*Through Fire and Water* Chapter 1 - The Apostles Build the Church

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Review the story of Pentecost in Acts 2. What was God's purpose in pouring out the Holy Spirit to the early believers on that day?

2. How do you think one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit today?

3. Harry Loewen writes that people in the time of Jesus viewed him as a radical. List at least three reasons why people of Jesus' time might have felt that way about Him.

4. Why do you think it has been an important Christian doctrine to affirm that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine?

5. By the year A.D. 300 there were many Christians in the Roman Empire. Estimates range from about 10% to as much as 50% of the people had become Christian. What do you feel are the most important reasons why Christianity spread so rapidly and became so popular in the Empire?

6. Why do you think that down through the many centuries of the church Tertullian's maxim has remained true: "the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church"?

7. How did the character of Christianity change after Constantine legalized Christianity in A.D. 313?

8. What are 2-3 directions that St. Augustine set for the church in the early 400s A.D.?

9. From the map on page 41, which are the five patriarchal cities in the early church.