

LESSON #1

YOUR NAME, YOUR CALLING

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:6 The redeemer is named “Wonderful, Prince of Peace.”
Matthew 1:23 Jesus’ name Emmanuel means “God is with us.”
D&C 163:1 The church’s new name is its identity and calling.

“Community of Christ,” your church name, is a blessing from God. It is your identity and your calling. When you hold on to its meaning, you will discover your future and become a blessing to the whole creation. Follow Jesus on the journey to God’s peace.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163: 1–2a adapted

OBJECTIVES

- Children will identify how Jesus’ name defined who he was.
- Children will identify what their name means to them and those who named them, and how it defines who they are.
- Children will identify how the church name defines their faith community and their role in it.

MATERIALS

- an illustrated children’s Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- if possible, a children’s Bible (NRSV) for each child (gift from the congregation)
- long roll of newsprint
- three scrolls with one scripture printed on each: Isaiah 9:6; D&C 163:1a,b adapted; Matthew 1:23. Pack each one in a different bag or backpack.
- a paper bag, backpack, or small suitcase for each child. In each bag, pack markers or crayons and a healthy snack.

DISCOVERY

Welcome to **ALIYAH**, (pronounced ah-LEE-ah) the Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God. In this series based on scripture, including Doctrine and Covenants 163, children will learn more about themselves, their church, and their discipleship journey. The first step is “Discovery.”

Before class, hide paper bags, backpacks, or suitcases somewhere in the room or church building. Into separate bags place a Bible, the scrolls of today’s scriptures, a healthy snack, and crayons or markers. Express that “Today we’re beginning a new journey! It is called ALIYAH! ALIYAH is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God. Before we start, we need to get our backpacks (bags or suitcases) and bring them back to the center.” When children have found their bags, gather them together to open them and bring out what is inside. (Invite children to save their snack until later in the journey.)

UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

JESUS’ NAME

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah knew how much people looked forward to the coming of a redeemer. Isaiah said this savior would be called “Counselor, Prince of Peace, Almighty God.” Invite the child who has the scroll of Isaiah 9:6 to read it. Then, when Jesus was born, his parents were told that his name meant “Emmanuel.” Ask the child with the scroll of Matthew 1:23 to read it.



ALIYAH (ah-LEE-ah) is a new resource for children based on scripture, including Doctrine and Covenants 163. D&C 163 is an affirmation of paths taken and an encouragement of ways to move onward. ALIYAH is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God.

One lesson each month will be posted on this Web site to be downloaded and used for church school, junior church, or another time to connect children to the vision of the church. Parallel lessons are provided for youth and adults. Enjoy the journey together!





Tape a newsprint outline of Jesus (a male form) to the wall, and invite children to write Jesus' names on the outline. They may add other characteristics like Jesus' face and hands. Ask children how they think of Jesus—as friend, helper, healer. They may add those words to Jesus' outline. Invite children to share what they know about Jesus. What did he do? How was he the “Prince of Peace,” a “Wonderful Counselor”? What did he do to show that he was “God with us”? Share in the wonder of Jesus being the Prince of Peace, God With Us.

YOUR NAME

Give each child a sheet of newsprint and have them work with a partner to draw around each other. Ask them to write their own name on their figure. Discuss: “Where did your name come from? Are you named for a relative? Do you like your name? What does it mean to you?”

On their outlines, invite children to write words that describe them, and their talents, and their hobbies. What qualities do they know that they have to share? What qualities do they have that others have identified? (being a good listener, kind, caring, energetic, lovable). Tape their outlines to the wall next to Jesus' outline and discuss each child's in turn. Spend time encouraging children to think of what they want their name to stand for and how to express that in their choices, and the sharing of their gifts.

THE CHURCH'S NAME

A few years ago the church was given a new name. The church has had many names, but most recently it was called “The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.” Invite the child who has the D&C 163:1 scroll to read it aloud.

Now the church is named the Community of Christ. What does the word “community” mean? What does it mean to be a community belonging to Jesus? If we are really Jesus' community, then how should we act, what do we do? The Community of Christ is a world church. Use an outline of the world on newsprint, inviting children to write their ideas (in picture or words) of what the church can do in the world, what happens in their church, or how it can be Jesus' church. Hang this outline next to the others on the wall.

PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY

It's time to pack for the journey ahead. Have children pack their items back into their backpacks. The congregation may choose to give each child a children's Bible for their ALIYAH journey. Also give each child the ALIYAH take-home page and a pencil or marker.

Invite children to share in a circle prayer for their journey. After, challenge kids to discover someone new in the congregation, their school, or their neighborhood, and have them ask what their name means, while also sharing their own name, and their church's name and meaning.

ARE WE THERE YET?

To extend this lesson for a rotation model or for intergenerational or additional learning, try the following:

- Research the meaning of children's names in a baby book or Web site on name origins.
- Decorate canvas bags for children to use for continuing lessons.
- Post newsprint outlines of Jesus, the children, and the church in a common space, inviting other congregational members to add their ideas to the children's.
- Add the church's name to the church/world poster in different languages: Comunidad de Cristo (Spanish and Portuguese) and Communauté du Christ (French). Look for others.
- Have children create a mural or poster of the name ALIYAH.
- Play a “name game.” Each child wears a sign with a hint about another name from their family—their middle name, mother's maiden name, a pet's name, etc. The hint reflects the meaning of the name, such as “covered with fluff,” (their cat named “Fluffy”). Other kids try to guess what the name is, based on the meaning.

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Aliyah

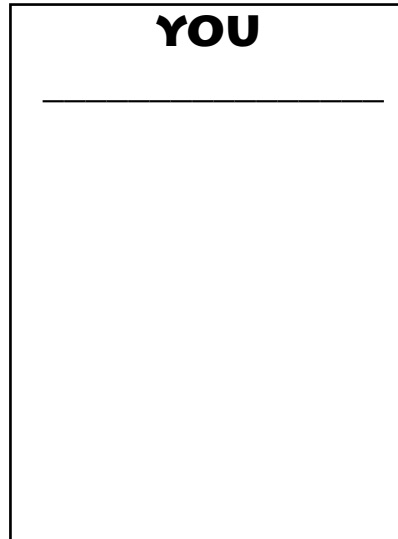
Equipping children and youth for the journey

ALIYAH is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God. Are you ready for **ALIYAH**?

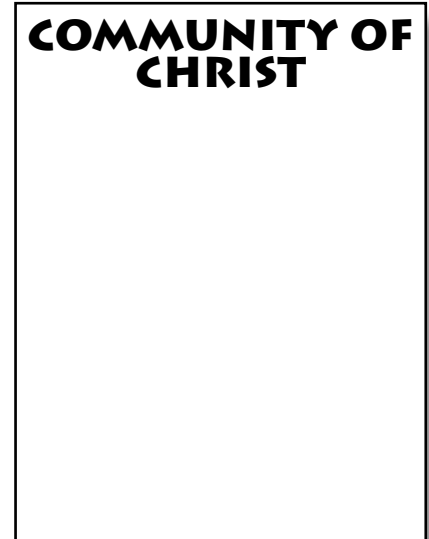
LESSON #1:
YOUR NAME,
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Children's
Page



Would you think a baby would be called the Prince of Peace or Emmanuel? What does Jesus mean to you?



Draw yourself here. What is your name? What does it mean? What is your special gift?



Draw the world or your church. The "Community of Christ" is a world community. What can the church do for the world?



Community of Christ

A-MAZING JOURNEY
Stay on the lines to take this journey to Jesus.

