

D. Lesson Four: Visualizing God’s Father-Son love through the advance installment of the Holy Spirit

1. Detachment: not feeling close to God

13. I feel close to God when I visualize his love in Jesus Christ in mental images.

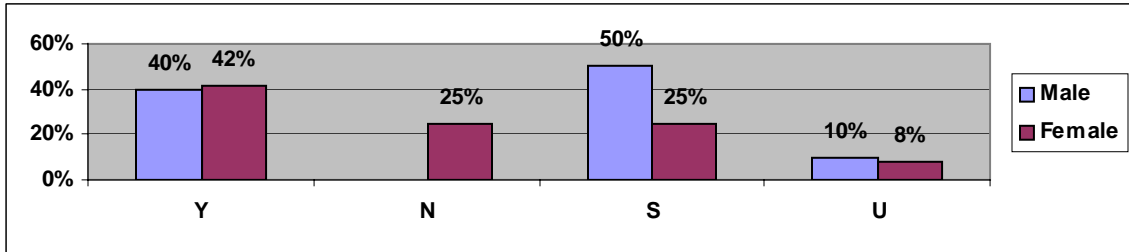


Figure 25: Feeling close to God through visualizing his Father-Son love

14. God communicates his love in Jesus Christ visually.

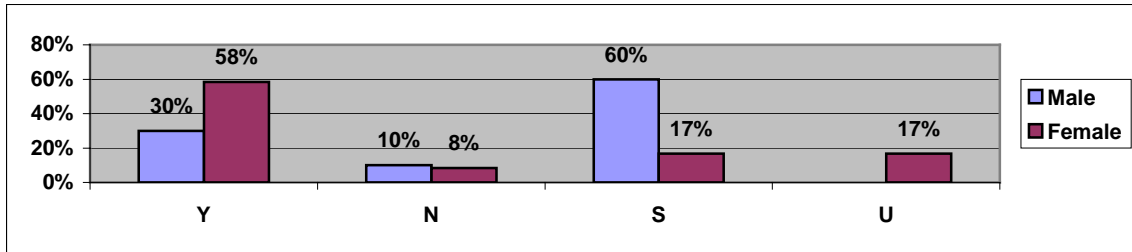


Figure 26: Knowledge about God visualizing his Father-Son love

15. I would like to learn to visualize God’s love in Jesus Christ better.

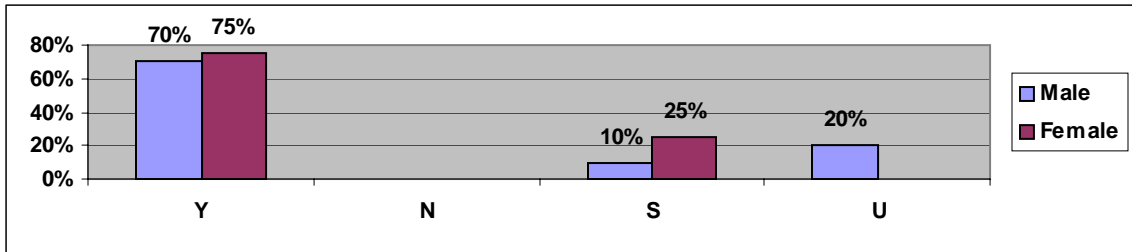


Figure 27: Desire to learn to visualize God’s Father-Son love better

16. I often visualize God’s love in Jesus Christ in mental images.

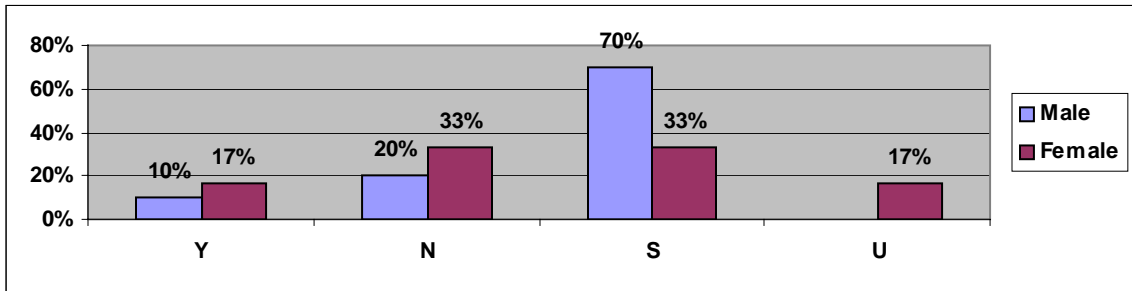


Figure 28: Visualizing God’s Father-Son love

2. The learning experience: moving from aloofness to nearness

13. I now feel closer to God when I visualize his love in Jesus Christ in mental images than before the 10-week learning experience.

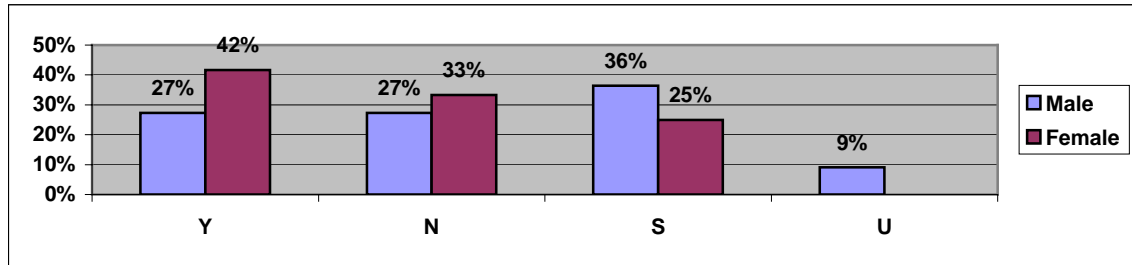


Figure 29: Increase in feeling close to God through visualizing his Father-Son love

14. I understand better now that God communicates his love in Jesus Christ visually than I did before the 10-week learning experience.

