

# **Growth Group Questions**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, June 18, 2023*

## **Introduction**

How is a “love-based” mission for the church different from an “organization-based” mission? How does Christian love show itself at Salem, or how could we show it better? (to each other and to our community)

## **Into the Word** – Numbers 27:15-23

1. What was Moses’ concern as he realized his time to lead the Israelites was ending? What does that teach us about the heart of a true minister?
2. What was God showing the people by having Joshua stand specifically before the priest and the people for his “installation”? (Note the laying on of hands – we still hold this same tradition today!)
3. The Urim & Thummim aren’t a key part of this text, but how often do we get to talk about them? They were some kind of unknown lot-casting pieces kept in the breastplate of the Old Testament high priests. The priest used them to determine God’s will on some matter. 1 Samuel 14:38-42 is one example of the Urim & Thummim in use. The advantages of having a direct answer from God are clear. Can you think of some reasons why God doesn’t give us this ability today? How *does* he communicate with us?

## **Into the Word** – 1 Corinthians 4:1-7

4. Last week we heard Paul describe himself as the most unworthy Apostle there is – the “chief of sinners.” According

to verse one though, how were the people to view him and other church leaders?

5. Whose opinions and judgments are most important to the true minister and servant of God?
6. There were clearly members of the Corinthian church who were proud to be followers of one pastor over the other. How does Paul’s practice (“Do not go beyond what is written”) help pastors keep a church from divisive favoritism? What is so dangerous about situations where pastors don’t discourage this kind of favoritism? Where do you see it in American Christianity? Among us in WELS?

## **Into the Word** – Matthew 9:35-10:8

7. What was the driving force behind Jesus’ personal healing and teaching ministry? Why **MUST** that be the motivation for us as ministers too?
8. Jesus told the disciples to pray that God would send an answer to the need for workers, and then made them a part of the answer. Can you think of other ways that we become the answers to the prayers we make?
9. Why did Jesus tell the Twelve to go only to the Jews? How do we know that wasn’t a lasting command? (See Mt. 28:19)

## **Closing Prayer**

Jesus, bless us to be your disciples and your witnesses. Use us to bring your love to each other and to those who don’t know you yet. Amen.