

Growth Group Questions

5th Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 23, 2024

Introduction

This week's theme is simple, almost painfully simple. "God is with us through the storms of life." But often it's the simplest things that we quickly forget. As a group, walk through the order of thoughts that go through your mind when something isn't going right. When does God come into that order? When *could* he and what blessing would that bring to us in difficult times?

Into the Word – Job 38:1-11

1. We heard these words as part of our Ash Wednesday sermon. (I'm sure you remember every word!) What connection do you think we made between the theme of Ash Wednesday and God's Word here?
2. God uses his creation to humble a too-proud Job. In Psalm 19:1-2 we read that the "heavens declare the glory of God." What objects, concepts, or mysteries of creation speak to you personally, showing that there is a great God of all. (For me, it's the perfect mathematics and physics of space.)
3. Is the knowledge of a creator God enough to bring a person to heaven? What do John 3:18 and 14:6 add to the discussion?

Into the Word – Acts 27:13-26

4. These experienced sailors tried every trick in the book to save their ship, but in verse 20 we read they gave up hope. If you're comfortable, share a time when you gave up hope on something or someone.

5. How do you think the sailor reacted when Paul told them essentially, "Don't worry, you won't die. Only the ship and your entire livelihood will be lost!" Have you ever received good news from God that didn't seem to be all that great?
6. God had a plan for Paul to preach before Caesar, but for now his plan included Paul's suffering. How might you use this account to share hope to an elderly shut-in who is tired of old age and just wants to go home to heaven?

Into the Word – Mark 4:35-41

7. What in this account reminds you of Jesus' humanity? What reminds you of his divinity?
8. Jesus wants us to cast our cares on him and that's just what the disciples do here. But in verse 38 what problem do you see in their attitude?
9. How quickly and how completely did the storm stop? What does that tell you about God's ability to bring us through our worldly times of storm?
10. First the disciples were afraid of the storm. At the end they are terrified of Jesus. Discuss this statement: Even as believers it is good for us to fear the Lord above all things.

Closing Prayer

Mighty God and Lord of all, you protect your people as you guide us through this life on our journey to heaven. Bless me this week with peace in your promises of eternal glory and joy.