

Chapter 1

Topic 5 Religion in a global context

Page 44

Activity: Media

Pentecostalism

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of Pentecostalism.
- Recognise the sociological importance of Pentecostalism and its growth.
- Evaluate differing views of Pentecostalism and its relationship to social change in developing countries.

- A. Read page 44 of your textbook, on Pentecostalism in Latin America. Then in pairs watch the clip, in which Peter Berger discusses Pentecostalism, and answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fu66gNre4OI>

1. Why is the 'explosion' of Pentecostalism in general difficult to measure? Why is it particularly hard to measure in China?
 2. What are the estimated figures for the number of Pentecostals?
 3. What are the main characteristics of Pentecostalism? What is glossolalia? (You may need to look this term up in a dictionary.)
 4. When did modern Pentecostalism emerge?
 5. Who was the first modern Pentecostal preacher? What was unusual about his congregation?
 6. How did Pentecostalism grow initially?
 7. When was the explosion of Pentecostalism?
 8. In which parts of the world has Pentecostalism grown enormously?
 9. Why is Pentecostalism so interesting to sociologists such as Berger and Martin?
 10. What social phenomenon does Pentecostalism cause?
 11. In what way do Martin and Berger see Pentecostalism as a 'reincarnation' of Weber's Protestant Ethic?
 12. What is a 'cargo cult' and in what way could Pentecostalism be seen as a cargo cult?
 13. Why does Berger believe that both the 'Protestant Ethic' and the 'cargo cult' interpretations of Pentecostalism may be relevant?
 14. Which view of Pentecostalism does Berger find more significant and why?
 15. What does Berger mean by the 'Weberian effect'?
 16. How many South Africans are Pentecostals?
 17. What were the messages of the preacher in South Africa?
 18. Why is the message of the Pentecostal service so attractive to many people?
- B. Write a summary paragraph on the differing views of Pentecostalism and its relationship to social change in developing countries.