

Journey in Jesus' Way

Participation in the Church of the Brethren

A Study Guide
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Updated 2005

This study guide accompanies the updated 2-DVD series originally produced as a four-part video by David Sollenberger in 1991 for the Nurture Commission of the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren, in cooperation with the Church of the Brethren General Board and Brethren Press.

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Session 1

COUNTING THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. Read Luke 14:25-33. What does it mean to leave family and self-interests for the sake of following Jesus' way? To what extent have you done this?
2. Compare Luke 14:25-33 with Mark 8:34-38. What does it mean to "lose one's life for the sake of Jesus and the gospel"?
3. List the ways in which people in the video left family and personal gain behind because of their faith. How did each person define following Jesus?
4. Luke 14:29 says "laying the foundation" is part of counting the cost of discipleship. How did each person in the video lay the foundation of faith? What foundation have you laid for your faithful response to Jesus' teachings?
5. Phill Carlos Archbold spoke about his commitment to follow Jesus despite many lucrative business offers. He said "I've never been happier!" What kind of happiness does discipleship bring, especially in comparison to the happiness that money, position, and power bring?
6. Look at Romans 12:1-3. Compare the experiences of the people in the video with this passage. Does the world ask you to conform to its ways? How might you be called to transform the world from where you live by the renewal of your mind? How were those in the video "able to test and approve what God's will is" for them? What do you believe is God's will for you?
7. John Chapman says 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 is important for followers of Christ. Give examples of when you were a "minister of reconciliation" because of your faith. Did it "cost" you something?
8. A couple of people in the video were called by the church to specific tasks. What costs did they pay to be disciples of Christ? Have you ever been called? Did you have to count the cost before accepting a call of discipleship?
9. Louise Rieman suggests that Jesus offers us the best revelation of God's love. If we take Christ seriously, how will we demonstrate that love? Could you for one whole year apply the question "What would Jesus do?" to all your decisions? How would that change your life?

Session 2

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS OUR CREED

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17. Compare it with 2 Peter 1:20-21. Which scriptures have been most influential for you in your own religious training?
2. Don Durnbaugh says that the early Brethren reacted against the creeds of the formalized churches. Look at several of these creeds such as the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. What do you like about them? What is troublesome for you? How is the New Testament different from these?
3. The video shows a family reciting scripture at the dinner table. Consider Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Do you and your family rehearse scripture? Brainstorm ways to learn scripture and its meaning. Name your favorite scriptures and tell why they are important to you.
4. Read Psalm 1:1-3 and Psalm 119:97-106. When did you receive your first Bible? Who gave it to you? Where? How can the church encourage young people to use the Bible?
5. J. Becker Ginder said that Sunday school "is a nurturing kind of experience that leads our children in the life of the church." Have you always attended Sunday school? Has it led you to greater involvement in the church? If not, what did?
6. Recall the Sunday school teachers you had who helped you become part of the church. How did they do it? What scriptures helped shape your faith under their guidance?
7. Reflect on Bonnie Kline Smeltzer's comment that "our congregation is truly New Testament in our instruction, and we hold up Jesus as the example. And, we look at the New Testament churches . . . and the disciples as they struggled. And, we see ourselves as the disciples for this day, for this community, for this time." Does this statement describe your congregation? Why or why not?
8. Look at Romans 12:1-2. What does it mean to transform the world "by the renewing of your mind"? How do you "test and approve what God's will is"? What scriptures inform and/or transform your thinking and actions? Read the explanation of this passage in *Texts in Transit II* by Graydon F. Snyder and Kenneth M. Shaffer, Jr. (pp. 139-147), available from Brethren Press.

