

Growth Group Questions

4th Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 16, 2024

Introduction

Sometimes the world seems big, and the work of the church seems impossible. And it is! But God works through little things: a mother reading to her baby in his first Bible, a teenager calling someone to repentance, a Gospel message that carries with it the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. Share your favorite Gospel-sharing story with those in your group.

Into the Word – Ezekiel 17:22-24

1. In Ezekiel 17:1-4, God had used the removal of the top of a cedar tree to represent the Babylon King Nebuchadnezzar's removal of the kings of Judah to Babylon in captivity. Then he describes a vine reaching out into Israel representing Egypt. (This is all explained in verses 11-21.)
2. God continues his arboreal picture, but this time God himself is taking off the top of a tree. What does he say will happen to this tree though?
3. There are often three levels to Old Testament prophecy. How was this prophecy fulfilled in part in the physical nation of Israel? How is it fulfilled to a greater degree in the spiritual Israel that is the Church? How will it be completely fulfilled in heaven?
4. What added meaning might God have had in mind when he said "birds of every kind will nest in it"?

Into the Word – Colossians 1:3-8

5. What did Paul thank God for?
6. What is the source of Christian faith and love?
7. What was the gospel doing all over the world in Paul's day?
8. The only things we know about Epaphras is that he faithfully served the Colossians with the gospel and that he was imprisoned probably with Paul in Rome (Philemon 23). What a blessed legacy to leave behind? What would you have to change in your life to be remembered that way? Go do it!

Into the Word – Mark 3:20-35

9. Why do you suppose Jesus used parables to teach the people?
10. Why did he have to explain the parables to his disciples?
11. Explain the point of the parable of the growing seed.
12. Explain the point of the parable of the mustard seed.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are the only and perfect God who cares for his children as a perfect father for lost children. Forgive me my sins, protect me under your loving care, and fill my heart and life with praise. Amen.