



Finding Shalom

A Youth Journey through
Doctrine and Covenants 163:2

Trip Planning

Sometimes when we take a journey, despite all of our planning and use of maps, we lose our way. However the blessings of “discovery and finding” encourage us onward. This portion of the journey will focus on

- 1) learning the meaning and application of the word “shalom”;
- 2) finding the ministry of Jesus Christ that invites us to come and receive; and
- 3) sharing the invitation, ministries, and sacraments with others to form sacred community.

Packing List

Deuteronomy 34 NRSV
Luke 15:11–32 NRSV
Doctrine and Covenants 163:2
Flip chart
Markers
Play Doh, clay, building materials (dirt, cement, etc.)

Navigational Aids

“Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life. Follow Christ in the way that leads to God’s peace and discover the blessings of all of the dimensions of salvation. Generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the Living Christ who heals and reconciles through redemptive relationships in sacred community. The restoring of persons to healthy or righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:2a–b).

Deuteronomy 34: This chapter focuses on the death of Moses, who after many years of leading the people of Israel saw the promised land but did not enter.

Luke 15:11–32: This passage of scripture is often referred to as the story of the prodigal son or the lost son. Through this story the expression of “coming home” and the waiting Lord is expressed. Despite being lost we are always travelers that are waiting to be found. And perhaps upon being found we find the shalom that is referred to in Doctrine and Covenants 163.

Where Are We?

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask a youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:2. Use the following activity to further explore the importance of “finding and sharing.”

Landmarks

As we travel, landmarks help us to know where we are and provide guidance to where we are traveling. Landmarks can also assist us in knowing where we have been. Thus when we get lost, we recognize where we have been and truly sense that we are lost. Today a new landmark on our journey is introduced. The landmark or directional marker is “shalom.” In the October 2007 *Herald*, President Schaal defined shalom as a peace with ourselves, with God, between people, between nations, and with creation. So today we find shalom. We discover that we sometimes are lost and are not at peace.

In Deuteronomy 34 Moses sees the promised land but does not enter, because he dies.

In the book of Deuteronomy the forty-year travels of Moses and the people of Israel are chronicled. Examine the book of Deuteronomy and discover experiences where the concept of shalom was present and where it was absent. Discuss and list these events on a flip chart or use other media that is available.

In Luke 15:11–32 the story of the prodigal son is shared. Discuss and list when the prodigal was not engaged in shalom and when he found shalom.

In Doctrine and Covenants 163:2, what are some of the practices that are associated with the embodiment of God’s shalom? Those mentioned in the scripture include the acts of sharing the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the Living Christ. These practices also include healing and reconciliation that help to form sacred community. In the same *Herald* article (page 14) President Schaal emphasized that, “Restoring people to healthy or righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith.”

Finding Shalom

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:2

Repacking the Scripture Sharing Shalom

Doctrine and Covenants 163:2 suggests that shalom involves the sharing of ministry in different ways. Once again we come back to the landmark. But now the landmark of shalom helps us to know we are not lost but are found, and we need to share the peace of Jesus Christ with others. With the materials provided, build a landmark that reminds you of the elements of shalom that need to be shared and how these can be used to share the peace of Jesus Christ. Provide several minutes for this activity. At the conclusion have the youth describe their shalom landmark and what is important in finding shalom.

Destination Shalom

Hopefully the youth have discovered what is important in the concept of shalom. As an exercise in exploring community have the youth share what shalom would be like if it was lived out in their congregation, village, mission center, or community. How do we find peace

- 1) with ourselves,
- 2) with God,
- 3) between people,
- 4) between nations, and
- 5) with creation?

What may be obstacles in our pursuit of shalom or how might we get lost in its pursuit?

What might be opportunities to overcome these obstacles?

What can you do as an individual to pursue shalom?

What can you do with your friends?

What can you do with your youth group?

What can you do with your family?

OK, now is the tricky part. Shalom isn't a place; it's a condition. Sometimes when we travel, we get lost. Sometimes when we journey through life, we also get lost. Shalom is always available if we seek God and share with God our deepest thoughts, hurts, and blessings. God continually searches and waits for us.

If you are lost and struggling with the events of your life, God is always seeking to include you in community.

We're Not There Yet (But We're Not Lost)

Today's lesson focuses on addressing Doctrine and Covenants 163:2 and defining, finding, and practicing shalom. Shalom is an invitation to take Christ as our companion and journey together to build a community based on sharing Christ's peace. Request brief commitment statements from the students expressing how they will share Christ's peace in community. Close with a prayer.



Legend

ALIYAH Doctrine and Covenants 163:2 lesson for Youth © 2007 by Community of Christ. Permission given to reproduce any pages for Community of Christ use. Other reproductions of this resource require written permission.

Contact Poul Wilson, Community of Christ, kpwilson@CofChrist.org. Unless otherwise noted, Bible scripture verses are quoted or adapted from the NRSV. "The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and are used by permission. All rights reserved." Other scriptures used in this resource include the following: Doctrine and Covenants (Section 163), Community of Christ, Herald Publishing House.