Session 3

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

1. Read aloud Mark 1:1-8. Contrast John's baptism with Jesus' baptism (see v. 8). Explain the meaning of each, and discuss how both are important for "believer's baptism."
2. Continue reading aloud Mark 1:9-13. Why do we baptize in the manner of Jesus' baptism? What happened at Jesus' baptism and what followed? Talk about the Brethren style of baptism, including preparation and life after the baptism.
3. Share among the group the variety of baptism experiences of your members. Compare your responses with Don Durnbaugh's comments that, as the early Brethren studied the scriptures, "they understood the whole emphasis of the New Testament [to be] a voluntary response to the faith, a response to the demands of Christ, that this really implied adult or what is called a believer's baptism." Talk about the difference between infant and believer's baptism.
4. Discuss the various parts of adult baptism. List the symbolism in each act, adding others your group discovers. Consider the implications of the entire event for the individual and the community of faith. Look also at Romans 6:1-14 and Colossians 2:9-12, (13-15).
5. Dick Shreckhise says that we really stake our lives on the fact that "Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus is the Savior of the world; Jesus is our Savior." Reflect together on John 6:35 and 11:25-26. Share individually your own confessions about Christ.
6. Review the three questions asked at baptism. Discuss the purpose for asking them when receiving members from other traditions and when dedicating children.
7. Dale Brown has said that "our baptism is our ordination for ministry." What do you think he meant by this? Explore Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 for further understanding. Talk about being "baptized into membership in the body of Christ" and what it means. Share your own experiences of being included in the fellowship of the believers.
8. Dean Miller says that "entrance into the kingdom of God as a disciple of Jesus should be radical." Explore the implications of Mark 8:34-37 along with this statement.
9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 and reflect on Don Miller's concluding statement about baptism.

Session 4

LOVE FEAST

1. What impressions or feelings came to you through this video? Talk about those parts that seem strange or uncomfortable. Share with others the new discoveries for you in the love feast.
2. Recall Kurt Kline's comments about the meaning of the service for him. Share with the others your experiences as a participant or observer. Include specific comments about the feetwashing, the holy kiss, the meal, the bread and cup, and the singing.
3. Read John 13:1-17 and 34-35. How does this relate to your understanding of discipleship to Christ? What are the larger faith implications for feetwashing beyond the love feast? Reflect on other examples shown in the video. Does this feel appropriate for you? Why, or why not?
4. Review Karen Miller's statement that feetwashing is a confession of one's vulnerability. What is the responsibility of the community of faith in this act? Compare Romans 12:9-18 to what happens in the love feast.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-33. What is Paul's understanding of the Lord's Supper? How similar is this to the love feast?
6. Of the examples of love feast in the video, what seems most/least appealing to you? Why? Earle Fike, Jr., says that each congregation would say their practice is the "correct" way. Reflect together on this comment: "The important thing in all of this is that the message and the reality behind the symbols is a part of our life, . . . and the way the symbols are done is not too significant." What would you change? keep the same?
7. Paul Brubaker said that the Communion (bread and cup) at the conclusion of the love feast was a "spiritual renewal" for him when he recalled his baptismal vows. Why do you think he remembered his baptism at this time? Talk about your own "spiritual renewal" at love feast or Communion. How is this related to your baptism?
8. How does/could the love feast prepare you to be in the world in the manner of Christ? Offer examples.
9. Respond to Don Durnbaugh's comments on the love feast as being "a great example of evangelism and outreach." Consider also Karen Miller's vision that the model of love feast will carry the Brethren into the future.

Session 5

IS ANY AMONG YOU SUFFERING?

1. Share your feelings about this video on anointing. What spoke deeply to your faith? What new thoughts did you have?
2. Read Mark 6:12-13. List the variety of reasons for anointing. Talk about the comments given to Earle Fike, Jr., about anointing. Reflect also on the settings for anointing and the people anointed in the video. Share your own experiences of anointing.
3. Name the three reasons for anointing used in the service. What do you understand is the reason for them being in this order? Read James 5:13-16 and compare it with the Brethren practice of anointing.
4. Talk about the symbol of laying on of hands during anointing. On what other occasions in the life of the church is this practice done? What common link do you see between these practices and anointing? See the article "Laying on of Hands" in *The Brethren Encyclopedia*.
5. Read Psalm 23:5. Jim Kipp talks about the link between physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Discuss this comment: "A person who accepts the anointing service and works toward healing all of their life is healthy. Even if the body continues to suffer, they have better health."
6. Explore other experiences where anointing might be appropriate, such as for "a broken spirit." Consider Cindy Barnum's suggestion that anointing is "healing to make you whole," and John Katonah's thoughts on the process of healing in "letting go." Consider the confessions of Psalm 51:10-12 and Psalm 139:23-24.
7. Discuss the importance of the faith community in anointing (see James 5:14 and 1 Corinthians 12:25-26). Reflect on Warren Groff's explanation that in anointing "we gather for the commissioning of one and the re-commissioning of all for health."
8. Talk about Jim Kipp's hope that the church views anointing as "an expectation in the healing process" and commonplace in its life and ministry. Consider the Annual Conference call for "an even greater use of [anointing] because of the blessing it offers." Think of other ways anointing could "place us in the stream of God's activity and work . . . in the power that brought Jesus out of the tomb" (Dean Miller). Read the "Anointing" pamphlet or other related resources available from Brethren Press.

