

Introduction:

1. If you could go back to a special time in your past, what would it be? What attracts you to it?
2. When have you seen something on TV; or had a conversation with somebody at work; or read a Tweet or a Facebook post, and you've seen all these people agreeing with it and liking it, and you thought, "Man, I feel so different. I feel like I'm from a different planet?"

Understanding:

3. In Hebrews 11:13 it talks about what the heroes of faith were promised and what they received. What have you already received? What are you still waiting for?
4. What about you as a Christian would our culture most approve? What about you as a Christian would our culture most oppose? Why is this?]
5. Pastor Dave discussed the twin dangers of being fundamentalist and exclusive OR being permissive and inclusive. When are you most tempted to go to either of these two poles? Read John 17:13-19. What is the remedy?
6. Today's passage says those heroes of faith in the Old Testament were longing for a better country. Read Isaiah 65:17-19 for a vivid picture of what that country is like. For yourself, describe what it means that the former things in your life will no longer be remembered.
7. Read Acts 5:41 and 1 Peter 4:14. When is the last time you suffered disgrace for the name of Christ? When are you the most fearful of this? Do you need to dare to be weird?
8. Looking back at your answer to Question 1, why would getting your wish not be all it was cracked up to be? How does today's teaching help you answer this?
9. Read 1 Chronicles 29:15 (Old Testament) and also Ephesians 2:19 (New Testament) about foreigners and strangers. What accounts for the contrast between these passages? How does it affect you?
10. Read Leviticus 16:21-22 and Hebrews 13:12, which both describe what happens outside the city gate. Explain how Jesus fulfills everything described in the Leviticus passage. Why is the Jesus way so much more powerful? How does it affect you?

Application:

11. Read Hebrews 13:16 and Jeremiah 29:7. Jesus says, "I want you to go and love your city. They won't always love you back! But love them anyway." Do good for them. Share with them. Serve them. Seek their peace and prosperity. How can you be more effective at that in your own life? What would change?
12. Pray for guidance for our leadership for the site of the new Jacksonville Chapel campus. Pray also that the new campus will do good for the town in which it is planted.