

Witness: Learning to Share Your Christian Faith

Lesson Plan

Trail Five, Session 25 = Partners With God

(Plan for a short refreshment break at some point and consider the possibility of concluding with communion and/or the special covenant service.)

References:

Trail Guide for Leaders	Page 215
Trail Guide for Hikers	Page 193

1. Prayer:

- a. Pray the prayer of St. Francis on page 193.
- b. Have students select a favorite phrase from the prayer and then share it and tell why.

2. Trail Talk:

- a. We are at the end of a 24-week journey. Share some of your “trail end” thoughts with the class. Ask the class members to do the same.
- b. Have any of you had a “burning bush” experience along the trail. A time when you knew that you were indeed on holy ground.

3. Remembering:

- a. On the night of the Seder meal during Passover - - it is tradition that the youngest child ask the question - - “What is there about this night that is different from all other nights” - - and then the patriarch or matriarch of the family will again tell the story of the original Passover.
- b. We remember by rehearsing our faith through continuing to tell our faith stories.
- c. The Sunday school was established by Robert Raikes in late 18th century England so that society’s children would have an opportunity to hear the faith stories and be able to pass them on.
- d. Oral tradition and oral history are all the earlier generations had to “remember” their story. It is still prevalent in some parts of the world today.

4. Refocusing:

- a. What have you learned about being a witness?
- b. Did you have to learn new ways of telling the gospel stories (refocusing)?
- c. Where do you still need help as a witness?

5. Refuturing:

a. It is time to leave the trail we have been on together for these 24 weeks. Will we simply get off the trail and go back to the way things were, or will we shape a different future for us and for our church?

6. Moving On:

- a. Decide if there will be another gathering of any kind for the group.
- b. Close with Wesley's Covenant Service (page 197)

7. Closing Prayer:

8. Closing Word: "Stay on the path, bear witness, be fruitful, live in joy!"