

Growth Group Questions

First Sunday in Lent ~ March 9, 2025

Introduction

Our service theme this morning is a simple one, but an important one: Jesus does the work of salvation while we sit and enjoy it. Think of as many passages in Scripture as you can that teach this concept of *vicarious atonement*, or Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice in our place.

Into the Word – 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-40, 45-49

1. Goliath was six cubits and a span tall. His armor weighed 5000 shekels. The iron point of his spear was 600 shekels. How big and how heavy was this stuff? Google it! (*And feel free to disregard the comments that say he was only 6 foot something – the manuscript evidence is clearer than they say.*)
2. Who was Goliath really defying in his boastful words? How did David acknowledge that in his words to Goliath?
3. David was no wimp – he had killed both lion and bear. But when he speaks here, to whom does he give the credit? Think of one strength you are proud of and say a prayer for God's gift of that strength.
4. David took five stones from the stream in verse 40. Discuss how trust and planning coexist in the Christian mind.

Into the Word – Hebrews 4:14-16

5. In what three ways is Jesus superior to the Old Testament high priests?

6. Since Jesus is God, were his temptations only illusions?
7. Why is Jesus' perfect life just as important for our salvation as his death on the cross? (See the exchange in 2 Cor. 5:21.)
8. Since Jesus' temptations were real, what can we do with confidence when we face our own temptations?

Into the Word – Luke 4:1-13

9. What significant happened just before this series of temptations in the desert?
10. What three specific temptations did Satan bring against Jesus?
11. Compare these temptations of Jesus with Satan's temptations in the Garden of Eden. What core temptations does the devil always use against us?
12. What do we learn hear about Satan's knowledge of Scripture? What can we learn from Jesus' method of defeating Satan's temptations?
13. What do we do when we successfully fend off temptation? What do we do when we fall to temptation?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, give me peace in the victory you have won for me. I hope for heaven by your work and not mine. Open my eyes to see temptation and to fight it. Grant me success in the battle and forgiveness for the times I fall. Amen.