



Community

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a

Trip Planning

Using tour guides can be helpful when traveling; they know great places to visit, camp, or fish. But sometimes a tour guide can be restrictive by limiting opportunities for exploration. Having a chance to explore can make a good travel experience even better. This is also the case with being a prophetic community where being visionary and sharing leadership provides opportunities to explore! This lesson looks at becoming a prophetic people. Using Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a and Philippians 2:1–2, we will focus on

1. what it means to be a prophetic people;
2. exploring the possibility of being like-minded and being one in spirit and purpose; and
3. discussing the youth vision of the forward movement of the church.

Packing List

- Bible
- Doctrine and Covenants
- colored film
- flip chart
- markers
- rose-colored glasses

Navigational Aids

“God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge, drawn from the nations of the world, that is characterized by uncommon devotion to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Through divine grace and wisdom, this faith community has been given abundant gifts, resources, and opportunities to equip it to become such a people. Chief among these is the power of community in Christ expressed locally in distinctive fashions while upholding a unity of vision, foundational beliefs, and mission throughout the world.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”

—Philippians 2:1–2 NIV

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a. This scripture calls the church to become a prophetic community that not only listens to the words and examples of scripture but lives out their lessons in sacred community. It also calls each community member to contribute their gifts and resources for building the peaceable kingdom. The following activities will help the youth look at ideas related to being a prophetic community and challenges to being like-minded.

Is Your View Colored?

Merriam-Webster Online dictionary defines prophetic as “of, relating to, or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy; foretelling events: predictive.” In this class, “prophetic” refers to a visionary element. It will not refer to foretelling but instead to being intentional in living out the word and lessons of Christ, to address building a peaceable kingdom. It can be complicated, however, because individuals have different perspectives.

Provide each youth with a different color plastic film (available in hobby stores). Have them look through their film and share what they see. Although each person may see the same objects, the colors will be different—in a sense their perspective will be different. Being a prophetic people includes acknowledging different perspectives. Ask the youth to list issues or life situations that are present in the world today, i.e., hunger, unemployment, war, etc. Ask them how one’s perspective might influence the way these issues may be addressed.

Are You in Your Right Mind?

Read Philippians 2:1–2. This passage encourages us to be united in Christ. It suggests that if by being united with Christ we have received encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tenderness, and compassion, then we should respond and make Christ’s joy complete by having the same mind as Christ. It can be challenging because there are many voices claiming one perspective is right and one is wrong.

Ask the following simple question: What would the world be like if we assumed that having the same mind as Christ Jesus, meant we were in our right mind? Using the

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issues and life situations discussed in the previous activity, explore with the class how looking at problems through the eyes and mind of Christ might change our approaches to solving them. Would there be a time when solutions to some issues would not be debatable because we knew how Christ would respond? What issues might be involved? List their answers on a flip chart.

Being a Prophetic Community

In previous sections we have discovered

- when traveling, different perspectives help provide opportunities to explore and grow;
- perspective influences how we see and address life situations;
- exploring life issues helps us gain understanding of how a prophetic community should respond.

The church must explore and address certain issues as it tries to become a prophetic community. Ask the youth to share what they believe are critical issues and how they see themselves helping the church become a prophetic community.

Repacking the Scripture Putting Away the Rose-Colored Glasses

Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a focuses on the church's calling to be a prophetic community. There is a familiar phrase that says that some people see through rose-colored glasses. Provide a pair of "rose-colored glasses," and have everyone take turns looking through them. Listen as they explain that although they looked at different things, the color was the same. Explain to the class that looking through film or glasses helps us understand what it means to have the same perspective.

Becoming a prophetic people will require all of us to share perspectives, insights, and opinions. That may be difficult at times. By being a prophetic community, we can combine our perspectives by allowing the lessons and words of Christ to lead us. Will we always be in agreement? No, but the call is to be a prophetic people unified in purpose and mission.

We're Not There Yet

This class has explored ideas about being prophetic, having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and identifying issues that call the church to be agents of change—to build a peaceable kingdom. As a closing, ask participants to pray for insight and help in continuing to be visionary and prophetic. Then offer a prayer for the class that all may develop gifts, talents, and resources to help in that journey.



Legend

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