

Growth Group Questions

2nd Sunday after Pentecost, June 22, 2025

Introduction

Most, if not all, believers know Jesus' directions for us to be his witnesses to the world. What keeps us from speaking about Jesus when we have the chance? Share encouragement with each other to overcome those obstacles.

Into the Word – Isaiah 43:8-13

1. Context makes Scripture easier! In chapter 42 Isaiah spoke about Israel (and himself) as people who were blinded by sin. Then, in the first seven verses of this chapter God shockingly revealed that in spite of their blindness he would still show grace and mercy. These verse then are a call for forgiven sinners to be witnesses to those still blinded by sin. Context makes it easier!
2. Think of (and share) events from Old Testament Israel that they might point to as examples of God's grace and mercy.
3. In verse 10, God reminds us that he has chosen us to be his servants. How might that thought help us as we consider our opportunities to witness about Jesus?
4. Most of sharing our faith is simply sharing what God has done for us. What kind of things from your own life might you use as "witnessing points" when you speak to others?

Into the Word – 1 Timothy 1:3-10

5. Paul longed for the joy of seeing Timothy again. In the sermon I talked about some ways we might build that same community at Salem. How do we build community among our members? What might we do more?

6. Reflect on verses 9 & 10 and the peace it gives to us:
 - Peace from guilt and the need to be perfect
 - Peace from accusations by others
 - Peace from worry about the future
7. Who in your life have you been too "afraid" to share the gospel with? Encourage one another and pray for them.

Into the Word – Luke 8:26-39

8. What does one of the demon-possessed men (Matthew tells us there were two, even though Luke only focuses on the one.) call Jesus in verse 28? Why does that matter?
9. Do believers today need fear demons? Consider 1 John 3:8, Matthew 12:43-45, Romans 8:35-39
10. For more on the topic of demons you might consider a short, but excellent book on the topic in our church library. "2000 Demons – No Match for My Savior" by E. Allen Sorum.
11. Identify the different ones who "beg" in this account and what they received:
 - (v. 28) the demon
 - (v. 37) the people
 - (v. 38) the healed man

Closing Prayer: Mighty God, you have power over all things, natural and supernatural. Watch over us and those we love during this coming week. Bless us in your Word as we find peace and share peace in Jesus. Amen.