JOY IN WITNESSING

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

OBJECTIVE: We have the privilege of sharing Jesus with others.

In This Lesson Plan:

- Adventist Pioneer Story: “The Monomaniac”
  - Thought Questions
  - Journal Entry
  - Worksheet: “Called to Witness”
- Additional Assignments and Projects
- Ellen G. White Quotes

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: (after reading the story)

Suggested ways of incorporating thought questions in the classroom:

A) Have a large class discussion.

B) Divide students into groups and have them discuss the questions among themselves.

C) Assign one or more questions and have students answer in paragraph form.

1. What would you have done if someone called you a monomaniac because of your love for Jesus—in other words, accused you of having a mental illness?

2. What do you think was going through the doctor’s mind when William Miller asked him for an examination?

3. Why was William Miller willing to pay the doctor’s fees?

4. Is there more than one way to witness to others? What are some examples of witnessing possibilities?

ADVENTIST PIONEER STORY

“The Monomaniac”

After accepting Jesus as his Savior, William Miller began to study the Bible every spare moment he had. He was amazed when he discovered the prophecies relating to end-time events and felt convicted that he should tell others about the soon coming of Jesus.

A physician in the neighborhood began to call William Miller a monomaniac (someone who suffers from a mental illness especially when dealing with one particular idea or area of thought). William Miller was well-respected and well-liked in the community, so the physician probably didn’t mean any harm. He just didn’t want to hear even a little bit of Miller’s findings about Bible prophecy. “We all like Esquire Miller [a title of respect],” he would say, “but when you get him started on this prophecy business, he’s nothing but a monomaniac.” In other words, when you get him going, he’s way off base on this prophecy business.

Of course, the danger of saying things behind someone’s back is well-known—some kindly soul will tell him what’s being said. And that’s what happened in this case. Someone squealed on the good doctor.
5. How can you be a witness this week?

**JOURNAL ENTRY:**

Have students spend 10-15 minutes writing their thoughts on the topic. This can be done at the beginning of the lesson to generate discussion material or it can be done later to help students recap what they’ve been learning in class. Here are some suggested journal entry topics.

1. My thoughts on witnessing
2. When I think about witnessing to others, I feel . . .
3. How I can be a witness to others
4. How someone helped me draw closer to Jesus

**WORKSHEET:**

“Called to Witness”

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks by unscrambling the letters in the parentheses to discover a quote from *The Desire of Ages*, page 357, by Ellen White. Then answer the questions below.

**Quote from *The Desire of Ages***:

“You are to be My witnesses upon earth, channels through which My grace can flow for the healing of the world. So I will be your representative in heaven. The Father beholds not your faulty character, but He sees you as clothed in My perfection. I am the medium through which Heaven’s blessings shall come to you. And everyone who confesses Me by sharing My sacrifice for the lost shall be confessed as a sharer in the glory and joy of the redeemed.”

1. Read the quote carefully. In your own words, write what this quote is saying to you.

**William Miller** had a sense of humor, and this is how he handled the situation with the doctor who said he was a monomaniac on the prophecies. With 10 children in the family, it wasn’t long before one of them became ill, and that same doctor was called to attend the child. After taking care of the youngster, he was about to make a quick escape. He certainly didn’t want to get into a discussion with Esquire Miller. But there Miller sat beside the door, looking rather ill. In fact, he was doing his best to look as ill as possible.

The doctor asked if there was something wrong with him, and Miller admitted that maybe there was, but he didn’t know just what. The physician checked his pulse, and that seemed to be all right. He asked Miller what he thought the problem might be.

“Well,” Miller replied, “I’m not totally sure, but could it be that I’m a monomaniac?” The doctor turned all shades of the rainbow.

But Miller kept on. “Doctor, would you know a monomaniac if you really saw one?”

“Yes, I think I would.”

“Then I’d like you to examine me to find out if I’m really a monomaniac. If I am, I want to be treated for it—for my peace of mind, for my mental health.”

There was no way out for the poor, embarrassed doctor. How could he give an examination for such an ailment? As he was looking for a way to get past Mr. Miller and out the door, he heard Miller say, “Oh, and doctor, feel free to charge your regular fee for this examination.”

Of course Miller knew that the only way the doctor could examine him for this supposed ailment was for Miller himself to give the doctor a Bible study. He was so eager to witness to this man that it was worth it to pay for an examination just so he could sit down with him and talk about Jesus’ soon coming.

Escape seemed impossible. At last the doctor sat down and one by one Miller went through the familiar texts in Daniel. Gradually, as they worked out the chronology, the doctor saw that it wasn’t a bunch of mumbo-jumbo. It actually made sense. He was so agitated that he jumped up and ran out the door. William Miller smiled in anticipation of their next meeting, which came even sooner than he expected.
2. According to this quote, what will Jesus do for us in heaven?

3. What can we do for Jesus on earth?

**ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS:**

1. **Class Field Trip:** Spend a day at the local food bank or Samaritan center helping out. Talk about how community service is a way of witnessing.

2. **Ministry Project:** Divide the class into groups of 6-8 students. Have each group come up with a special ministry on campus that they could be involved in for a month. They could “borrow” an idea from a ministry that already exists or come up with their own. Each group should come up with a name for their ministry and then develop a plan of action. Give the students time during class in the next few weeks to work on the project.

Bright and early the next morning there was a knock at the door. It was the doctor. When William saw him he exclaimed, “Why, doctor, you look like you haven’t slept a wink all night.”

“No, I haven’t,” replied the doctor. “If all you’ve told me is true, I have to know more. I’m not ready to go to heaven. You need to study with me until I know all there is to know.”

So Mr. Miller and the doctor arranged to have more Bible studies. By the end of the studies the doctor went away rejoicing—as much a “monomaniac” on the prophecies as William Miller himself.


**ELLEN G. WHITE QUOTES**

- “No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus.” *Steps to Christ*, p. 78.

- “When the joy of the Lord is in the soul, you will not be able to repress it; you will want to tell others of the treasure you have found; you will speak of Jesus and His matchless charms.” *In Heavenly Places*, p. 123.

- “A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity.” *Gospel Workers*, p. 122.