



## “Inside Out”

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

1. Thom Rainer states, “Obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19-20) has faded.” He goes on to say that, “The Great Commission has become the Great Omission.” Are you stuck in the “good ole days?” In Church this morning could you identify with any of these:
  - a. A high attendance or many empty pews?
  - b. Dozens of new members or only familiar faces?
  - c. Vibrant ministries in the community were discussed or announced?
  - d. Recently recognized for our growth and vibrant church community?

Reflect on your answers as you read James 5:16.

2. When it comes to sharing Christ do you find yourself saying, “I simply don’t have the opportunities.”, or “I just don’t know how.” Read Matthew 25:36-46. What will your answer be? What revelation might you discover after reading 1 Corinthians 15:8-11? How did the early Christians become Christians? (See 1 Corinthians 15:11b).
3. Thom Rainer’s research involved over 4000 churches across America in his book, *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them*. This research revealed that 90% of new visitors returned to the church because of the Pastor and his preaching. Who have you invited to church recently to capture this body of seekers? What does Romans 10:14 say?

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

Matthew 28: 19-20, James 5:16, Matthew 25:36-46,  
1 Corinthians 15:8-11, Romans 10:14,

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

Thom Rainer offers 4 responses. How do you stack up? Pray that God will guide you this week and this month to follow His will for His church on earth.

1. Pray that God will open the eyes of the leadership and **members** for opportunities to reach into the community where Bethlehem is located. **Action** – Attend “The Table” worship.
2. Take an honest audit of how you spend your time being involved at Bethlehem. **Action** – Participate in a ministry beyond Bethlehem walls (i.e. Mean Street ministries Tuesday night).
3. Take an audit on where you send your tithe. Is it both internal and external? **Action** – Ask and support Bethlehem’s external ministries as well as its internal ministries (special contributions).
4. Make a specific plan to minister and to evangelize your community. **Action** – Pray for and seek an opportunity to serve your community, (Rainer, 2014: *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, pg 89).