BLYTHEFIELD HILLS
Baptist Church

Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Bride and the Wolves"
Joel Groat

11-27-11

Main Text:

Matthew 7:15-15; 2 Peter 2:1-3

Discussion Points

- Read Matthew 7:15-20.

  Name some of the false prophets in our day and age. Joel mentioned Mormons but there are many (Wealth and prosperity preachers for example).

  In what ways does the above text speak personally to you? Jesus said it's by our fruit that people will know we are true or false teachers. What kinds of good and bad fruit do you bear? How can you cultivate the good? How can you weed out the bad? What's at the root of good and bad fruit?

  Read verses 19-20 again. In what ways do these verses challenge you personally?

- Read 2 Peter 2:1-3.

  Verse 2 says, "Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute."

  Why do people follow shameful ways? What causes you to follow shameful ways?
  How does our sin, or bad fruit, bring disrepute upon the way of truth?
  What can you do to protect yourself from deceit and false teaching?

- Who do you know in your extended family, neighborhood, workplace, or elsewhere who does not know the truth about Christ and Christianity? Will you personally (and as a small group) commit to praying for these people? Perhaps make a list of first names and spend a few minutes each group session praying for them. Then let the group know when you see answered prayer.

  As you do this, think about three aspects of outreach:
  1. Pray. Pray for them and for wisdom and opportunity to reach out to them in love.
  2. Act. Begin to build redemptive relationships with them by talking to them and getting to know them. Offer acts of kindness. Maybe invite them to the soon coming candlelight service or Easter Drama.
  3. Speak. Ask them what they thought about the services they attended or give them a copy of "What on Earth Am I Here For" by Rick Warren and ask them if they would be willing to talk with you about it. There are many ways to speak. Sometimes it just requires loving courage to do so.

- In what ways were you challenged, encouraged, or sobered by Joel's presentation? What was your "take away"?