

Growth Group Questions

First Sunday in Advent ~ December 1, 2024

Introduction

Advent is a season of preparation, like Lent. In fact, the color of the season used to be purple, just like Lent. List some preparations for Christmas that you need to do before December 25th, both worldly and spiritual.

Into the Word – Jeremiah 33:14-16

1. What promises had God made to the houses of Israel and Judah?
2. Who is the “righteous Branch” that will sprout from David’s line?
3. We’re used to the older NIV translation of verse 16 that said the Branch’s name would be “The LORD our Righteousness.” The 2011 version translates “The LORD Our Righteous Savior.” The older translation is the better one, but how are both good descriptions of Jesus?
4. BONUS QUESTION: If you have time at the end, come back to this question and follow Paul’s line of thought in Romans 4 about righteousness by works or by faith.

Into the Word – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

5. What is Paul’s underlying concern as he prays?
6. How do members bring joy to their pastors?

7. What might Paul have meant by “supplying what is lacking in...faith?”
8. How does God accomplish the kind of strengthening that Paul asks the Lord to do for the Thessalonians?
9. What does that say to our primary goals as a congregation?

Into the Word – Luke 19:28-40

10. Most are very familiar with the account of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. Our new hymnal and pattern of readings returns to the old tradition of hearing this to start the new church year. Share as many connection between Advent and Palm Sunday as you can.
11. What details in this account highlight Jesus’ humility? Why was such humility necessary?
12. What details in this account highlight Jesus’ glory? Why is it important to remember that his glory was never diminished, only hidden?
13. The crowds welcome Jesus with palm branches and singing. How will you welcome Jesus this Christmas?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, you have brought me safely to another year. Bless me in worship this new year that I might see your life once again over these weeks and give you praise for the forgiveness I find in you. Amen.