

F. Lesson six: Discovering God’s Father-Son love through the advance installment of the Holy Spirit

1. Detachment: not experiencing the Christian faith as a mystery to be discovered

21. It feels as if the Christian faith is more about right beliefs and right living than about increasingly discovering more of what it means to live in union with God.

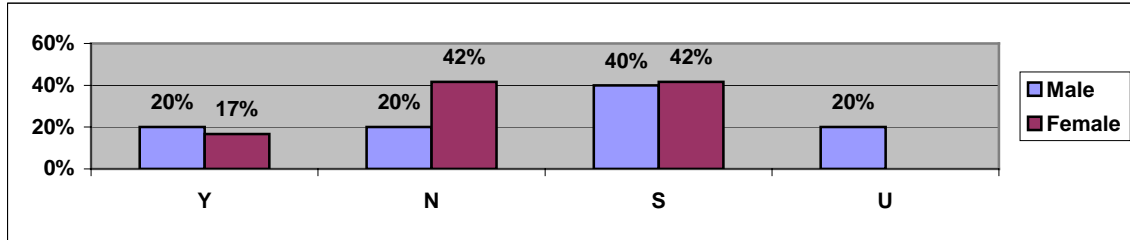


Figure 41: Not feeling oneself discovering God’s Father-Son love

22. The Christian faith is about increasingly discovering more of what it means to live in union with God.

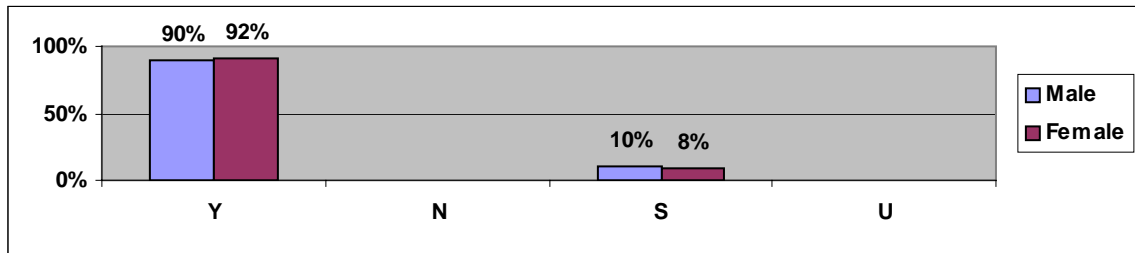


Figure 42: Knowledge about discovering God’s Father-Son love

23. I would like to learn to discover more about what it means to live in union with God.

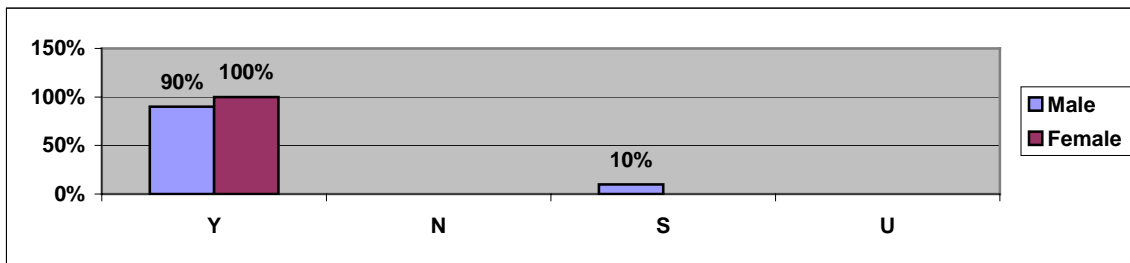


Figure 43: Desire to learn to discover more of God’s Father-Son love

24. I daily discover more of what it means to live in union with God.

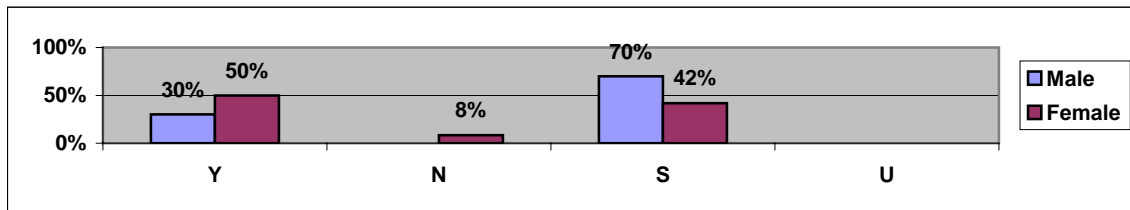


Figure 44: Daily discovering more of God’s Father-Son

2. The learning experience: correctness of the known to discovery of the unknown

21. It now feels like the Christian faith is more about increasingly discovering more of what it means to live in union with God than before the 10-week learning experience.

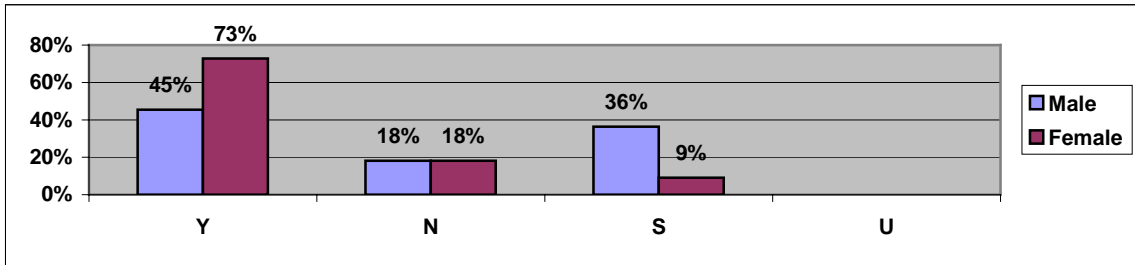


Figure 45: Increase in feeling oneself discovering God's Father-Son love

22. I now understand better that the Christian faith is about increasingly discovering more of what it means to live in union with God than I did before the learning experience.

