



Do You See What I See?

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c

Trip Planning

In planning for a journey much effort goes into using the travel time wisely and seeing and experiencing as much as possible. The amount seen is affected by the number of days available and the distance traveled. It's also possible that while we journey together, we will view the same things but have different concepts of what we are viewing.

This portion of the journey will focus on

- 1) discussing the concept of vision;
- 2) viewing examples of “new” vision found in the scriptures; and
- 3) brainstorming the vision we have for our community, congregation, and world.

Packing List

Acts 10:9–34 NRSV

Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c

Different objects that aid in seeing (i.e., glasses, microscope, telescope, binoculars, flashlight)

Blanket

Paper

Pencils

Navigational Aids

“Let the educational and community development endeavors of the church equip people of all ages to carry the ethics of Christ’s peace into all arenas of life. Prepare new generations of disciples to bring fresh vision to bear on the perplexing problems of poverty, disease, war, and environmental deterioration. Their contributions will be multiplied if their hearts are focused on God’s will for creation” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c).

Acts 10:9–34: This passage focuses on Peter’s vision. This vision was a turning point in Peter’s ministry. He received a vision informing him that the gospel was for everyone. A critical passage is verse 34 which reads, “I truly understand that God shows no partiality.”

Definition of the word “vision”: 1. the act or power of sensing with the eyes; sight. 2. the act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be: prophetic vision; the vision of an entrepreneur. (*Dictionary.com* Web site)

What Do You See?

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask a youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c. Also have a youth read the different definitions of vision. Use the following activity to further explore the importance of vision.

Kodak Moment

When we travel, part of our experience is enhanced by taking pictures of selected sites that remind us of our journey. Some people refer to these as photo ops. But we would all have different ideas of what a great picture might be. It all has to do with vision. Using the objects “that aid in seeing” in the Packing List, allow the youth to view the surroundings or objects that are available in class. Allow several minutes for the activity, and let the youth exchange the items they view. Ask the following:

- 1) What did you see?
- 2) Were some of the “aids” easier to see with than others?
- 3) Did you all agree on what were the best things to see, or were there different opinions?
- 4) What effect do you think our different visions had on this experience?

A Doctrine and Covenants Kodak Moment

In Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c the suggestion is made that we need to raise a generation of disciples to bring fresh vision to bear on the perplexing problems of the world. Specifically the problems included poverty, disease, war, and environmental deterioration. To further explore this section of the Doctrine and Covenants lay a blanket or sheet on the ground and have youth sit on the blanket. Pass out paper and pencils and instruct the youth to write their own vision and plan of how to address the issues outlined in Section 163:4c. At the conclusion of the allotted time, allow youth to share their visions and plans to create a more peaceable kingdom.

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Repacking the Scripture Peter's Kodak Moment

Acts 10:9–34 is a passage that describes Peter's vision. Peter was a disciple that struggled with the appropriateness of the gospel for certain people. In particular he felt the gospel was for the Jews and not the Gentiles. This passage provides a narrative for the experience that Peter had. Have a youth read the passage, then have the class respond to the following:

- 1) What was Peter doing before he had his vision?
- 2) What came down from the sky?
- 3) What was in it?
- 4) Why wouldn't Peter eat?
- 5) What does verse 34 mean to you?
- 6) Does Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c also discuss the impartiality of God and our call? If so, how?

“My Journey” Picture Album

Hopefully the youth have discovered the importance of vision and how it helps us respond to the needs of the world. Part of our journeys sometimes culminate in collecting pictures that are placed in a photo album. As an exercise in exploring vision and community, have the youth share what they would put in their photo album if they were sharing their vision and plans for a peaceable kingdom. What pictures would they include for

- 1) their family,
- 2) their congregation,
- 3) their school,
- 4) their community, and
- 5) the world?

Perhaps these areas don't address all the areas of their life. Ask them if there are any areas that were excluded. If so, what were they?

Using their vision for viewing our church's mission, ask youth to respond to the following:

- 1) Is your vision of the world affected by what you think is possible?
- 2) How does your faith affect your vision?
- 3) What will Zion the peaceable kingdom look like to you?

We're Not There Yet; We Have More to See

Today's lesson focuses on addressing Doctrine and Covenants 163:4c and describing vision and its application to addressing the problems of the world. As a closing exercise, have the youth brainstorm ways they might contribute and make commitments to participating in alleviating one or more of the problems listed in 163:4c. They may also suggest an issue that is not listed. A possible option may be contributing their time, talent, and treasure in one of these causes. Close with prayer.



Legend

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