

Growth Group Questions

Second Sunday in Lent ~ March 16, 2025

Introduction

Last week we heard the wonderful news that God has opened the door to heaven for sinners through Jesus. Our Savior did it all! This week we see that the path through that door isn't always easy. What do we mean when we say "the cross must come before the crown"?

Into the Word – Jeremiah 26:8-15

1. What was the message God delivered through Jeremiah and why did the people respond to it so negatively? (v. 9)
2. Take note of who is leading the people against Jeremiah in verse 11. Why is it especially damaging when Satan leads church leaders to turn from the truth?
3. What is Jeremiah's reaction in verses 12-14 to the people's rejection? Have you ever had to speak truth to sin? Share with the group if you're willing.
4. How does verse 15 help us understand Jeremiah's words and his confidence in speaking them?

Into the Word – Philippians 3:17-4:1

5. Paul urges the Philippians to follow his example of Christian living. Bold words. Would you want someone to follow your example of living? Why or why not? What might that question lead you to do?

6. Note Paul's attitude toward those who are living only for this world, and even enemies of the Church. Take a moment pray for Syria, both the persecuted and the persecutors. Pray also for God to work in other enemies of the Gospel as well.
7. What differences are there for a Christian when they realized that our citizenship is in heaven?

Into the Word – Luke 13:31-35

8. There is debate about whether these particular Pharisees were sincere in warning Jesus away from Herod. I think they were trying to get rid of him. (See Herod's response to finally meeting Jesus in Luke 23:8.)
9. Read verse 33 out loud with the proper amount of sarcasm. Of all the cities in the world, Jerusalem should have been the safest place for the prophets. Why wasn't it?
10. Verse 34 is one of the most important verses in Scripture to explain how God can want all people to be saved but still have to send some to eternal punishment. Discuss this verse together, especially the last phrase.
11. The last quote is from Psalm 118. These words would be said again on Palm Sunday. But when will they be spoken in the fullest sense?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, bless me as I travel through this world to my heavenly home of citizenship in heaven. Bring me through the suffering here to the great glory you have planned for every believer in Jesus. In his name I pray, Amen.