

LESSON # 18

WHAT MATTERS MOST?

SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:11b There are many things that could use the church's time and energy. As a community, we should listen, respond to God, and do what matters most.

Micah 6:8 God has shared with us what is good and wants us to act justly, love kindness, and walk with God.



There are many things that could use the time and energy of the church. However, this loving community is to listen to the voice of God and do what matters most for the journey ahead.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b adapted

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the meaning of the word “discern.”
- Children will explore how they use their time.
- Children will explore how they can discern and learn what God feels is important to do.

MATERIALS

- a copy of D&C 163:11b adapted, printed on paper for each student
- conch shell (seashell that children can put up to their ear)
- clock
- paper
- pencils

DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b tells us we are to discern what matters most for the journey ahead. In place of the word “discern,” use the word “listen.” Discernment is an act of using practices that help in listening to the “mind and will of God.” For children it is more understandable to say, “In *listening* to God, we may discover what is important.”

Provide a seashell for the children to pass around. Ask them to place the shell next to their ear. Ask the children what they hear. They will likely say they hear

the rush of the ocean. Tell the children what they are hearing is the noise that is present in the room. This is called ambient noise—noise that is present, but gets lost among all the other noises. Ask them to cup their hand over their ear. Ask them if the result is the same. Suggest to the children that this noise is similar to the presence of God. Sometimes it is difficult to discern or listen to the voice of God, because we don't use the time we have, or we don't know how to listen to God through all the noise. Ask the children how they think they can listen to the voice of God.

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!



UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

WHAT MATTERS?

Micah 6:8 is a short passage written by an Old Testament prophet. In this short sentence, he tells us that God has shown us what is good and tells us we are to act justly, love mercy, and walk with God. (To make the passage more understandable, you may replace the word “justly” with the word “fairly” and “kindness” for “mercy.”)

Provide a clock for the children to view. Hand out a paper and pencil to each child. Ask them to write down what they do during the day. If there are young children in class, create sections of the day for them to record their activities. They will likely think to include school, play, homework, sleep, etc. Using the Micah scripture about being fair and kind and walking with God, ask the children what in their day makes it difficult to follow God’s direction and what makes it easy. Last, ask them how listening to God would help them decide what matters most.

LISTENING TO GOD

Read Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b to the class. Invite the children to pray for the ability to listen to God. Provide the shell once again for the children. Suggest that prayer is a way of talking to God. After we spend time in prayer, we need to listen with our heart, mind, and body for God’s response. Ask the children what they will do to listen to God. Let them listen to the shell once more.

GOING HOME

The children learned about discernment, using their time to listen to God so they know what matters most on their journey.

PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY

It is time to pack for the journey. Have the children pack their children’s pages in their backpacks or bags. Ask them what they have learned about listening to God and what matters most.

ARE WE THERE YET?

To extend this lesson for a rotation model or intergenerational learning, read *Prayer for a Child* by Rachel Field.

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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 # 18
WHAT MATTERS MOST?
Children's Page

We need to take the time to talk and listen to God. This week I can do this by changing what I do and using some of my time to do the following:

OWNER'S GUIDE
for _____
created by _____

This week I will listen to God by finding a quiet place. Quiet places I will use include:

LISTENING

In class we used the seashell to "listen to the ocean." The sound we heard was the noise in the room focused in one place between the seashell and our ear. To listen to the voice of God, we will need to take the time to get rid of some of the things in our lives that make noise or make us busy. Color the seashells and write how you will remove this noise so you can listen to God and discover what matters most.



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—Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b adapted

Community of Christ