

Session 2 Seek the Kingdom

Worship Setting

Continue to create an “ocean” setting. The red algae from Session 1 should now be part of the worship setting.

Centering Thoughts

The cause of Zion summons us to engage this world with great vigor and faith, living and acting honestly and honorably before God and in the sight of all people, using the things of this world in the manner designed of God, that the places where they occupy may shine as Zion, the redeemed of the Lord.

—Doctrine and Covenants 128:8 adapted

This revelation received by Joseph Smith in 1909 had as a central theme, gathering and caring for the poor. Over the years the issues associated with the location of Zion and caring for the poor may have evolved, but the underlying principles still resonate as a cornerstone of the Restoration movement. In later revelation penned in 1947, the promise of Zion was related to the spiritual condition of the people.

Zionic conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies.

—Doctrine and Covenants 140: 5c

Zionic conditions and seeking the kingdom are closely associated with following the model of life and ministry found in Christ. Thus, to seek the kingdom necessitates seeking examples of Christ’s ministry and teaching from the scriptures in order for us to address the needs of a world groaning for peace.

Praise Singing

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”	SP 9
“Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!”	NS 49
“In Christ There Is No East or West”	HS 448/449

Call to Worship

Adonai, you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. Adonai, you are good to all and compassion toward all your creatures. All your creatures will praise you, Adonai, and your holy people will bless you. They will tell of the glory of your reign and speak of your strength. You make known to all humankind your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your reign.

—Psalms 145:8–12 The Inclusive Psalms

Song of Invitation: “This Is God’s Wondrous World”

R-1/HS 52

Focus Moment

Share the book *Russell and the Lost Treasure* by Rob Scotton (Harper Collins, 2006), ISBN 0060598514.

In this story Russell looks for and finds a treasure that he feels is worthless—a camera and some old clothes. He proceeds to take pictures of family and friends and puts the pictures in an album. Russell then figures out that the real treasure is his family and friends. Maybe the kingdom of God is that close and we miss it.

Hymn of Challenge: “Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

HS 176

Monologue/An Illustration of Seeking: “Lost Ring” *see below*

Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

See Centering Thoughts at the beginning of this service. Focus on searching and the practicality that elements of Zion may be in our midst. There is also the necessity to seek and understand the dimension of seeking the kingdom as it relates to sharing Christ’s peace. Scripture helps include Luke 4:18–19 and Doctrine and Covenants 36:2h–i.

Disciples’ Generous Response

Scripture

What householder who has ten silver pieces and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she has lost? And when it is found, the householder calls in her friends and neighbors and says, “Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver piece I lost!” I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.

—Luke 15: 8–10 The Inclusive New Testament

Reflection

Often times this scripture is used to speak of the value we have in God’s eyes. Equally as important is seeking and finding the thing of value to give to God. The individual lost one coin, but knew the value and searched until it was found. Stewardship is our response to God using the giftedness we have discovered and developed in our lives. As we seek to build the kingdom, our responses to God are examples of our commitment to the cause of Zion and the Prince of Peace.

Prayer of Commitment

Song of Reflection: “The Cause of Zion Summons Us”

HS 314

Benediction**Community Exploration**

Using the Russell story as a connector, take pictures of the people attending, and place them in the net(s) at the front in the worship setting. These pictures are symbolic of a community gathered and are an expression of the larger zionic community.

Monologue/An Illustration of Seeking
“Lost Ring”

While I was eating lunch with my friends the other day, I looked down at my hand... (*demonstrates, gasps, pats pockets, looks frantically at surroundings*) I noticed that my ring...my wedding ring was missing!

Someone at the table asked calmly, “Where were you when you last saw it on your finger?” (*pauses, tilts head*)

“I...I don’t know. At home I think.” (*pumps arms as if walking quickly*)

And with that I got up from the table and hurried home. (*moves left and right, ducking and snooping*)

Now where was I when I last saw it? Well, there’s only one place in the house where I ever remove my ring. That’s the bathroom. So, I hurried to the bathroom and looked on the sink and the surrounding counters. Nothing.

The drawers. Nothing.

The floors, the tub. Nothing. (*fingers to forehead*)

Wait. Stop and think. (*walking motion*)

The kitchen. Maybe my ring fell off my hand when I was scrubbing pots or something. Nothing.

Well, maybe it fell into the garbage disposal. (*reaches down, grimaces*) Egg shells. Apple cores. (*pastes on fake smile*) Well, the garbage is still in there. At least I didn’t grind my ring into small pieces.

So, one by one, I removed each piece of garbage... (*demonstrates*) checking each piece to see if my wedding ring was hidden in it. Nothing. And when the disposal was empty, I felt around the bottom. Nothing.

It HAS to be there! (*shines imaginary flashlight down the hole*)

So, I found a flashlight and I moved aside enough of those little rubber flaps to shine the light into the disposal. Nothing.

The drawers. Nothing.
The floors. Nothing. (*walking motion*)

Back to the bathroom. Maybe I took my ring off, but it fell down the drain. I shined the flash light down the drain. Hopeless.

So I found a wrench...(*demonstrates*)...and took off the drain trap. Then... (*grimaces*) I carefully poured the smelly contents into a bowl. Nothing. (*snaps fingers*)

There's a waste basket next to the sink. Maybe I accidentally swept my ring off the counter into the trash! (*bends, picks up imaginary trash, points*)

Oh oh! I just emptied the trash this morning! (*walking motion*)

Out to the garage. (*gasps*)

Oh, oh! Trash day! (*walking motion*)

Out to the curb. Oh, oh! The trash cans are empty. The trash haulers were already here!

To the phone! (*imaginary phone to ear*)

Hi, I lost my wedding ring, and I think it may have ended up in the trash truck. Can you tell me where I might intercept the truck? Thanks! (*hangs up, steers imaginary car*)
Into the car and down the street to the next neighborhood. Here comes the truck just like she said. (*waves arms over head, shouts*)

Stop. Stop. Please stop.

Yeah, hi. I think my wedding ring ended up in the trash in your truck.

You're kidding. You just emptied the truck? Where? At the landfill. How do I get there?
(*steers car*)

Into the car and down the highway to the landfill.

Yeah, hi. My trash-truck driver said he just emptied his truck. Truck number 332.
(*points*)

That bulldozer over there? Thanks. (*pumps arms, shouts up to driver while walking alongside*)

I'm sorry to bother you, but could you tell me where truck 332 just emptied its load?
(*sighs*)

You're kidding! (*points over shoulder*) You mean that whole mound of garbage came out of one truck?! Well, thanks. A ring. I lost my wedding ring. It's probably in a small, white plastic bag. (*turns, normal voice, mock enthusiasm*)

Well! There can't be more than four or five HUNDRED white plastic bags in there! I waded into knee-deep garbage, picking through and tearing open all the white plastic bags I could find. After an hour the bulldozer driver came by.

(*shouts*) "You still at it?"

(*sighs*) Yeah. Still at it.

(*shouts*) "You say you're looking for a ring?"

(*shouts*) Yeah. My wedding ring.

"How many carats?"

Excuse me?

(*shouts*) "How big is the diamond? Must be a big rock if you're going to all that trouble."

There's no diamond in it. Just a plain gold band.

(*shouts*) "You're wading through all this garbage and going to all this trouble for a plain gold band?!"

I have an emotional attachment to it.

Well, to make a long story shorter, I never did find the ring at the landfill, but low and behold when I returned home I found it in the bathroom way under the vanity. It had been there all the time. So next time I'm looking for something I won't venture too far from the house because sometimes losing something and struggling to find it just stinks!

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