

Growth Group Questions

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2026

Introduction

This is Confirmation Weekend at Salem, with adults confirmed on Saturday and teens on Sunday! It's not a perfect tradition, but discuss the benefits of a program of catechism instruction and the blessings that our confirmation practice gives to families and our church.

Into the Word – Acts 4:8-12

1. We take our worship theme each week from the readings appointed for this day of the church year. This week's theme is "Jesus as the only way to heaven", clearly seen in each reading. What does verse 12 say about the 2/3 of the world that does not believe in Jesus as Savior?
2. The New Testament talks about both the "faith" gift of the Holy Spirit and the "filling" gifts of the Holy Spirit. Which is more important ultimately? Think (or Google) other times when someone was filled with the Spirit. What did they do?
3. Verse 10 has the crucial contrast between sinners and God. What did sinners do to Jesus? What did God do to him? How does this apply to us?

Into the Word – 1 Peter 2:4-10

4. A cornerstone in 1st century Israel was more than a decorative thing. It was the first stone laid and had to be perfect in order to make a strong building. Discuss what ways Jesus serves as the cornerstone for the "temple" that is his church.

5. Explain the three parts of the sermon theme and what they mean for believers.
 - One Stone
 - One House
 - One People
6. How is Jesus a stumbling block for some? Have you come across someone that just couldn't accept him?
7. Explain each phrase of verse nine and what it means for us.

Into the Word – John 14:1-11

8. The beginning of this chapter (verse 1-3) is one of the greatest parts of Scripture to share with someone at the end of earthly life. What does Jesus want for us?
9. It would be easy to be critical of Thomas (again!) for not understanding Jesus as the Gospel "way" to heaven. Yet, what sinful path to heaven do our work righteous hearts tempt us with? How does this show in unbelievers? In believers?
10. Jesus calls himself "**the** Way, **the** Truth, and **the** Life." What is the significance of the three definite articles (the "the"s)?
11. What do you suppose Jesus meant by verse 10?

Closing Prayer

Risen Savior, because you live – we live. Let us never tire of singing your praises and trusting in you as THE complete and perfect Way to our heavenly home. Amen.