



“Inside Out – Week 2”

Start with a few questions to get everyone talking. Choose questions that will work well with your group or family.

1. Name some things in the past that have been your “heroes.” How have these “heroes” had a profound influence on your life?
2. Name some things at Bethlehem that have been your “heroes.” Are they grounded in tradition or biblical truth? Make a list with two columns: one titled “Traditions” and one titled “Biblical Truth.” Attach a Bible verse to each truth. If you cannot find a Bible verse, discuss how you may have made a tradition a truth.
3. After reading Thom Rainer’s book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, how many parallels do you see when you considered your view of Bethlehem and past heroes in chapter 3?
4. Last week Pastor Drew used the Greek term *ekklesia* to describe the church in terms of the universal body of believers. How would you apply the list you made in question 2 to this universal church?

To introduce some different perspectives into the conversation, consider reading one of these verses together.

Romans 12:2, Romans 12:5, Romans 12:6-8, Romans 16:17, Ephesians 2:20-22, 1 Corinthians 3:9, John 10:16.

End each week with a challenge to take action. Lead your group to help each person identify their next steps.

Are you building up the *Ekklesia*? In your group this week find a service activity from the 19 opportunities presented in the Commons and work together to complete it.

Pray together:

God, give me the conviction and the courage to be like the heroes of Hebrews 11. Teach me not to hold onto those things at Bethlehem that are my personal preferences and styles. Show me not only how to let go, but where to let go, so that I may heed your commands more closely and serve your Church more completely.