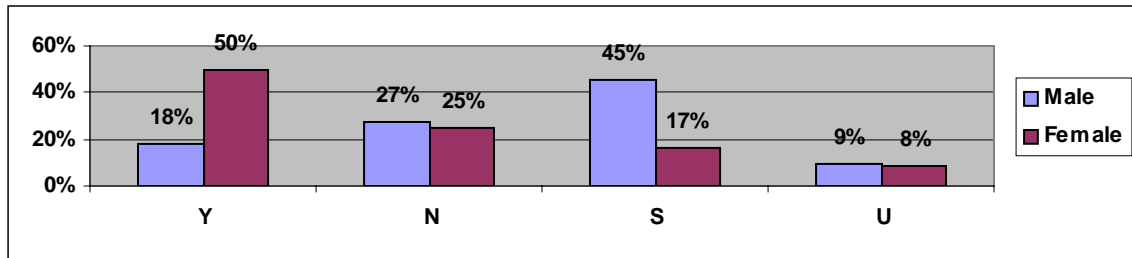


Figure 30: Increase in knowledge about God visualizing his Father-Son love

15. I want to learn to visualize God's love in Jesus Christ more now than before the 10-week learning experience.

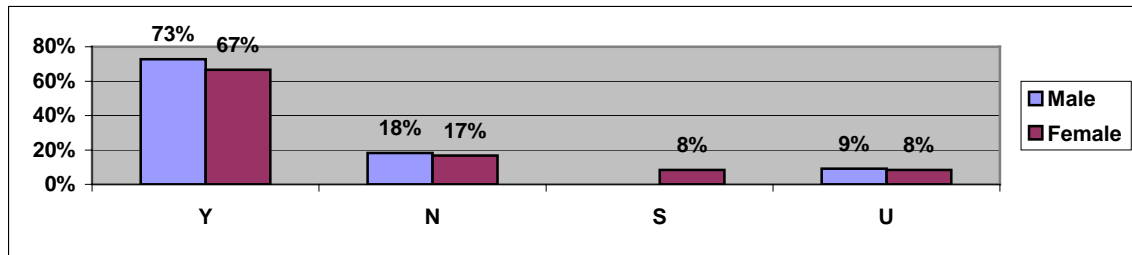


Figure 31: Increase in desire to learn to visualize God's Father-Son love

16. I visualize God's love in Jesus Christ in mental images more now than before the 10-week learning experience.

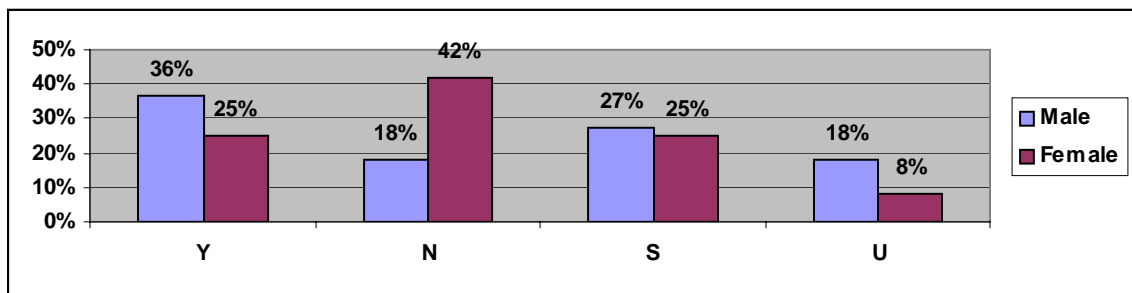


Figure 32: Increase in visualizing God's Father-Son love

3. Evaluation, analysis and conclusions

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|--|---|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Hypothesis | <i>Christians sometimes or often do not feel close to God perhaps because they tend to communicate more verbally with God than through visualizing his love.</i> | | | | | |
| Felt close to God through visualizing his Father-Son love | Males | Y 40% | S 50% | Females | Y 42% | S 25% |
| Increase in feeling close to God through visualizing his Father-Son love | Males | Y 27% | S 36% | Females | Y 42% | S 25% |
| Narrative response | | | | | | |
| <p>Visualizing helps (very much) to experience the love of God (F).</p> <p>God's way of using the material as well as the 'material imagination' continues to be a way in to relate to Him. It mostly results in giving praise, in understanding his character better (M).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Analysis</p> <p>Detachment: 40% of the males and 42% of the females felt significant affective detachment or dis-embeddedness in experiencing the nearness or closeness of God.</p> <p>Learning experience: The learning experience significantly moved 27% of the males and 42% of the females to an increased experience of the nearness of God Other factors may also have influenced the outcome.</p> | | | | | | |
| Conclusions | | | | | | |
| <p>Since visualizing or forming pictures in our minds of God's Father-Son love sought to encourage the participants to experience faith as a new way of seeing (cf. Calvin on faith), there appears to be some causal connection between experiencing the closeness of God and communicating with God more verbally than visually. The narrative comments confirm this.</p> <p>This lesson of the learning experience was not very helpful for the males, but reasonably helpful for the females in moving them to an increased experience of the nearness of God. The narrative comments confirm this conclusion.</p> | | | | | | |

Table 4: From aloofness to nearness