - works (v. 10).

6. Paul is speaking to believers here but says that at one time the Ephesians used to follow "the ways of the world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air." What is he talking about, and why is that an apt description for Satan?
7. In what way has God already "seated us...in the heavenly realms"? How will God "in the coming ages...show the incomparable riches of his grace"?
8. In a section that is so focused on reminding us we are saved by grace alone through faith alone, why is verse 10 such a blessing to us? What is our purpose in life and how have you seen this in your own lives?

Into the Word – John 3:14-21

9. Explain the comparison Jesus makes between the snake in the desert and himself.
10. I described three specific gospel points in John 3:16. Name them.
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11. What does Jesus reveal to us in John 3:18? Why is that important for how we think of our neighbors and friends? What does it motivate us to do?
12. In verse 19 the "love" people have for darkness is the same word of sacrificial love describing God's sacrifice of Jesus in John 3:16. List a few things people sometimes sacrifice because they love their deeds of darkness more than Christ.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace and forgiveness. Let me put my trust and hope in you always for heaven. Amen.