

# LESSON #7

## GROW AND GO

### SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:6b Priesthood ministry is to be a blessing to others. Each priesthood member needs to look at how they are giving ministry.

Mark 12:28–31 Loving God with all we have is important. How much we love others is a measure of how much we love God.

Priesthood ministry comes from priesthood knowing their ministry is a blessing to others. Some priesthood may view their ministry as something earned or a way for their ideas to be more important than other's ideas. Some may simply view it as just another job they have to do.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b adapted

### OBJECTIVES

- Children will talk about how the priesthood may be a blessing.
- Children will also learn how they may be a blessing.
- Children will identify ways they can love God and how they can love their neighbors.
- Children will identify ways they can grow by sharing God's love with others.

### MATERIALS

- an illustrated children's Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- a children's Bible (NRSV) for each child, if possible
- flower seeds and potting soil
- small planting pots
- a copy of D&C 163:6b, adapted, printed on paper for each child
- a paper bag or backpack

### DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b talks about the responsibility of priesthood to give ministry in ways that may bring blessings to others. While priesthood are called to provide ministry, they need to grow into their responsibilities. Their ministry may be symbolized as a flower. The flower starts as a small seed or bulb. If it is watered, placed in the sun, and cared for, it grows into a beautiful flower. As an activity give each child a seed, potting soil, and a small planter. Ask them to think of ways that the priesthood can grow in understanding so they may be a blessing.



**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!

As the children are planting the flowers, have them talk about ways they are growing and how they are sharing their different ministries. If the children get stuck or have difficulty thinking of things, you might suggest activities like singing, dancing, and playing sports. These are examples from their everyday life. Build on these and explore their spiritual ministries. Examples may include praying, helping at church, and going to Sunday school or vacation Bible school.



## UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

### WE ARE SMALL, BUT WE LOVE WITH OUR ALL

Have the children read Mark 12:28–31. This scripture explains that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Simply put, we are to love God with everything we are. The scripture also says that we are to love our neighbor. Loving God with everything we have may seem like a pretty big job. It may be as big as the biggest tree. While flowers may have a small size and limited lifespan, many trees may live to be one hundred years old and can be quite large. They have a better chance of growing large than the flower does. Share with the children that the ministry and blessings they have may start out as small flowers, but they have the potential to become big trees. In a way, the branches of a tree may be symbolic of arms reaching to the sky and thus reaching to God. Ask the children to offer ways they may spread their branches in giving ministry to others. If possible, have the responses displayed on a picture or representation of a tree.

### WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

The scriptural passage from Mark also says we are to love our neighbor. Ask the children who they think their neighbor is. They will in all likelihood say someone that lives next door. As concrete thinkers this is appropriate. Use this time to expand the definition of neighbor and allow the children to discover new ways of looking at the word neighbor. Ask them how they can love their neighbor.



## GOING

The children have learned about the need for priesthood to grow in their ministry. They have also explored how *they* can grow in their ministry and can express their love for God by loving others. Close with a prayer.

## 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 a tree grows and gives to a young boy who grows to be an old man: *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein (ISBN 978-0060256654).
- Explore ways the children can share in their communities by sharing in Godly acts of love.

ALIYAH Lesson #7 Grow and Go  
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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 #7:**  
**GROW AND GO**  
Children's Page

Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b shares that priesthood are to give in ways that may bring ministry and blessings to others. What are ways the priesthood can give ministry?

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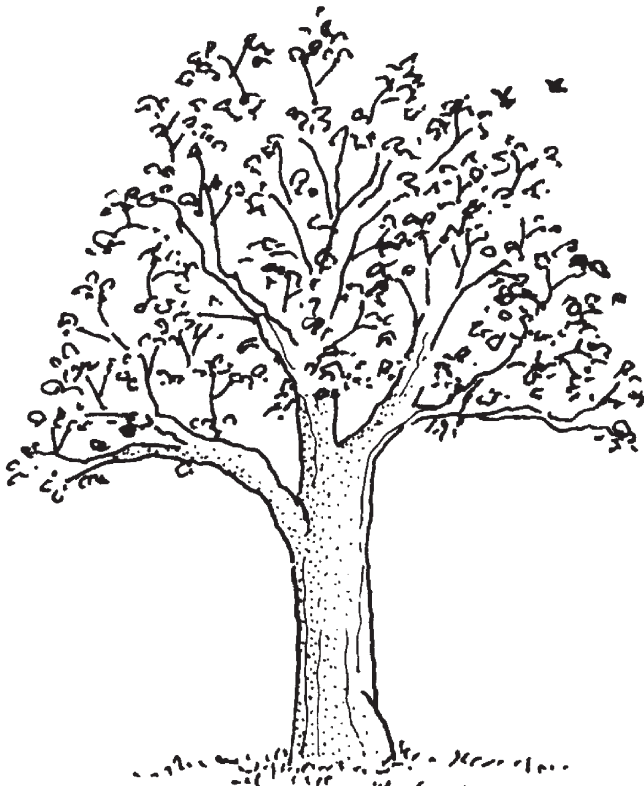
How can you grow and share ministry?

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## BRANCHING OUT AND GROWING TO SERVE OTHERS

Part of growing and learning how to serve is trying new things and learning what your gifts are. The tree below is a symbol for growth. In the space provided list some things you would like to discover about your gifts.



### OWNER'S GUIDE

for \_\_\_\_\_  
created by \_\_\_\_\_

This week I will grow and love  
God by:

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