

Growth Group Questions

3rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 9, 2024

Introduction

Our first summer series continues with the “beyond good” news that Jesus always wins. Share a time from your own life when the devil tried his hardest but Jesus won anyway. It could be something spiritual, emotional, or even physical.

Into the Word – Genesis 3:8-15

1. Adam and Eve had just broken a command of God for the very first time. Describe the emotions they must have felt as the familiar sound of God walking in the garden fell on their ears.
2. God asks three questions in this section to which he already knows the answers. Find them and discuss why God asked them if he already knew the truth.
3. How do we today make the same excuses as Adam and Eve?
4. Explain the gospel promise in Gen. 3:15. How is this a comforting verse that reminds us God was in control the whole time, even as paradise was being destroyed?

Into the Word – Revelation 20:1-6

5. How does the rest of Scripture help us understand who the angel and the dragon are? How does the rest of Scripture help us understand when Satan was thrown into the abyss?
6. What does it mean that Satan will be set free for a time? When? Why?

7. Verses 1 & 2 are highly figurative. (Jesus called an angel, Satan a dragon, hell having a key, etc.) Would it fit the context better then for the thousand years to be literal or figurative?
8. Jesus’ plain words in Matthew 24 show us that this thousand year time is not some future era of “heaven on earth.” What will the last days of earth be like according to Mt. 24:6-12)?
9. What is the first resurrection? (See Ephesians 2:4-5)
10. If the first resurrection is our new life in faith (from our natural spiritual death), and if the second death has no power over believers, what is the second death referring to?
11. From the *People’s Bible* commentary: “Since [the thousand years] begins with the binding of Satan and ends with the devil’s release for a short time, the thousand years is the New Testament Age.” Look at this section and see how perfectly that interpretation fits with each mention of a thousand years.

Into the Word – Mark 3:20-35

12. Is there any sin too great to be forgiven?
13. What does Jesus mean then when he says that “blaspheming against the Holy Spirit” will never be forgiven? (Consider that repentance and faith are gifts of the Holy Spirit.)

Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, fill me with joy and confidence as I remember today that your victory is my victory. Let that be my hope and peace. Amen.