

# LESSON #10

## THE MAZE OF FORGIVENESS

### SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:7c Scripture should not be used to make others feel bad or to take advantage of them. We need to admit we have done this and ask forgiveness.

Galatians 3:26-29 adapted All are one in Christ. No one is more special than another

**God is sad when we use the scriptures to make others feel bad or that they don't belong. Many have been hurt by some of God's children who have misused scripture. The church should admit when this has happened and ask for forgiveness and change.**

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:7c adapted

### OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about things that can make us treat others different
- Children will learn how they may practice being peacemakers and help to build pathways to peace

### MATERIALS

- an illustrated children's Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- a children's Bible (NRSV) for each child, if possible
- examples of mazes (one per child)
- pencils
- paper
- a copy of D&C 163:7c adapted, printed on paper for each child

### DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7c talks about God's sadness when we have used scripture to diminish or oppress others. Over the years scriptures have been interpreted in ways that have permitted the devaluing of people and so some have not felt as though they are included or even loved. Today we still deal with people being mistreated due to how some would view scripture. An example that might be helpful is to use a maze and explain to the children that sometimes when we try to get through a maze we run into walls and have to change our path. Sometimes the walls are things we have built ourselves. Provide a maze for each child and ask them to try to get from the starting point to the end. Ask them when they run into a wall and have to change their path to write a thing we may do to make people feel as though they are not included.



**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.

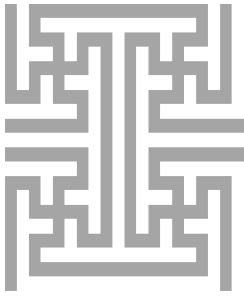
One lesson each month will be posted on this Web site to be downloaded and used for church school, junior church, or other times to connect children to the vision of the church. Parallel lessons are provided for youth and adults. Enjoy the journey together!

Ask the following:

What did you list as things we do to people to make them feel they aren't included?

Can you think of some bible stories that teach us that everyone is important and belongs?

An important concept that could be introduced at this time is the concept of grace. Explain that grace is the love that God has for all of creation. This love is given to all. When we think about how some are left out we are in a way saying they aren't loved by us. But since God loves all so should we.



## UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

### THE MAZE OF FORGIVENESS

Have the children read Galatians 3:26-29. This scripture explains that through faith we are all one in Christ. This scripture also suggests that sometimes we use scripture to make others feel bad or that they don't belong. If we do this we are also supposed to ask forgiveness and promise to live differently. Ask the children to use their previously used maze and place a piece of paper over the top. Instruct them to trace over the maze and where they were blocked and had to turn around to remove these lines from the traced copy. Suggest this as a way to show we know what is wrong and learning to be better people. After the children have completed the new maze ask them to share some of the things they can do to show people they care and that they are sorry for things they have done to hurt others.

### SHOWER THE PEOPLE

The scriptural passage from Doctrine and Covenants 163:7c tells us we should not use the scriptures as a way to make people feel bad or worthless. Sharing the scripture stories is way to express to everyone they are loved. Invite the children to share expressions of love and forgiveness as they go to worship. These may be hugs, pictures, songs, etc. Allow the children to be creative.



### GOING

The children have learned about the need to use scriptures in a way that affirms the value and worth of everyone.

## 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 to think of the people they could share Jesus' love with during the next week.  
Total the number and leave it in the classroom. Revisit the list next week if they were able to share with those people and compare to the total.
- Share the story of *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox (ISBN: 9780152060305)

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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 # 10:**  
**THE MAZE OF**  
**FORGIVENESS**  
Children's Page

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7c says scripture should not be used to make others feel bad or to take advantage of them. We need to admit that we have done this and say we are sorry. List people that you need to say you're sorry to.

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## THE WORD POINTS ME TO GOD

With a parent or adult use the words "forgiveness" and "maze" to list some of the things you can do to tell someone you're sorry. An example could be to smile. You might also draw pictures to show how you can say you're sorry.

## FORGIVENESS

M  
A  
Z  
E

### OWNER'S GUIDE

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

This week I will share God's love  
by:

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