

LESSON # 17

THE COMMUNITY AND MY NEIGHBOR



SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:11a God wants us to help create a world that is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. God wants us to use our gifts to create a better world.

Mathew 22:37–38 Jesus teaches about the two most important commandments: Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor.

God wants us to make a community that treats people as Christ would. This community should include people from all the countries of the world. Through God’s love and direction, this community has been given gifts, resources, and chances to use these gifts to build a better world. The most important of these gifts is the power of community in Christ that is lived out in congregations throughout the world.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a adapted

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the meaning of the word “community.”
- Children will explore how they can help God to create a world that focuses on the teachings of Jesus.
- Children will explore how their gifts can help God create a better world.

MATERIALS

- a copy of D&C 163:11a adapted, printed on paper for each student
- marshmallows
- toothpicks
- markers
- Play-Doh or sculpting clay

DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a tells us God wants us (or calls us) to make a community that is centered on the teachings of Christ. He also wants us to use these teachings to envision a better future. Because the concept of community may be difficult for the children to understand, the following activity is provided.

Explain to the children that the word “community” means a group of people. These people live in neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries throughout the world. Provide marshmallows and toothpicks for the class, asking the children to create a structure that represents a home. Then ask them if a single home can be a community? (A family can be a community unit.) Invite the children to move their building to form a group of houses. Is this a community? What makes it a community? Is there any way that this group of houses could become a bigger community? How? Finally, suggest to the children that the world is the biggest community (in our knowledge) that exists, because it includes all of God’s children.

ALIYAH (ah-LEE-ah) is a 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 other times to connect children to the vision of the church. Parallel lessons are provided for youth and adults. Enjoy the journey together!

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

CARING FOR MY NEIGHBOR

Matthew 22:37–38 tells the story of Jesus teaching a Jewish teacher about the greatest commandment. In this story Jesus shares that there are two important commandments: The first is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. The second commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself.

Creating a world that follows the teaching of Jesus means we need to know who our neighbors are. Provide Play-Doh or sculpting clay for the class, asking the children to create clay people to live in the community they just built. Jesus taught that everyone is our neighbor, and sometimes our neighbors need help. What kind of help might people in the world need that we can give? How does that help build God's peaceful kingdom? Invite the children to brainstorm all the different types of help that people might need. Have them use another piece of Play-Doh to create a symbol for that help. Invite them to place it in the community they've created.

SHARING MY GIFTS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Read Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a to the class. Help the children understand that the scripture tells us that everyone has gifts and resources that are needed to create God's community. It is important that everyone's gifts are used. Explain how the gifts of each child are important and that only they can share them in their own special way. Ask the children what their gifts are and how they might share them with the community.

GOING HOME

The children learned about community, neighbors, and how their gifts can help build community.

PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY

It's time to pack for the journey. Have the children pack their children's pages in their backpacks or bags. Ask them what they've learned about community and neighbors.

ARE WE THERE YET?

To extend this lesson for a rotation model or intergenerational learning, read *What Is a Community from A to Z?* by Bobbie D. Kalman (paperback).

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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 # 17:
THE
COMMUNITY
AND MY
NEIGHBOR
Children's Page

God wants us to build a community that is based on following Jesus' example. I can do this by helping my neighbors do the following:

OWNER'S GUIDE
for _____
created by _____

This week I will help build God's
Community by

SHARING

The words "Community, Neighbor, and Gifts" are written below. Write or draw a picture of what a community is, who your neighbors are, and how you can share your gifts to help build community.

COMMUNITY

NEIGHBOR

GIFTS

God wants us to make a community that treats people as Christ would. This community should include people from all the countries of the world. Through God's love and direction, this community has been given gifts, resources, and chances to use these gifts to build a better world. The most important of these gifts is the power of community in Christ that is lived out in congregations throughout the world.

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Community of Christ