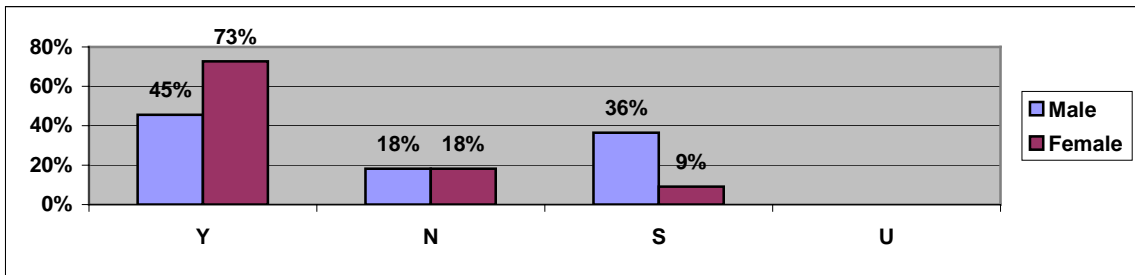


Figure 46: Increase in knowledge about discovering God's Father-Son love

23. I now want to learn to discover more about what it means to live in union with God than I did before the 10-week learning experience.

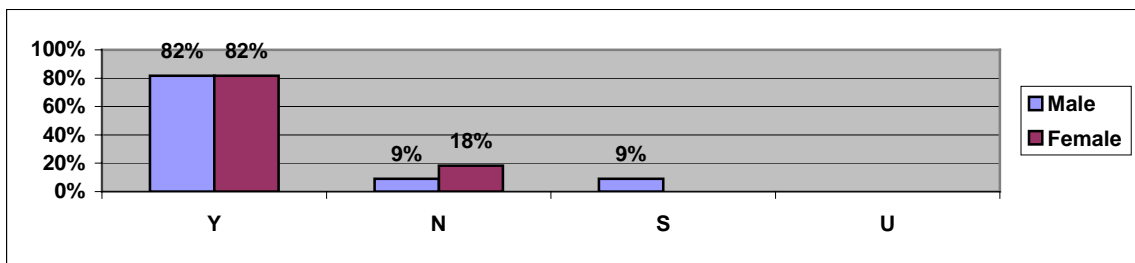


Figure 47: Increase in desire to learn to discover more of God's Father-Son love

24. I now daily discover more of what it means to live in union with God than before the 10-week learning experience.

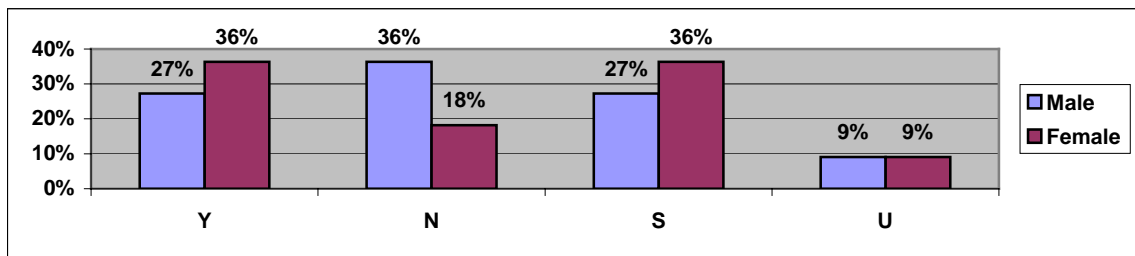


Figure 48: Increase in discovering God's Father-Son love

3. Evaluation, analysis and conclusions

Hypothesis	<i>Christians seldom experience the Christian faith as a mystery to be discovered perhaps because they consider the gospel primarily to be about right beliefs and right conduct.</i>					
Did not feel oneself discovering God's Father-Son love	Males	Y 20%	S 40%	Females	Y 17%	S 42%
Increase in feeling oneself discovering God's Father-Son love	Males	Y 45%	S 36%	Females	Y 73%	S 9%
Narrative response						
<p>Perhaps some concepts will always be part of the 'mystery' of the faith—but what we <i>can</i> know surely is capable of being 'grasped' and God can work out the details. I don't need to defend everything <i>logically</i> (M).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Analysis</p> <p>Detachment: 20% of the males and 17% of the females felt significant affective detachment or dis-embeddedness in experiencing the Christian faith as a mystery to be discovered.</p> <p>Learning experience: The learning experience significantly moved 45% of the males and 73% of the females to an increased experience of the Christian faith as a mystery to be discovered. Other factors may also have influenced the outcome.</p>						
Conclusions						
<p>Since developing an initiation culture of personal experience within the community of faith sought to move the participants from a dis-embedded correctness of the known to an embedded discovery of the unknown, there appears to be a causal connection between considering the gospel primarily to be about right beliefs and right conduct not experiencing the Christian faith a mystery to be discovered. Other factors may have influenced the outcome.</p> <p>This lesson of the learning experience was reasonably helpful for the males and very helpful for the females in moving them to an increased experience of the Christian faith as a mystery of living embedded with Christ in the Father through the advance installment of the Holy Spirit.</p>						

Table 6: From correctness of the known to discovery of the unknown