

LESSON #9

WHAT'S THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:7a–b Scripture tells us about God and how we are to live. It should not be worshiped but used as a way for us to experience God and worship God.

2 Timothy 3:16 Scripture exists as a way for us to know God, and is for instruction and guidance.



Scripture stories tell us about God, but God is so big and the scriptures are so small that everything about God isn't told. The scripture stories have been written by people who told of how God did certain things. Scripture shouldn't be treated as more important than God, but instead should be seen as stories about people being with God. God is shown to us by stories of Jesus.
—Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b adapted

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the Word and why it is important to worship God and not the scriptures.
- Children will learn how they may share scripture with others.

MATERIALS

- an illustrated children's Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- a children's Bible (NRSV) for each child, if possible
- compass
- magnet
- pencils
- paper
- a copy of D&C 163:7a–b, adapted, printed on paper for each child
- a paper bag or backpack

DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b talks about how the scriptures should be used to teach us about God and that God should be worshiped not the scriptures. Sometimes people may read the same scripture but have vastly different opinions of what it means. Arguments may happen and people lose sight of the God they worship and instead treat the words as more important than God. It's like using the same map and traveling the same place but going different ways. Take the compass and explain to the children how a compass may be similar to the scriptures it points us in a certain direction. Provide time for each child to take the magnet and place it over the compass. The compass will spin wildly not being able to find the true direction. When the compass is misused it is not helpful to help directions.

Ask the following:

Why do you think the compass spins when the magnet is placed on top? (interrupts magnetic field of true north)

How can we use the scriptures to point us in the right direction?

Who do the scriptures lead us to?

Suggest to the class that sometimes we look at the scriptures to provide us direction but instead it is like the wildly spinning compass because we might think that the scriptures mean something to us and another person might believe it means something else. Remind them that it is more important to remember who we follow than argue about scripture.

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!

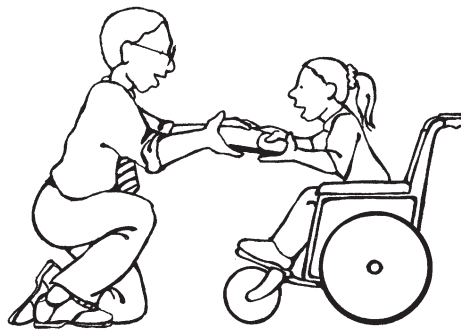
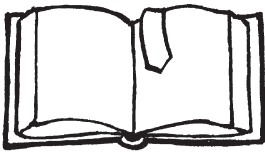
UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

THE WORD

Have the children read 2 Timothy 3:16. This scripture explains that scripture is given by inspiration and is useful for learning. This scripture also suggests that it is used for reproof and instruction in righteousness. It may also be viewed as God's interactions with man told in story form, but it is not complete. As a way to teach this concept provide paper and pencils to the children. Ask them to write their life story. After they have completed the story ask them if they left anything out and would like to add something. Have the students read their stories in class and ask the students again if they would like to add something. This should lead to adding more to the story. Suggest to the class that this is how the scriptures are. While there are a lot of stories about God and Jesus the scriptures can't contain everything about God. And sometimes we treat the scriptures like everything we need to know has already been written. This would be a perfect opportunity to explain the concept of revelation. The simple way may be to explain that God still talks with us and one of the ways these talks are recorded is in the Doctrine and Covenants.

SHARE THE WORD

The scriptural passage from Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b tells us that we should worship God and not the scriptures. Sharing God with others sometimes means that rather than arguing about scripture we go and share God with others. Ask the class how they can share the Word which is God with others.



GOING

The children have learned about the need to know that scriptures can't tell the complete story of God, and that God and not scriptures should be the most important.

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 scriptures.

ARE WE THERE YET?

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

- Ask the children if you could take the stories home? Tell them that you will create a book of stories of the people of the class. These will be the stories they wrote in class. Ask them to continue to think of what their story is because it changes daily. Create a space in the classroom for the stories to be displayed and added to.
- Create a story board list where the children can list bible stories they have learned.
- Ask the children to think of more ways they can share the "God" story with others.

ALIYAH Lesson #9 What's the Word
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this resource include the following:
The Doctrine and Covenants (Section
163), published by Community of
Christ, Herald Publishing House.
Creative Clips art by Jeff Carnehl
(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing
House), 1999. ISBN 0-570-053838.
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Aliyah

Equipping children and youth for the journey



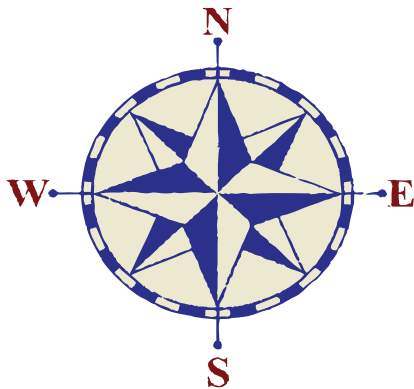
ALIYAH is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God. Are you ready for **ALIYAH**?

LESSON # 9:
WHAT'S THE WORD
Children's Page

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b says that scripture is important but that God is more important. What are some ways that you can show that God is important in your life?

THE WORD POINTS ME TO GOD

With a parent or adult use the space below to list some of the important Bible Stories you know. Use the compass as a way to list some stories. An example is that the N on the compass could stand for Noah.



OWNER'S GUIDE

for _____
created by _____

This week I will share God's story by:

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