

## **Empathizing (Christianity)**

### **Classroom Guests and Site Visits**

Because Christianity is the predominant religion in the United States, there are ample opportunities for guest speakers and for onsite visits. One of the more stimulating classroom presentations is a panel with members from each of the three major forms of Christianity. If you can include representatives from two or three very different forms of Protestantism, so much the better. For example, a Lutheran would give a very different impression of Protestantism than would an African-American Baptist or a Pentecostal. If you have students who come from a variety of Christian faith communities, they may be willing to share from their own experience as well.

Most churches welcome visitors, and you may be able to arrange visits to churches and perhaps worship services of a range of traditions. Again, strive for variety: Catholic and Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, and a diversity within Protestantism.

### **Christ, Creed, and Church**

Christians have Christ, creed, and church in common (see page 233 in the student book). Ask the students to reflect in groups on what role each of these plays in their own religious life. After having discussed this in groups, they can share what they have learned with the whole class.

The students can also research official church websites to learn how a variety of churches embody these three common elements. The students should be certain they are looking at official, Church-sponsored sites. You may need to help them learn to be savvy about which types of sites they find. All the forms of Christianity and most major Protestant denominations have official websites.

