

Growth Group Questions

Last Sunday of the Church Year ~ November 24, 2024

Introduction

This Sunday is the Last Sunday of the Church Year, and this Thursday is Thanksgiving Day in the US. Share with the group something you are thankful for that God brought you through the church this year?

Name and pray for something you hope to give thanks for next Thanksgiving.

If we're going to talk about the Church Year, perhaps we should refresh our memories on its seasons. Fill in the blanks on the chart. (A hymnal can help!)

<u>Season</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Color</u>
1) Advent	_____	Blue/Purple
2) _____	Christ is Born	_____
3) _____	Christ is Revealed	_____
4) Lent	_____	_____
5) _____	Christ is Risen!	White
6) _____	The Holy Spirit comes	Red
7) Sundays after Pentecost	_____	_____

Into the Word – Isaiah 51:4-6

1. The word “islands” in Isaiah refers to distant nations or peoples. (See Isaiah 11:11 and 41:1,5 for example.) This means when you see that term in this book, you can often see yourself in it. What do the nations look for in verse 5?

2. Explain what God is contrasting in verse six. In other words, what will wear out and what will continue forever. Why is that especially fitting on the last Sunday of the Church Year.
3. How might you use these words to bring comfort to someone who just found out they have an incurable disease?

Into the Word – Acts 17:22-31

4. Paul was speaking to people who were spiritual, but not correct in their spirituality. What truth about God does he begin his sermon with? Why is that a good place to start even in our witnessing today?
5. Paul's statement in verse 27 reminds us that ALL people have an inner desire to know God. Our goal, then, isn't to create that desire but to help show others the answer they're seeking already. How does that show in our witnessing?
6. Paul shows a familiarity with earthly poets and wisdom in verse 28. How can knowing worldly philosophies be helpful in Christian witnessing? How can it be dangerous?

Into the Word – Mark 13:26-37

7. I'm out of space for questions. Just enjoy God's Word that never passes away and have a blessed Thanksgiving! 😊😊

Closing Prayer

Lord, we know that you are coming back not a time that we can know, but at the perfect time set by our Father in heaven. Open our eyes to the purposes you give to us, and prepare us for heaven in Jesus. Amen.

Growth Group Questions

26th Sunday after Pentecost ~ November 17, 2024

Introduction

For a few years our churches gave this Sunday a name: Last Judgment Sunday. How does the thought of Judgment Day make you feel? If you're totally comfortable, what danger might you be in? If you're even a little anxious, what danger might you be in?

(**After you've discussed**, consider that God's Law should always make us uncomfortable in sin but the Gospel can always take away anxiety in Christ.)

Into the Word – Daniel 12:1-3

1. Is Michael a leader of angels or Jesus himself? Consider:
 - Here he is called “the great prince who protects your people” and in Joshua 5 Jesus calls himself “captain of the hosts of the Lord.”
 - The term “archangel” is only used of him in Jude 9BUT...
 - In Jude 9, Michael won't condemn Satan himself but instead says, “The Lord rebuke you!”
 - In Daniel 10:13 Michael is called ONE of the chief princes.
2. When was your name written into the book of life?
 - Revelation 13:8 (EHV) *All those who make their home on the earth will worship the beast—those whose names have not been written from the beginning of the world in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb that was slain.*
3. According to verse 2, who will be raised? How does that counter the false teaching of a rapture of believers and literal millennial reign on earth by Jesus?

4. Does verse three teach us that there are “degrees of glory” in heaven? Even if there are, how will our thoughts on those degrees be different there than they are on earth?

Into the Word – Hebrews 9:24-28

5. The theme of the book of Hebrews is “Christ is better.” How is he better than the Old Testament High Priests according to these verses (and others)?
6. If verse 26 is correct in saying that Jesus' sacrifice is the “culmination of the ages” what time are we living in now?
7. When will most people face judgment before God? (verse 27)

Into the Word – John 5:25-29

8. In what two ways was verse 25 coming true at the time of Jesus? Two hints:
 - John 11 and a man named Lazarus
 - Ephesians 2 and those who were formerly “dead” in sin
9. Who will be our judge on the Last Day (and at our deaths)? Why is that comforting?
10. Who does Jesus himself say will rise on the Last Day?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for your sacrifice that frees me from fear of death and judgment. Send your Spirit that I might always live in the peace of knowing I am judged NOT GUILTY in Jesus. Amen.