

Small Group Teaching Plan

Session 93: Jehovah's Witnesses

Key Question: What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe?

Truth: Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus is God's created son and only Jehovah's Witnesses will have life after death.

(Note: Questions or activities that are more appropriate for younger youth or for older youth are marked by "YY" or "OY" respectively.)

Preparation: Preview the video for this session. (See clip on this CD.) Read John 1:1-14; Romans 8:12-16; Ephesians 2:8-9; and "Background for the Bible Passages, Session 93."

After the Video:

1. Ask: **Does anyone know what a litmus test is?** (*Strips of paper are coated with litmus, an organic compound derived from lichens. The test strip turns blue or red revealing whether a solution is a base [alkaline] or acid.*) Refer to the "Jehovah's Witnesses" column on the "World Religions/Beliefs Chart." Ask:
 - **Is asking "Do you believe in Jesus?" or "Do you believe the Bible is true?" a good "litmus test" for Christianity?** (*No. It might be a way to start a conversation, but it's important to discover what a person believes.*) (YY)
 - **What are some core beliefs about Jesus that make a good "litmus test" to determine if a religion is Christian?** (*Examples: Jesus is God's only Son. Only Jesus could provide salvation. Jesus came from heaven and became the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men. Jesus went back to prepare a place for those who believe He was who He said He was.*) (OY)
2. Distribute copies of the "Session 93 Outline." Call on two volunteers to read aloud alternating verses in John 1:1-14. Ask:
 - **Can you list seven different words or phrases that describe Jesus in this passage?** (*The Word, God, Life, Light, Creator, Flesh, One and Only.*)
 - **Which of these descriptions do you think a Jehovah's Witness would have the most difficulty accepting?** (*The chart indicates they would struggle with the fact that Jesus was God, the Creator, or the One and Only.*)
 - **What compelling evidence do we have that a follower of Jehovah's Witness teaching is not yet a true disciple of Jesus Christ?** (*Refer students to the "World Religions/Beliefs Chart" for ideas.*) (OY)
3. Call on a volunteer to read aloud Romans 8:12-16. Ask:
 - **How does the Bible refer to the Holy Spirit?** (*A person of God, separate from God the Father, and Jesus the Son.*) (OY)
 - **What does the activity of the Holy Spirit in a person's life prove about that person? Why?**
 - **How are Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs about the Holy Spirit different from those taught in the Bible?**
4. Call on a volunteer to read aloud Ephesians 2:8-9. Ask:
 - **How do the words *grace*, *faith*, and *gift* work together to explain how a person is saved?** (YY)
 - **According to verse 9, is there anything you can do to deserve salvation?**
 - **If people could work for and earn salvation, would Jesus have needed to die? Why or why not?** (OY)
 - **If Christian works don't earn salvation or a place in heaven, why would Christians do any works at all?**

Options

1. To enhance step 1, provide litmus test strips and both a base and an acid solution. Demonstrate how the strip works then allow students to run the test. Relate the "red" to the importance of forgiveness through the blood of Christ for a true Christian.
2. To enhance step 2, distribute copies of "In the Beginning Was the Word Search" and instruct students to find the words describing Jesus in John 1:1-14. Award a small prize to first, second, and third place.
3. To enhance step 4, write the words *by*, *through*, *not from*, *it is*, and *so that* on five separate flash cards in letters large enough to be seen by the group. Hold the cards up and direct students to supply the appropriate word to complete each phrase explaining how salvation works. Notice "not from" is used two times in the verse.
4. To replace step 4, distribute copies of the "Salvation Comparison Chart." Guide students to fill in the chart with the words and ideas for Christianity and Jehovah's Witnesses using the "World Religions/Beliefs Chart." Lead students to discuss the distinct differences.

Continue

Hand out copies of "Exploring the Bible Daily 93." Encourage students to read the passages for today's session. Direct students to write questions or insights as they read.