

LESSON # 1 2

THE TEMPLE SYMBOL

SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:8a This passage tells us that the Temple is an important symbol for the church. It helps people enter God's presence.

D&C 156:5a–c This passage shares information about the purpose of the Temple and how its symbol will help people give ministry.

“God is shown to us through the ministry of the Temple. Its symbolism and work let people know that God is. Visitors who experience the Temple may find opportunity to learn of healing, peace, faith, and knowledge.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a adapted

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the terms “symbol” and “temple.”
- Children are introduced to the Community of Christ Temple.

MATERIALS

- a copy of D&C 163:8a, adapted, printed on paper for each student
- D&C 156:5a–c
- clay or paper maché
- paper
- markers or crayons
- A definition of temple: “a building for religious practice, a place devoted to a special purpose” (*Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*).
- A definition of symbol: “something that stands for or suggests something else” (*Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*).

DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a talks about the Temple and its importance as a symbol. It will be necessary to define the word “temple” for the children. This lesson focuses on the Temple as symbol and not specific ministry. The ministries of the Temple are not unique to the Temple and may be provided in congregations and communities. So this lesson focuses on the Temple's symbol and provides opportunities for the children to share their understandings of the word “symbol.” Talk about the Community of Christ Temple and ask the class what they think it symbolizes. (Find definitions for “symbol” and “temple” in the Materials list.)



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!

Read the definition of the word “symbol” to the children. Using the paper, markers, and clay have children create symbols they are familiar with. (One example might be the cross.) After they have made their symbols, ask them what the symbols stand for and if they remember how they learned the meaning of the symbol. Allow the children to express their thoughts about the symbols; avoid the temptation to be corrective. A symbol or sign that most children know is the stop sign, but their understanding of the reasons to stop may be different.

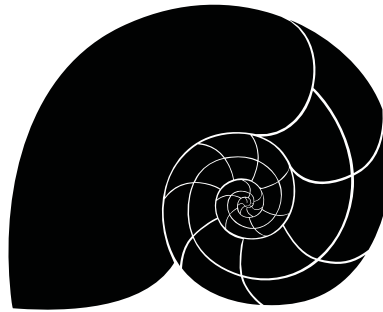
UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

WHAT IS THE TEMPLE?

This scripture talks about the Temple and how we view it as a symbol. One symbol that is associated with the Temple is the peace dove, because the Temple is dedicated to the pursuit of peace. Ask the children if they have ever been to the Temple. If they have seen it, ask them if they noticed anything different or unusual about the building. If there are responses, ask them what they saw and what it meant to them. If none of the children have visited the Temple, show them pictures of it. Tell the class about your experience at the Temple or have another congregation member share. Another symbol associated with the Temple is the nautilus seashell. Its shape suggests a movement in (following the spiral), to learn God's lessons, and then a movement out to give ministry to others.

THE SYMBOL AND SHARING

Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a tells how important the Temple is as a symbol in the life of the church. Symbols may tell a story without using many words. Use the remaining clay or some paper maché and tell the children to build their version of the Temple as a closing for class.



GOING HOME

The children have learned about the importance of the Temple as a symbol and its importance in the life of the church.

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 symbols and the Community of Christ Temple.

ARE WE THERE YET?

To extend this lesson for a rotation model or for intergenerational or additional learning, invite the class to take a walk through and around the church. Have children either write about or draw on paper the symbols they see.

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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 # 12:
THE TEMPLE
SYMBOL
Children's Page

Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a suggests the Temple is one way to show us that God is present in our lives. The Temple is also a symbol. What does the Temple mean to you and what does it symbolize for you?

OWNER'S GUIDE

for _____
created by _____

This week I will share my symbol of the Temple with others by:

SYMBOLS TO SHARE

Below are some symbols you may be familiar with. You've learned about the Temple and symbols. When you think of the Temple what symbols come to mind? Draw them in the space provided.



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Community of Christ