

Growth Group Questions

Week of April 21

1. Have you ever won anything? What did you win, and how much was it worth? How did you react when you discovered that you had won? How would you describe to other people what happened?

2. Did anything about today's sermon, "Out of the Wilderness: Into the Light," surprise or challenge you? What was your take-away from the sermon today?

3. Read John 20: 1-18. What words would you use to describe the resurrection? Do you believe that you are a rational person? What does your rational mind say about the resurrection? How does faith come into play?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Why is it important to understand that Jesus appeared to other people in bodily form after his death? How many people were eyewitnesses to the risen Christ? What spiritual impact might the resurrection appearances have had on the witnesses? On us?

5. Just as Jesus made himself known to Mary Magdalene, the message of the gospel is that Jesus continues to make himself known to us, offering us salvation. If you were writing an account of the resurrection, what part of the story would be the most important to tell? Why? How does Jesus remind us that he is ever present? What does this look like?

Lectio Divina for Growth Groups

John 20:1-18

First Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: One group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for a word or phrase that jumps out in their minds. Tip: Simply acknowledge the word or phrase without judgment or analysis.

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of that word or phrase.

Second Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A second group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for why that original word or phrase might have jumped out in their minds. Tip: Ask, "What is going on with me right now that this word or phrase might have significance in my life?"

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Third Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A third group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for what God might be calling them to do with the information they've learned in the first two readings. Tip: Ask, "How is God inviting me to respond to what've I learned tonight? What action might I take?"

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Group Discussion