

Witness: Learning to Share Your Christian Faith

Lesson Plan

Trail One, Session 1 = Setting Out The Orientation Session

(Plan for a short refreshment break at some point)

References:

Trail Guide for Leaders	Page 202
Trail Guide for Hikers	Page 7

1. Introductions

a. Introduce yourself and explain that you will be the group leader for this adventure known as **“Witness: Learning to Share Your Christian Faith”**

b. Tell about one person in your life who has been an important Christian witness in your life. Be sure to tell what it was about that person that made a lasting impact on you.

c. Ask each of the group members to introduce themselves and to

(1) Name an important Christian in their life.

(2) Explain why this person’s witness was important.

(go around the circle or recognize people as they are ready to speak)

d. Explain that the goal of Witness is:

To enable each of us to become more like those we have just described and to help _____ Church to become more intentional and more effective as a community of Christian witness and evangelism.

2. The Workbook

a. Give each person a copy of the Witness workbook (if they do not already have this item). Give them a moment to leaf through the book.

b. Ask if there are any hikers in the group who would like to tell about the lessons learned and inspirations gained along the trail. Maybe someone knows a hiker who has told of their experience. End this discussion by telling the difference in a “thru-hiker” and a “day-hiker”. Explain how Witness uses the “thru-hiker” theme.

c. Read the Acts 4:13 passage from the side column on page 8 and Luke 24:13-35 from a Bible. Comment on the Walk to Emmaus story and explain that this is the excitement you want the group to experience along the trail with Jesus.

d. Point out that the lines and space in the Camp Notes column provide a place for them to jot down their own or other’s thoughts and answers. Also say that journelying is not required - - they may want to keep their thoughts in their heads.

e. Move ahead to “Preparing for the Journey” (page 8). Explain the idea of the five trails, each involving six weeks of hiking.

f. Ask the hikers to look at Question 2 in the margin of page 9 (What are your expectations, hopes and fears as you begin this journey?). Spend a few minutes in jotting down or thinking of a response to the question. Begin by telling about your own expectations and your motivation for leading the team. Remind others that you are a “thru-hiker” with them. Then ask the hikers to share their responses.

g. Camp Fire Covenant:

During the Orientation Session, or no later than Session 2, the group should agree on their "Campfire Covenant". Here is a suggestion:

1. We will pray for each other daily.

2. We will make every effort to be at each scheduled team meeting knowing that each session will begin promptly at 6:05 p.m., and if we have to miss we will let someone in the group know.

3. We will complete the weekly assignments.

4. We will talk openly with our team members during the Trail Talk at each session. What is said at the campfire will remain at the campfire. We will never violate a confidence shared within the session.

h. Equipment needed for the journey:

- (1) Bible
- (2) Study Book
- (3) Journal
- (4) Writing Instrument
- (4) “Stick-with-it-ness”

i. Explain the “Disciplines of the Journey”

- (1) Attending weekly team meetings (1 - 1 ½ hours)

- (2) Completing weekly assignments
- (3) Sharing openly
- (4) Praying daily.

3. Assignments for Next Week

a. Reading Assignment:

(1) As you read the chapter for next week (pages 14-19), underline or highlight special thoughts and answer the questions in the Q boxes.

(2) Complete the daily Bible readings and place your reflections, questions and insights.

b. Action Assignment:

- (1) Complete the Action Assignment on page 11

4. Closing Prayer