

LESSON #6

SERVING GOD, SERVING OTHERS

SCRIPTURE

D&C 17:8–17 The priesthood is made up of different offices with different ministries assigned to each office.

D&C 163:6a The priesthood promises to serve God by serving others.



Priesthood members make a special promise to God to take care of their bodies, minds, and relationships with others. People in the priesthood should be humble and honest and willing to help others.

Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a adapted

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the ministry of the priesthood.
- Children will learn why it is important for the priesthood to perform their ministry in order to serve God and others.
- Children will identify ways they can serve God by serving others.

MATERIALS

- an illustrated children’s Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- a children’s Bible (NRSV) for each child, if possible
- cut-out paperboard shapes of spoons (or use wooden spoons)
- priesthood members visit class, if possible
- *Stone Soup* by Jon S. Muth (ISBN 978-0439339094)
- a large cooking pot
- objects to place in the pot (small toys, vegetables, stuffed animals, etc.)
- a copy of D&C 163:6a, adapted, printed on paper for each child
- paper and pencil
- a paper bag or backback

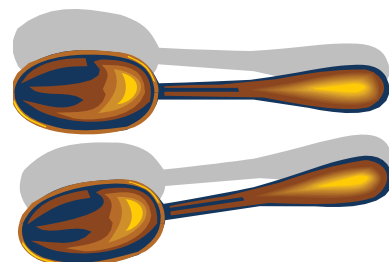
DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 17:8–17 explains the ministries of the deacon, elder, priest, and teacher. Each priesthood office has specific ministries they are to perform; in addition there are general ministries that are expected to be carried out by all priesthood. All of these outlined activities are ways for the priesthood to serve God by serving others. The primary task of priesthood is providing a service or serving others. A serving spoon or ladle is an example of something used to serve food with. Without using a spoon it is hard to get food served. With the priesthood acting as examples, it is easier to see the purpose of serving God by serving others.

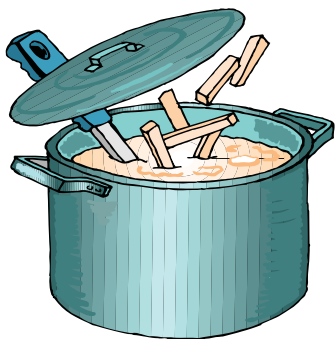
The following learning activity involves the children playing a game with cut-out shapes of spoons. Have two spoons for each office of deacon, elder, priest, and teacher. As Doctrine

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 other times to connect children to the vision of the church. Parallel lessons are provided for youth and adults. Enjoy the journey together!



and Covenants 17:8–17 is read, have the children write on the spoons. On one spoon have them write the name of the priesthood office and the special ministry that office brings. On the other have them write the common things they do (examples might be to exhort, give advice, teach). There may be a need to explain some of the terms so students can have a clear understanding.



UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

WE ARE SMALL, BUT WE CAN GIVE IT OUR ALL

Have the children pull their copies of Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a, adapted, from their backpacks to read in unison. This scripture explains that the priesthood members have promised to take care of themselves and should also serve others and help build community. Read the book *Stone Soup*. As the story is read, have the children each place an object in a large cooking pot. (These may be vegetables, stuffed animals, trinkets, etc.) These objects may symbolically represent ways the priesthood and children can serve others. Take time to allow the children to explain what their object represents and how they can share it with others. Using the information from the Discovery exercise, discuss how the priesthood serves in sharing the story of Jesus. What do they do? Why is it important? An additional step may be taken to actually place the spoons in the pot and allow the children to stir with them.

THE PRIESTHOOD AND ME

Priesthood members are instructed to help others. In preparation for this class invite priesthood members from different offices to come and share. Ask them to explain to the children how they serve in their priesthood offices and how they help others. Also ask them to be encouragers and ask the children how they can help others. After these points are talked about, brainstorm how everyone in the congregation can serve others. List these ideas on a flip chart or chalkboard.

The congregation can serve others by

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SERVERS

The children have learned about the ministry of the priesthood and their ministry of serving. In closing have them think of ways they can help the priesthood in serving others. Close with a prayer. Suggest to the class that they may want to develop gifts and share them with others to help God.

PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY

It's time to pack for the journey ahead. Have children pack their children's pages in their backpacks or bags. Ask them what they have learned today about the priesthood.

ARE WE THERE YET?

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

- Share the story of how children can grow up being creative and willing to serve: *Unstoppable Me: 10 Ways to Soar through Life* by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer (ISBN 978-1401911867).
- Explore ways you can be servants in your community. These ways may include special activities you can share in your congregation, school, or other areas.

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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 #6:
SERVING GOD,
SERVING OTHERS
Children's Page

In Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a the priesthood is instructed to serve others. Who are the people you will serve this coming week ?

How will you serve them?



SERVING GOD— IT'S IN THE LETTERS

Using the letters below, can you spell the following words from the alphabet soup? (teach, exhort, expound, baptize, confirm, serve) What other tasks do the priesthood do?

C B T X R
 T E N R A F U
 O A V N X O H I
 D P I C Z O M
 E B E E O M
 H S N E R

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Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a adapted

OWNER'S GUIDE

for _____
 created by _____

This week I will serve God by
 serving others. I promise to:

Community of Christ