

Witness: Learning to Share Your Christian Faith

Lesson Plan

Trail Four, Session 15 = The Church as Evangelist

(Plan for a short refreshment break at some point)

References:

Trail Guide for Leaders	Page 211
Trail Guide for Hikers	Page 115

1. Prayer:

- a. Open with reading the prayer on page 115.

2. Trail Talk:

- a. What do you consider the best ways this congregation of saints serves as Christ's witness to this community?

3. The Evangelism of Pentecost:

- a. Find the text on Acts where the disciples are told to wait. What were they do while waiting?
- b. What happened at Pentecost that changed the church forever?

4. The Church as Evangelist:

- a. How had Peter's message changed from pre-Pentecost to post-Pentecost? Had something happened to Peter? 3000 responded and were baptized!
- b. Acts records that they (the church) then devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- c. Why did Jesus pray that the church would in one accord?
- d. Why is it appropriate to say that the church is God's ultimate evangelist in the world today?
- e. Can you be a "Christian" without the church?

5. The Evangelistic Work of the Church:

- a. Page 119: Read the text and then in the column on the right make a list of all the things the church did.

- b. How would the acts of grace, mercy and goodwill lead people to Jesus Christ?

6. The Evangelistic Word of the Church:

a. How do we help people hear and understand the gospel in their own language, culture and context? The real miracle of Pentecost was that each “heard” in their own language. In this context what does “language” mean? It means communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ in whatever way and form it takes to get through. Let the apostle Paul be our mentor - - he said that he would be all things to all people.

- b. How is the gospel boldly and powerfully proclaimed here in this place.

7. Moving On:

- a. Review what we have covered this week.
- b. Assignments for Next Week

(1). Reading Assignment:

(a) As you read the chapter for next week (pages 122-129 underline or highlight special thoughts and answer the questions in the Q boxes.

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

- c. Action Assignment:

(1) Complete the Action Assignment on page 121.

8. Closing Prayer:

9. Closing Word: “See you on the path!”