

Reflection Questions for

OUR HEARTS' TRUE HOME

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Session 1: Chapters 1 & 2
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The following set of reflection questions were developed by Presbytera Helene Hall and Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div. in the fall of 1996 for the St. Macrina Study Group / Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church / Akron, Ohio.

St. Macrina's meets weekly during the school year to learn more about the Orthodox faith. Various texts and taped lectures have been used, including

1. Partakers of Divine Nature by Archimandrite Christoforos Stavropoulos & translated by Fr. Dr. Stanley Harakas.
2. Raising Them Right by Theofan the Recluse.
3. Way of the Ascetics by Tito Colliander.
4. Videotape of Fr. Thomas Hopko: "God's People at Work - Being Christian in the Modern World".
5. A Year of the Lord [5 volumes] Bible Study by Fr. Ted Stylianopoulos.
6. Beginning to Pray by Archbishop Anthony Bloom.
7. Victory in the Unseen Warfare by Jack Sparks

OUR HEART'S TRUE HOME: Reflection Questions
Session 3: Chapters 4 & 6
"Prayer / Despair"

1. When Elizabeth awoke from surgery she was "overwhelmed with a profound sense of the presence and faithfulness of God." (p.49) Have you ever experienced this sense of presence, the faithfulness of God or that He has saved you from injury/death? Describe this experience.

2. How has suffering in your own life opened your eyes to Jesus and the Church? (Elizabeth, p.58)

3. Jeanne reminds us that "Orthodoxy is a call on all of one's life all the time." [p.81] What are your thoughts on this?

4. What do you see as the consequences of society's "refusal to recognize that men and women are inherently and comprehensively different?" [p.76]

OUR HEARTS' TRUE HOME: Reflection Questions
Session 4: Chapters 7 & 8
"Spiritual Hunger"

1. Think of a time when you experienced a spiritual "high" followed by a "spiritual low." How did you learn from this? (Shannon, p.86)

2. "...the Eucharist has the power to rejuvenate me." What has been my own experience? (Ann, p.100)

3. "The day one becomes Orthodox is only the beginning of a journey and the journey is not east." (Shannon, p.91) What is my spiritual struggle this week? Does it differ from my first awareness of struggle in the spiritual sense?

OUR HEARTS TRUE HOME: Reflection Questions
Session 6: Chapters 11 & 12
"Renewal / Spirituality"

1. Share a personal experience of how an icon(s) has touched your life. (Shelley, p.133)

2. "The Orthodox Church...is the...school for the practice of virtue and the pursuit of holiness. Today, which one of these lessons stands out for me? (Magdalena, p.151)

3. When Magdalena became Orthodox, "any doubts about (her) reason for being, or what God's will was for (her) vanished. What affirms me when I am doing God's will, or, how have I found my "ministry?" (Magdalena, p.152)

