

Aim of lesson

Having considered in the last six lessons the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we should now consider what effect should this have on our lives.

Bible background

Acts 2:37-38; 2:41-47; 4:32-34; 8:32-38; 16:29-31; Galatians 1:13-18

Preparation required

Read through the notes, references and questions in the Students' Notes and decide how you would answer the questions yourself and how you will encourage them to reach these, or their own, conclusions.

Suggested outline of lesson

When we truly think about all that Jesus has done for us, as these lessons have been guiding us to over the last few weeks, and realise how miserably we respond to his love we ought to feel that more is somehow required of us.

Some of your students may already be baptised, some may be committed to a life of following Jesus but unsure of their feelings and others may still be some way from acknowledging their need. This lesson seeks to discover what sort of response is required by looking at some examples taken from the Acts of the apostles. Make sure that the young people realise that any response has to be their own decision and you are not pressurising them. They may then feel more relaxed about expressing their views.

Go through the questions in their notes with them, read the passages together but let them answer the question for themselves wherever possible.

The sort of answers to expect from the first five questions are:

- Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus.
- Jesus had suffered for him.
- Believe in Jesus.
- He went away for three years to learn more of the work he was going to take on.
- They continued learning from the apostles, broke bread, prayed, had all things in common, met together continually, praised God and helped each other.

Get the young people to try to imagine what it was really like in these exciting times so that they can understand the joy of the new understanding of the new Christians and their feelings of commitment to God and to each other.

When they have done this they should be able to fill in the answer to the last question.

- A commitment to follow Jesus comes when we realise that we continually do wrong things and are sorry about this and that the only way to be saved from this state of affairs is to believe that Jesus has died for these sins.
- We show our desire to follow him by being baptised. This is not the end of our search but a new beginning.
- We keep having to remind ourselves of what Jesus has done by breaking bread in remembrance.
- We want to praise God for our salvation and meet with others who feel the same way.
- We want to help each other and above all we need to pray for help and guidance.

Relevance to our lives

The way of life should not be an academic exercise but, because Christadelphians believe it is important to get the facts right, we can easily give the impression that it is. This lesson is a good opportunity to redress the balance and show that true commitment comes from our hearts and our lives should reflect this.

Prayer

Dear Lord God, please help us to respond as we should to the marvellous truth of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, by obedience to your will, in the care we show for others, and in our praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

Other suggestions for activities

Think what the resurrection must have meant to Paul having persecuted the Christians in his early life. Look at 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Corinthians 15:9.