

Growth Group Questions

1st Sunday after Christmas – December 28, 2025

Introduction

We've been a little hard on Christmas traditions this year as we try to encourage everyone to let go of the "external" Christmas and remember the Savior at the center. That said, traditions aren't all bad. Share one favorite religious Christmas tradition and one non-religious tradition with the group.

Into the Word – Isaiah 63:7-9

1. The end of Isaiah is like a train rolling downhill headed toward good things. What's your favorite note of blessing out of all the good things we see in these verses?
2. Verse 7 mentions the "many good things" God has done for Israel. Pick one or two (pre-Isaiah!) from your memory to share with the group.
3. Skeptics sometimes think of God as cold and distant, barely paying attention to a creation that he just set in motion and walked away from. What does the beginning of verse 9 say though?
4. What's the difference between "he *sent* their Savior" and "he *became* their Savior" (v.8)? how does this fit our worship theme?

Into the Word – Galatians 4:4-7

5. This is THE section of Scripture that teaches us why Jesus had to be true man as well as true God. What reason does Paul give in verses 4 and 5?

6. In many places the NIV 2011 translates the Greek "brothers" as "brothers and sisters" to be more inclusive. This is a questionable, but not necessarily wrong translation choice. (Paul often did mean both men and women hearers.) Note that in verse 6 even the NIV translates "Because you are his sons..." Look at the end of verse seven, think about property rights at the time, and discuss why it is important to remember we are all, men and women, "sons" of God?
7. Jesus spoke about this concept of slaves versus sons in John 8:34-36. Who does he call a "son" in those verses and what does that son do for us?
8. As an heir of God, what is your rightful inheritance? (Don't overthink it...just enjoy this amazing truth!)

Into the Word – Matthew 2:13-23

9. We jump ahead in time for a moment to see Herod's "slaughter of the holy innocents" and Jesus' delivery from it. Look up "Herod the Great" in Wikipedia and describe from historical records why his actions here are completely in character for him.
10. How many prophecies are fulfilled just in this short section of Matthew? Google again "how many prophecies did Jesus fulfill?".
11. God allowed a terrible tragedy to happen to the families of Bethlehem, but what did he also do at the same time for the whole world. As a group, discuss the challenge of wanting to understand God but knowing our place is to trust his wisdom and goodness.

Closing Prayer – Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love and mercy in sending your Son into the world. In his divinity and humanity we find the only way to salvation from our sins. Bless us in this season and always with faith and trust in your promises. In Jesus' name. Amen.