

Growth Group Questions

6th Sunday in Easter, May 25, 2025

Introduction

Our theme for worship this weekend is “Because He lives, we have deep and lasting joy.” Discuss the difference between joy and happiness. How can a Christian claim joy even in difficult times.

Into the Word – Acts 14:8-22

1. In this account, it tells us the man “had faith to be healed.” In other accounts of healing, Jesus or the apostles healed people seemingly before they had faith. (man lowered through roof by friends, ten lepers, etc.) Some preachers today claim to do miraculous healings, if the faith of the person allows it. Some of these modern miracles are false while some are probably real. Where does the power to do miraculous healings come from? Discuss.
2. This account again perhaps helps us understand why we don’t see as many of these obvious miracles today. How did the people respond to this healing? (v. 11-13, 18)
3. What did Paul and Barnabas want their focus to be instead?
4. Paul’s enemies traveled from cities he had just left to persecute him here Lystra. They even stone him! What does Paul do next and what does that tell us about trusting in God in struggle? (v. 21-22)

Into the Word – Revelation 21:21-27

5. What overall impression do you get of heaven from verse 21? (Remember the message of the pictures in Revelation are probably more important than figuring out the meaning of every detail.)

6. Verse 22 is a useful verse to respond to those who interpret the restored temple of Ezekiel 40-48 literally. What’s the meaning of Ezekiel’s description of a perfect temple? What’s the meaning of Revelation’s absence of a temple?

7. The lack of night and gates that will never be shut convey an obvious comfort. What message do those pictures convey?

8. Revelation is full of shout-outs to the rest of Scripture. Look up Exodus 32:32-33 and Revelation 3:5 for other references to God’s “book of life.”

Into the Word – John 16:16-24

9. When do the events of this account happen? How does that help us understand verses 16-18?
10. With that in mind, what is Jesus describing in verses 19-23?
11. If we don’t get everything we pray for, how can Jesus’ words in 23 be true?
12. How does picture of a woman in labor fit both the disciples’ anguish between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, AND the world waiting for Jesus’ return on the Last Day? (Look up Romans 8:18-25 for a similar picture.)

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, living as a sinner in this world of sin means that we cannot experience happiness at all times. But knowing the forgiveness we have already in Jesus, and the glory that waits for us in heaven, fill my heart with unending joy in Him. In Jesus’ name. Amen.