

WHAT IS IT TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

by James P. Reeves

PURPOSE

To tailor a meeting to youth who have not yet accepted Christ, and to help them accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

PREPARATION

Prepare copies of What Is Salvation to Me? (in the "Meat" of the Meeting), and My Salvation (in the Closing).

OPENING

To introduce Christianity, explain that the youth are going to play a game about love. Briefly explain the Christian concept of love, then play the Love Room.¹

Love Room

You'll need two separate rooms.

Begin by explaining, that everyone at times has trouble showing love. Occasionally cliques and groups of friends hurt others by rejection. This group exercise may help.

Send four or five people to each room. Keep the rest of the group in another room.

One by one, the leader sends a person into the first room for a few minutes. The people in the room have been told ahead of time to ignore the newcomer who has been instructed to introduce himself or herself and to try to join the group.

After the newcomer has been in

that room a short time, the leader takes him or her to the next room. Again, the participant introduces himself or herself, but the people in that room enthusiastically greet the newcomer, smile and hug him or her. The participant stays in that room to greet the others in the same way.

After everyone has experienced the "cold room" and the "love room," have a discussion on how each person felt in the rooms. Relate the experiences to everyday life.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Ask the youth to explain: What does it mean to be a Christian? How do you become a Christian? What process did you go through?

Divide into three groups and have each of the groups answer one of the sections of the handout:

What Is Salvation to Me?

What do the following scriptures say about salvation?

Group one:

Isaiah 59:1-2

Romans 3:10

Romans 6:23

Romans 3:23

Group two:

Isaiah 53:5-6

Matthew 26:28

John 3:16; 10:10

Romans 5:8

1 John 5:11-12
2 Corinthians 5:21
1 Timothy 1:15; 2:5
1 Peter 2:24; 3:18

Group three:

Mark 1:15; 8:35
John 1:12
Romans 5:1-2
Ephesians 2:8-9
1 John 1:9
Revelations 3:20

In simple terms, summarize your scriptures and share with the entire group.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Prepare an evaluation designed for your group. Following is an example:

¹Thom Schultz, ed., **More . . . Try This One**, (Group Books: Loveland, Colo. 1980), p. 42.

My Salvation

Tonight was the first time I ever heard the message of how to receive Jesus Christ. I feel:

Because I now know the message, I want to receive Jesus as my savior:

Are you a Christian now? How do you know? Can you pinpoint a specific time you accepted Jesus? Or, have you always felt the Lord's presence?

If you are not now involved in a Bible study, would you be interested in joining one?

I am not a Christian, but I want more information:

Pray: Lord Jesus, please come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. Please forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life.