

Growth Group Questions

Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ March 30, 2025

Introduction

God loves all sinners. What seems like such a simple Biblical truth is immensely difficult for us to believe in practice. Discuss why this can be so hard when we look at others. AND when we look at ourselves.

Into the Word – Isaiah 12:1-6

1. Who alone can save us from God's anger?
2. What does God's saving grace do for us? What does it lead us to do?
3. We call this section of Scripture the "first song" of Isaiah. Can you guess what might have preceded this chapter that led Isaiah to break out in song? (Look it up AFTER you've guessed.)
4. Read verses 4-6 again. How does knowing our salvation change the way we look at other sinners?

Into the Word – Romans 8:1-10

5. Ah, the first verses of the Bible's best chapter. Describe the good news of the first 4 verses in words that an unbeliever would understand.
6. In your Bibles, highlight or underline the words "God did" in verse 3. This is justification. This is the simplest preaching of the gospel. Romans 8...I told you!

7. Verses 5-8 speak directly against the American evangelical thought that we must accept or invite Christ into our hearts to attain faith. Why is that impossible?
8. Verses 1-4 talked about justification – how we are saved. Verses 5-8 talk about sanctification – our life of Christian faith. We're not saved by our good works, but how do they help us judge where our faith is at?

Into the Word – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

9. What prompted Jesus to tell this parable? What point is he making?
10. Why would the younger son's feeding of pigs have been especially degrading to him as a Jew?
11. In what ways do people fall into the pattern of the younger son? In what ways do people fall into the pattern of the older?
12. Which son was the worse sinner? Defend your answer.
13. What do we learn about God's grace from the wasteful younger son? What do we learn about God's grace from the prideful older son?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, I give you praise that you choose to love all sinners, even though we don't deserve it. Chase away our fears and lead us from our sinful lives by realizing that your grace overcomes our sin. Bless us in Jesus' name. Amen.