

Growth Group Questions

3rd Sunday in Easter (Confirmation), May 4, 2025

Introduction

This weekend we see the confirmation of several young people from our church. Even though confirmation is never mentioned in Scripture, what benefits come from this practice that led to its development?

Discuss ways it might be changed to benefit our young people and their families more. (Then share those with Pastor Wolfe – I have a lot of thoughts already, but would love to hear yours!)

Into the Word – Acts 9:1-22

1. Whom did Jesus say that Paul was persecuting? What does that mean for us?
2. What means did God use to convert Paul?
3. What kind of future did God promise to Paul?
4. Discuss Ananias' role in Paul's conversion. In what ways might we imitate him in our lives?
5. The verb in the last verse has always interested me. Paul "proves" that Jesus is the Messiah, not the regular word "proclaims." As we think of our witnessing, what is the role of proofs and evidence? What are their limitations?

Into the Word – Revelation 5:11-14

6. Go back and read Revelation 5:1-10 to get a fuller picture of this section. Note who is on the throne. (Find the Trinity!) Note also the description of the lamb and how often the number seven is used to describe a complete thing.

7. Before getting lost in the details, describe in simple terms the kind of picture Jesus is painting for us in this scene. Who is there and what is it like?
8. What great irony does John hear as innumerable angels sing Jesus' praise? (v. 12)
9. How many things do the angels say that Jesus, the Lamb, is worthy to receive? Why is that number significant in Revelation and what does it show us about Jesus' worthiness to receive our praise?
10. We use the word "Amen" all the time. What does it mean, and why is it fitting for use in this picture of heavenly worship and our own?

Into the Word – John 21:1-14

11. How many times had Jesus appeared to his disciples before this incident on the lake shore? (v. 14) Why do you think John records that detail for us?
12. How many fish did Peter and the others catch? Why do you suppose John records that detail for us?
13. Peter once again displays his usual "act, then think" character. What does he do in verse 7 and what do you think about it?
14. What miracles can you identify in this account?

Closing Prayer: Risen Savior, thank you for opening our eyes to the truth of our forgiveness in Jesus alone. Bless us this week as we turn from sin and serve you. Send special blessing on the young people who make their vow of faithfulness at Salem this week and grant them lifelong faith. Amen.