1. Are there aspects of the Reformation that we, as Protestants and Catholics, should be ashamed of?
2. Where do we need to repent, forgive and seek reconciliation today?
3. How can we celebrate the Reformation whilst showing respect towards each other’s differences?
4. Bring a broad selection of papers to the meeting – daily, weekly, local, community, religious etc. Share them amongst the group and ask the members to look for ‘religious’ stories.

Discuss the different stories: what types of stories are they? Who are they aimed at? Do they present religion in a positive/favourable way or negative/critical way? Are they written in a way that makes religion attractive or in order to turn people off? Etc.

You could ask group members to look for examples of religious stories beforehand and share them in the meeting.

1. Share your favourite hymns on the theme of The Church. Why do they appeal to you?

***Union of Welsh Independents***

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***Y Ffordd (The Way)***

**The Way We Came**

*Year 2, Part 1*

***How to use the material***

**The film is divided into 6 chapters with an Introduction at the beginning. Each chapter differs in length. We suggest that you divide the film as is appropriate for your group and number of sessions. There are questions for each individual chapter on pages 2 and 3.**

**Introduction**

**Chapter 1:** *Is History important?*

**Chapter 2*:*** *The Beginnings – 1517*

**Chapter 3*:*** *The Roots of our Tradition*

**Chapter 4:** *The Growth of the Church*

**Chapter 5:** *150 Years of Y Tyst*

**Chapter 6:** *The Congregational Church*

Pages 3 and 4 of this leaflet contain additional material to use in your sessions. Before concluding each session, please allow time to discuss the question:

***What can we do, as a church, following this discussion?***

***Questions for discussion***

***Introduction and Chapter 1:* Is History important?**

1. The image of the sea is often used in relation to the growth and decline of religion. Are there other images which say something to you about this?
2. Is it possible to maintain and strengthen personal faith without going to a place of worship regularly? In your experience are there other ways of maintaining and strengthening your faith?
3. What is special about your church?
4. Is the history of your church important to you?
5. ‘If we don’t know where we came from, it is impossible to know where we are going.’ Discuss.

***Chapter 2*: The Beginnings – 1517**

1. How do you understand, ‘the just shall live through faith’?
2. What do you think is the most important thing to come out of the Protestant reformation?
3. How did Martin Luther change the world?
4. ‘Good works do not make a person good, but a good person will do good works.’ Discuss.
5. Can religion ever be used to discipline or control people?

***Chapter 3*: The Roots of our Tradition**

1. John Penri was executed by the state for his Christian beliefs. Do you hold convictions that you would not give up on any account?
2. Can strong convictions and tolerance co-exist?
3. Would you say that your church is flexible and open to change?
4. What should be the relationship between church and state?

***Chapter 3*: The Growth of the Church**

1. Are there people today who see the church as being dangerous and why do they think so?
2. Have you found it difficult to worship in churches other than your own church? If so, why?
3. What are the benefits and drawbacks of Wales not having an official state church?

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***Chapter 5*: 150 years of *Y Tyst***

1. What practical help do you think the Undeb should be giving to the churches today?
2. Does your church make enough use of modern technology, like social media, to promote its work and mission?
3. ‘Creating the sense of being a part of a body and belonging to one society or network has always been important to the Annibynwyr.’ What could be done to recreate that feeling today?

***Chapter 6:* The Congregational Church**

1. What do you think is the basis of a Congregational church?
2. If your church closed, would you join another local congregation?
3. Are there benefits for the church from being people on the margins of society today? What about drawbacks?
4. How prominent is the critical and sharp voice in the preaching of your church?
5. How can we ensure that our independence as churches does not become: a) individualistic and b) chaos?

**Additional Material**

1. The Protestant Reformation began with Martin Luther announcing the 95 theses he wished to discuss with the leaders of the Church. Which subjects would you like discuss within the church today and why? (You don’t have to think of 95!)
2. Read the Letter of James in the New Testament, Chapter 2, verses 14–24. Do you see a conflict between what James teaches and Luther’s teaching of ‘Justification by faith alone’?
3. To celebrate the Reformation in Wittenberg, for the first time, representatives of both Lutheran and Catholic traditions came together ‘in the spirit of reconciliation’. They called the meeting ‘Healing the Memories’, words used when forming The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa under Desmond Tutu.

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