Session 6

PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Discuss the meaning of this scripture as it relates to the life of the church. Give examples of people in your congregation who are “ministers” for you.
2. Reflect together on Susan Boyer’s thoughts that “we all have equal access to God . . . and [we must] be willing to show God’s grace and love to each other.” Read and discuss Colossians 3:12-17 and Philippians 2:1-4.
3. List the various ways of training people for ministry mentioned in the video. How does your congregation prepare people for ministry? Include your pastor(s) or lay ministers in your discussion so they may share about their calling into ministry. What role did their congregation have in calling and training them?
4. Consider the ways your congregation calls people into ministry (e.g., licensing, ordination, pastoral placement, teaching, visitation, deacons, etc.). Explain the process of “who” is called and “how” and for “what” responsibility.
5. Review Bonnie Kline Smeltzer’s comments on being a woman in pastoral ministry. Share your feelings and faith on the role of women in ministry. How does this relate to or enlarge the concept of “priesthood of all believers”? Recall the historic preachers Sarah Major and Harriet Livermore and their relationship to the Church of the Brethren.
6. Recall Dick Shreckhise’s comments on the role of deacons in the church. Look at Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and discuss how and why your congregation calls deacons to serve.
7. How is your congregation organized for ministry? Discuss where the authority lies and who has the ultimate responsibility for decisions for ministry. How does your process compare to district and denominational processes in calling all members and their gifts to ministry?
8. Bill Eberly says that the basis for decision-making in the church is to follow Jesus first, then we become the church. Share how your congregation follows this pattern of discipleship and decision-making.
9. Don Miller says we experience and express authority in the church as a family does. Compare his thoughts with the understanding of the church in Ephesians 4:7, 11-16.

Session 7

BY THE MANNER OF THEIR LIVING

1. Talk about the marks of Brethren identity that the video lists: obedience to Jesus Christ; centeredness on the teachings of the New Testament; trust in the leading of God's Spirit; a commitment to service; a passion for peace; a striving for simplicity. What other characteristics would you add? How much of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Matt. 5-7) is reflected in your understanding of the Brethren?
2. Gilbert Romero observes that "the love we're bringing across is happening. It's working!" Look at John 13:34-35 and John 15:9-17. Name the new people who have come to your congregation because of your expression of God's love. How might your witness grow?
3. Ingrid Rogers says she was "adopted" by the Brethren. What do you think she meant by this statement? Study Mark 3:31-35. Does your congregation take seriously the question "What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?"
4. Consider Luke 14:26. Discuss how this passage supports Mervin Keller's commitment to serve in Maine. Describe how your "commitment to the Lord and trying to live that out in daily life" draws people to your congregation.
5. Read Matthew 5:9, 38-48 and Luke 19:42. Recall the ways that Linda Williams embodies Jesus' vision for peace. How do you resolve conflict? Do you look to these scriptures when you have a disagreement with someone?
6. Share your responses to the Downeys' statements about the Brethren: "The Church of the Brethren has the radical and correct belief that the thrill of growing and nurturing is not only a greater pursuit, but it is more lasting and meaningful. There is a quiet determination within the Church of the Brethren. [They] stand as a beacon to [Jesus'] values [e.g., giving and selflessness], which are liable to be far more important in the next few years."
7. "Your word is as good as your bond" and a resistance to oath-taking are other marks of the Brethren (see Matt. 5:33-37). What do these mean to you? Historically, Brethren have not practiced suing in courts of law (Matt. 5:40). Nor have they belonged to secret societies because allegiance belongs to God alone (Matt. 6:24). How important is it to follow these sayings? Is it more or less difficult to do them in modern times than in ancient times?
8. Review Desmond Bittinger's vision for Brethren witness in the future in the pamphlet "And How Shall the Brethren Be Recognized?" available from Brethren Press.

Session 8

ALL WAR IS SIN

1. Dale Brown says that “peace is the very heart of the gospel.” Replay his listing of “what wars say” and “what Jesus says.” Add other comparisons to this list.
2. Read the Church of the Brethren statement “The Church on War” and the “Biblical Basis of a Peace Witness” pamphlet (both available from Brethren Press). Why do the Brethren insist that peace is “the ethic of the New Testament”?
3. Compare various Christian responses to war. What is your reaction to the peace position? Invite BVSers, CPSers, and veterans to tell about their experiences and how their faith supported their choices to be resisters or soldiers. Allow for free dialogue and greater understanding to grow.
4. Read Romans 13:1-10. Contrast verses 1-7 with verses 8-10. Do you like one passage more than the other? Why? Also read Acts 5:29-32. When do you think it is appropriate to obey the government, and when is it more appropriate to obey God?
5. Read from *Shoes of Peace: Letters to Youth from Peacemakers* to learn more about Ted Studebaker and others who have committed their lives to being witnesses for peace. Share your responses to their lives and witness. *Shoes of Peace* and another book on the peace witness, *Biblical Pacifism*, by Dale Brown are available from Brethren Press.
6. Read Philippians 2:5-8 and react to Enten Eller’s decision to not register for the draft. Compare the peacemaking approaches of Vernard Eller and Dale Brown. Which makes more sense to you? What are some other ways to witness to peace?
7. How did you react to Tony Campolo’s “scolding of the Brethren” for their lack of pacifist conviction? What did he say that inspired you? angered you? Was the colonel correct? Would Jesus drop bombs? How far can we go to do as Jesus did?
8. Read Romans 5. Offer responses to Dale Brown’s thoughts on the nature of grace: “If we really deeply appreciate and are thankful that we have been loved by God, even when we do not deserve it, then we can’t help but have that same attitude for others.”
9. List the ways that you or your congregation can keep alive the biblical basis for peacemaking. Explore the peace education and action resources offered by your district and the denomination (e.g., Brethren Witness/ Washington Office and On Earth Peace). Meditate together on Ephesians 2:13-22.
10. In what ways can we support those who join the military while upholding the belief that all war is sin?

Session 9

SERVANTHOOD

1. Read and discuss Luke 10:25-37. How is “neighbor” defined in this parable? Clarify your understanding of what Jesus meant by “Go and do likewise.”
2. Talk about Wayne Zunkel’s comments that “to fail to see the suffering people around us and not to act is to fail to be what we are called to be . . . the Body of Christ.” Compare his thoughts with the encouragement in James 2:14-18. Distinguish his emphasis on the “gospel of Jesus” over the “gospel of service.”
3. Reread Matthew 25:31-46. Describe the ways in which your congregation responds “to one of the least of these.” Make a list of service activities according to each of the categories in this passage. Enlarge the list to include what you or your congregation could do.
4. Get information on Heifer International. Learn about its history and areas of service. Do you already participate in its support? How could you become partners in service with them? Check out their website: heifer.org. Other resources about Heifer International include *Passing On the Gift* by Glee Yoder and a DVD entitled *Dan West: Peacemaker*, available from Brethren Press.
5. Ask people who have volunteered for disaster relief to share their experiences. Encourage them to tell what this meant in terms of their growth or expression of faith. List the ways your congregation or district participates in disaster relief efforts.
6. Read Matthew 5:14-16. How does this passage relate to Brethren Volunteer Service? Invite BVSErs to tell about their service projects. Did they “hear the voice of God speaking through the poor”? How? Show the BVS video or DVD: *Needed: A Few Good Servants*, available from the BVS office. Pray for those already working on projects. Consider corresponding with a BVSEr.
7. List some of the opportunities to be a servant, as shown in the video. Which ones spoke personally to you? Why? Look at the most recent Church of the Brethren General Board report on our world service projects. Note the ones your congregation supports with volunteers, offerings, or other contacts.
8. Stephen Zoaka talks about the Nigerian Well-Drilling Project as being “one way of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.” What do you think he meant by that? What is the link you see between Jesus’ gospel and service where there is need?
9. Recall Bill Hayes’ comments on the Brethren “spirit of volunteerism.” Talk about ways that you might tithes a part of your life or encourage others to volunteer in service.

Session 10

MANY PARTS—ONE BODY

1. Read Isaiah 56:3-8. Who are “foreigners”? How are we to treat “foreigners” who are also “bound . . . to the Lord”?
2. Share your reactions to the video. What do you recall from the video about early Church of the Brethren mission efforts? Read about the first Brethren missionaries and report your discoveries to the class. Invite former missionaries to tell of their experiences.
3. Read Acts 10. Notice especially Peter’s words in verses 34-35. Talk about the response of the Brethren to various people shown in the video. What motivated the Brethren? How do we (or don’t we) still live out Acts 10:34-35?
4. Read the 1981 Annual Conference Statement “World Mission Philosophy and Program” and/or 1990 statement on “Mission Theology Guidelines.” Share your responses.
5. Study John 10:14-16. Reflect on this passage and the growth of *Ekklesiyar Yanuwa a Nigeria* shown in the video. Consider what Jesus’ words mean for us as others come to us for the nature of our faith expression.
6. Think about what it means for people from other cultures to join us in the journey of faith. What do we have in common in our faith? What should we hold on to? What might we have to give up? What might we gain as other cultures join us? Recall how people in the video dealt with these questions.
7. What do other cultures see in us, as shown in the video or from your own experience? What do the Brethren have to offer, and what is needed in the neighborhood around your church? How might you respond? Contact the Global Mission Partnerships office for their most recent resources.
8. What, according to Richard Kyerematen, has the Church of the Brethren traditionally provided for people in the city? Do you agree? Why, or why not?
9. Discuss Wayne Zunkel’s observation that “people in many countries are hungry for the putting together of a strong evangelical faith with concern for human life and human justice.” Compare Isaiah 11:10 to Zunkel’s vision.

Session 11

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

1. Reflect on the lifestyle of Cliff and Arlene Kindy. What do you like about simple living? Study Matthew 6:19-24 and 25-34. Talk about the difficulty of living out Romans 12:2 and Philippians 4:11-13.
2. Compare Arlene Kindy's comment on having "the extra money to give . . . to somebody else" with Tony Campolo's caution about owning a BMW. Do you agree or disagree with their statements? Why or why not? Refer to the story of the rich young man in Mark 10:17-31. Look also at the wisdom of Proverbs 23:4-5 and Hebrews 13:5-6. Discuss the lure of consumerism in our culture.
3. Review Cliff Kindy's statement that "the simple life is the call back to being the church as a body of people—interdependent, caring for each other . . ." Is this similar to the guidelines for lifestyle described in Acts 2:42-47 and elsewhere? Does your congregation practice simple living?
4. Read Psalm 24:1 and Deuteronomy 12:5-7. Talk about tithing today. Is it difficult? impossible? necessary? Consider also 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (especially v. 7). Sing "Take my life" (No. 389 in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*) and reflect on the verses. Tell about your reasons and pattern for giving to the church and beyond. (Refer to the 1985 Annual Conference paper on "Christian Stewardship: Responsible Freedom" for further insight. It may be accessed at www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements).
5. Review Wayne Zunkel's comments on moderation. Do you agree with him? Why, or why not? Look at the 1976 Annual Conference Statement on "Alcohol" (found online at www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements). Read 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16-17; and Ephesians 5:16-25 (see also Col. 3:2-10). Share your understanding of caring for your body as an act of stewardship.
6. How are relationships a matter of stewardship? Share your views on marriage and divorce in the church. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, 10-11; Ephesians 5:22-23; and Colossians 3:12-24. Compare these with Matthew 6:31-33 and Matthew 19:3-9. How would you deal with Jim Myer's concern for marriage reconciliation and divorce? Consider also the insights of Matthew 18:21-22 with 1 Corinthians 5:17-19 in these questions.
7. Read Psalm 8. Also review the 1990 Annual Conference paper, "Creation: Called to Care," or view the video "The Earth Is the Lord's," available from Brethren Press. *Gardening for the Earth and Soul*, available from Brethren Press, also addresses ways to care for our environment. Is the environment a matter of stewardship? What other stewardship issues does your congregation face other than financial stewardship?

