

Appendix III

BIBLE STUDY FOR THE SELF-STUDY PROGRAM

The "Our Reason for Being" Bible Study is to be used in Church School classes or Ad Boards or other groups or classes.

Discovering the New Testament Understanding of The Church

Session 1

Acts 2:1-47
I Corinthians 12

Session 2

Acts 3:1-16
Acts 6:1-6
Matthew 25:31-46

Session 3

Acts 7:1-60
II Corinthians 6:3-10
II Corinthians 11:22-33

Session 4

Mark 1:16-20
John 15:16-27

Session 5

I John 4:7-21
Acts 2:44-47
Colossians 3:12-17

Three Step method of Bible Study

- I. Learn what the Bible passage actually says.
 - A. Time can be saved if the class has the passages at home and can take time to read them before class using different translations.
 - B. Have them note any questions that arise in the reading of the passage.
 - C. Alternatively, you could assign a smaller group for each of the passages and have them report their findings to the class, raising any questions that came from their small group discussions.
 - D. Whatever questions arise, deal with them in some way (now or later).
 - E. Ask the class to put down the major idea that emerges from the passage. Write on chalkboard or newsprint.
- II. What is the total understanding that comes out of the passage?
 - A. The pastor may be helpful at this point.
 - B. A Bible Commentary or Dictionary may be useful.
 - C. Try to find out:
 1. What are the original words and what do they mean?
 2. What is the background of the passage?
 3. Why was the passage written and included in the Bible?
 4. What are the relationships of the persons involved in the passage?
 5. What are the geographical, social, and cultural situations involved in the passage?
- III. What does the passage say about the New Testament Church?
 - A. List these on newsprint or chalkboard.
 - B. Have someone keep track of these observations from week to week so they can be shared later.
 - C. What does the passage mean to our congregation?
 1. How do we measure up to the Biblical Church?
 2. What steps do we need to take to move in that direction?
 3. List and keep these to be shared at a later time with the committee.