

Growth Group Questions

2nd Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 12, 2025

Introduction

Each week in Epiphany this year we see an “Epiphany moment”, an aha kind of thought revealed to us by God. Think of some things we find in Scripture that we couldn’t possibly have known if he wouldn’t have told us.

Into the Word – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. Where do we know Samuel from? In what way was he himself “set apart”?
2. Describe Saul, the king God had rejected.
3. What do you think of God’s instruction to “cover” Samuel’s true purpose with the sacrifice? Is God directing Samuel to be dishonest? (Consider Matthew 10:16.)
4. Samuel was looking at the outward appearance of Jesse’s sons, but God was looking for a humble heart. In what ways does it matter that “the Lord looks at the heart”?

Into the Word – Titus 3:4-7

5. According to these verses, why did God save us?
6. According to these verses, how did God save us?
7. Does a person need to be baptized to be saved? (See Mark 16:16 and what is *not* in the second phrase.)

8. What does it mean to be a “born again” Christian? (See also John 3.)
9. Discuss: Basing our identity in our relationship with Christ helps the Christian overcome some of the greater cultural issues we face today like prejudice, division, and identity confusion itself.

Into the Word – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

10. Think back to our Advent readings. What was the purpose of John the Baptist’s preaching and his baptisms?
11. What does it mean that Jesus baptizes with “the Holy Spirit and with fire”? (Remember that context matters. Read v. 17!)
12. What were the two outcomes for people when they faced Jesus’ ministry and teaching?
13. If Jesus was sinless, why was he baptized? (Look up Jesus’ response to John’s question in Matthew 3:13-15.)
14. Which three special persons were present at Jesus’ baptism. How is that similar to our baptisms?

Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, thank you for fulfilling all righteousness for me. Give me peace in knowing that through faith your perfect life now covers my sin. Help me to live in faithfulness as your redeemed and baptized child. Amen.