Session 12

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

1. Read Romans 5, focusing especially on verses 6-11. Talk about God's grace and forgiveness as a "gift" that restores (v. 16). Sing "Amazing grace" (No. 143, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*). Think about the verses. Share your experiences of God's grace coming to you and the change or renewal it brought.
2. Dale Brown says that "the Christian faith is always one that gives people an opportunity for a new start, and a new life." Discuss the issues in John 8:1-11 and Jesus' response. Do we deserve to be punished for our sins? Do we deserve God's forgiveness? How can we be both punished and forgiven?
3. Share your reactions to Dean Kahler's story about loving those who shot him. Read Matthew 5:43-48 and 7:1-5. Respond to Dean's belief that "the people who shot me need love from me." Think about those who have wronged you or whom you have wronged. Talk about their need and your need to be released from the wrong and to start anew.
4. Read 1 John 4:7-21 in unison. Allow people to tell what this passage means to them. List the times when it is most difficult to share God's love. Talk about SueZann Bosler's faith, which helped her to forgive her father's murderer. What did you think of her testimony?
5. Review the 1993 Annual Conference Statement on the "Death Penalty," available from Brethren Press. Share your responses to the Church of the Brethren position. Do you agree? What troubles you? Reflect on the work of the Grosses and Callihans on behalf of death row prisoners. Do you agree with Rachel Gross that "God's grace extends to all of us, even those that have committed murder"?
6. Think about Susan Coles' story with the Christ Church of the Brethren in Carol Stream, Illinois. Have you had similar experiences of trouble or rescuing someone from trouble? Share them with the group if you can.
7. Look at the 1987 Annual Conference Statement on AIDS, "A Call to Compassion," available at www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements. What thoughts came to you during Chuck Garza's comments? Talk about the fears in relating to people with AIDS. Invite community resource people to your class to talk about the disease and the needs of AIDS patients and families. Does Jesus' treatment of lepers and the incurable give you guidance for the treatment of people with AIDS?
8. Read John 13:34-35. What does it mean for your congregation to live out Jesus' example and befriend those who do not know God's forgiveness, love, and grace? Reflect also on Isaiah 43:18-19 and 61:1-3.

Session 13

BINDING GOD'S FAMILY BY COVENANT

1. Explore the biblical meaning of “covenant” in Genesis 9:8-17; Jeremiah 31:31-34; and Luke 22:20. (Consult a Bible dictionary for a fuller definition.) Review your baptismal vows. What do they say about your covenant with the church? Sing through “Blest be the tie that binds” (No. 421, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*). Share its meaning for you.
2. Think about the spirit of Psalm 133 and Matthew 18:20. Reflect on H. B. Holsinger’s description of the Brethren in the mid-1800s: “Duty called them to the house of God, but another still louder call urged them. It was the call of love. They loved one another, and they loved to meet and greet each other at the doors of the sanctuary” (James H. Lehman, *The Old Brethren* 108). Share personal stories or experiences from Covenant groups or other faith-bonding moments.
3. Tell what does and does not appeal to you in the congregational sharing time during worship. Discuss Dick Shreckhise’s thoughts on what sharing means for us as a community of faith. Compare your responses to Philippians 2:1-2 and Romans 12:10, 15-16. Talk through the verses of the hymn “Help us to help each other, Lord” (No. 362, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*).
4. Recall Gregg Moser’s comments about church potlucks and fellowship meals. What draws you and binds you to the people there? How could your congregation grow to be more like the early believers in Acts 2:46-47?
5. Share your understanding of the emphasis on “family” among the Brethren. How are people who don’t fit into the usual family profile (husband, wife, children) included in your congregational life? How does the Church of the Brethren resemble family life in the Third World?
6. Read Mark 10:13-16. How are children involved in worship and other church gatherings? Suggest ways to involve them intentionally in the life of the church. Brainstorm about intergenerational activities. Share these ideas with those who plan church program.
7. What youth programs were mentioned in the video? How does your congregation invite youth to participate in church activities and grow in faith? Remember your own camp, conference, and retreat experiences. What appeals or appealed to you as a young person participating in church life?
8. Respond to Nancy Faus’s observation that “for the Brethren in worship, the work of the people is music.” What part does music play in your worship? Read through Ken Morse’s hymn “Move in our midst” (No. 418, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*). How does this reflect community and covenant as you see them in the Brethren?