

UP, IN, OUT:

In the UP, IN, and OUT framework, we draw a line of distinction between insiders and outsiders. How is this helpful as we seek to understand what a church is? What are the dangers of this?

OPEN:

- Was there a time in your life when you thought the church was stupid, outdated, or a waste of time like Collin described at the beginning of the chapter? How did that change for you?

DIG:

- Collin makes the point that only converted people should be members of a church, because only converted people are members of THE Church. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- P.32 *“Yet everyone agrees that among adults, a person must be born again and baptized to join a church.”*
 - What do you think about this? Can you back up your opinion with Scripture? How does this fit with our practice at VCC?
- On page 37, Collin describes how he told some non-believing friends to stop attending church. What are your thoughts on this?

Read John 3:1-21

- Why do you think Nicodemus had a hard time understanding and accepting what Jesus said here?
- Do you think the average person in Darke County knows what it means to be born again? How would you explain it to someone?

Read the paragraph on p.32 that starts with, *“One day on the retreat...”*

- Does this do a good job of explaining the Gospel for you?
- Is there anything you would want to make sure to add or clarify?

- Collin makes the claim that God chooses whom He will adopt as sons and daughters. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and discuss what you find and what questions it raises for you.

REFLECT:

P. 42 *“When you’re converted, you can’t help but worship. You look forward to gathering and worshiping with other believers in Jesus.”*

- What do you think? Has this been true of you?

APPLY:

How does today’s discussion change the way you think about church membership? Is there anything you need to do about it?

PRAY: