

Growth Group Questions

5th Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 9, 2025

Introduction

Our service this weekend highlights the fact that God sends regular, imperfect people out to be witnesses of his grace. For a moment, limit your discussion to the role of pastor. What are we looking for in a pastor for Salem? What would God be looking for?

Into the Word – Isaiah 6:1-8

1. Isaiah sees God in power and majesty on his throne. This is obviously vision – there was no throne in the temple! What was the point of God’s appearance to Isaiah in this way?
2. The angels sing that the whole earth is full of God’s glory. How do you see God’s glory in a thunderstorm? A blooming tulip? A platypus? A white sand beach? The human body? A mosquito?
3. Once again, we see God’s chosen servant react by saying he can’t do the job. What does this say to those who desire to be full-time ministers? What does God’s response say?
4. The sermon this week asks the question, “Are you worthy? No...and YES!” Did you get the main point? In what ways are we unworthy to be Jesus’ disciples? How unworthy? In what ways are we worthy? How worthy?

Into the Word – Romans 10:12-17

5. These verses are in a whole section where Paul (a Jew) talks about Jews and Gentiles. What does he say in verse 12? What does that mean for the political nation of Israel today?

6. Think and pray for those who don’t believe in Jesus. Think in terms of ever-broadening circles: first in your home, then your work/community, then your city, then country, then world. Pray that God would send someone to preach to them.
7. You may not be able to preach to those in the distant circles, but God has put you into the life of the lost close to you. Share the name of one straying or lost person you will speak to this week about your faith.
8. What message of Scripture does faith come from? The law of God’s commands or the Gospel of Christ’s atonement? Look at verse 17 carefully.

Into the Word – Luke 5:1-11

9. As is often the case, the Gospel of John fills in gaps that the other three gospels leave out. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record this “fishers of men” event. John 1:35-42 though shows us a different time when Peter seemingly first met Jesus. How does knowing they had met before help us understand Peter’s response to Jesus’ request in verse 4?
10. Why did Peter react the way he did to seeing this miracle? How is it similar to Isaiah? How do we do the same?
11. Peter and the disciples left their homes, their jobs, their friends, everything, to follow Jesus. God has graciously let us keep all those while we follow him. What might you still need to “leave behind” to more closely follow Jesus?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, I am not worthy to be your witness but you call me anyway. Bless me and bless others through me. Amen.