

Growth Group Questions

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5, 2024

Introduction

Last week I asked you to discuss pros & cons of our confirmation tradition. One of the unquestioned blessings of our tradition is giving each confirmand a passage or “life verse.” Share your confirmation passage, and if you don’t remember, choose a new one!

Into the Word – Acts 7:1-2a, 51-60

1. Our theme this week recognizes the truth that in Christ, God overcomes a world broken in sin. (If you have time read more about this remarkable servant of God in Acts 6 and 7.) How many different ways do you see God granting victory in the life of Stephen?
 - In service to others through the church
 - In witness
 - In personal faith
 - In physical life
 - In eternity
2. Some would have us believe that Jesus and the early believers just considered Jesus a great prophet, not God himself. How does the confession of Stephen and the reaction of the Sanhedrin members (vv. 56-58) oppose that concept?
3. Obviously Stephen didn’t just take a nap after his stoning. This is death referred to as sleep. (Hear Jesus in Matthew 9:24.) In what way is death like sleep for believers?
4. Why is this a fitting Bible section for Confirmation Sunday?

Into the Word – 1 John 5:1-6

5. John tells us in verse one that anyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is “born of God.” This is the “rebirth” Jesus spoke about to Nicodemus in John 3. How do you explain this to an evangelical who might insist that only those who have surrendered their life to Christ consciously are “born again”?
6. In this section of John’s letter, our theme of overcoming the world is really referring to overcoming the world’s temptation to fall short in our love for others. Explain how faith in Jesus allows us to overcome the world in this way. (Verses 4-5)
7. Why is this a fitting Bible section for Confirmation Sunday?

Into the Word – John 17:11b-19

8. Jesus prays that our Father would protect us and give us unity. Share an example from your life in how God has done this.
9. Why does the world hate Jesus and his followers?
10. Note that Jesus doesn’t ask the Father to take us out of the world, but instead that He would protect us from it. How can this thought be helpful as we suffer, and as we help encourage others who are suffering?
11. Why is this a fitting Bible section for Confirmation Sunday?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, bless those who confirm their faith in you this weekend. Keep them, and us, true to our vows of faithfulness. Amen.