



# Show Me the Way

## A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:5a

### Trip Planning

Often when we travel we journey to places where we've never been before. Sometimes a tour guide will explain what we are seeing, the historical value of the experience, and what it may mean for us today. During this portion of our class journey, we will focus on

- 1) a brief overview of the history of the apostles;
- 2) a contemporary expression of apostolic witness;
- 3) an examination of what our relationship is to the apostles; and
- 4) a communication of our understandings and questions to our area's apostle.

### Packing List

Matthew 10:2–20 NRSV  
 Acts 1:12–26 NRSV  
 Doctrine and Covenants 16:5–6; 104:11c,12;  
 163:5a  
 Definition of the term “apostle”  
 Flip chart or chalkboard and markers or chalk  
 Paper and pencils or pens

### Navigational Aids

“The Council of Twelve is urged to enthusiastically embrace its calling as apostles of the peace of Jesus Christ in all of its dimensions. The Twelve are sent into the world to lead the church's mission of restoration through relevant gospel proclamation and the establishment of signal communities of justice and peace that reflect the vision of Christ. As the apostles move out in faith and unity of purpose, freeing themselves from other duties, they will be blessed with an increased capacity for sharing Christ's message of hope and restoration for creation” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:5a).

**Matthew 10:2–20:** This passage focuses on the calling of the first apostles. It also elaborates on the specific duties of the apostles and their call to mission.

**Acts 1:12–26:** This passage explains the filling of the vacancy in the Twelve due to the death of Judas.

**Doctrine and Covenants** passages include historical information relative to the development of the office of apostle as well as contemporary language about apostolic witness.

**Definition of the word “apostle”:** **1:** one sent on a mission: as **a:** one of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and made up especially of Christ's 12 original disciples and Paul **b:** the first prominent Christian missionary to a region or group (*Merriam-Webster's, Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*).

### Who Is Your Tour Guide?

### Unpacking the Scripture

Ask a couple of youth to read the Matthew and Acts scriptures. Use the following activity to further explore the apostle's history and role.

### Meeting Your Tour Guides/Their Responsibilities

When we travel, much of our experience is enhanced if we have a tour guide examine the sites with us and explain the significance of what we see and experience. They are, in a sense, teachers that have especially been sent to help us. Apostles are often referred to as “ones sent out.” In the Bible the apostles were sent to different areas and had several responsibilities. Review the Matthew and Acts scriptures as well as the dictionary definition. Allow several minutes for this activity. Ask the following questions and record the student answers on a flip chart or chalkboard:

- 1) What were the names of the first apostles?
- 2) After the death of Judas another person was selected to fill the vacancy. What was his name and how was he selected?
- 3) How does the dictionary define the word “apostle”?
- 4) How would you define it?

### The Doctrine and Covenants and Your Tour Guides

In the Doctrine and Covenants there are several passages that contain information about the development of the apostolic office in the Community of Christ. These passages are found in Sections 16 and 104. These sections also include information about the apostles' key responsibilities. To further explore the office of apostle, compare the duties found in the Matthew scripture with those found in the Doctrine and Covenants. Ask the following:

- 1) Were there any similarities? What were they?
- 2) Were there any differences? What were they?

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### Repacking the Scripture

#### Meeting Your Tour Guide Personally

Doctrine and Covenants 163:5a describes a current understanding of the office of apostle and specifically their call to mission as agents of change. The language expressed in this section suggests that they are called out to establish “signal communities of justice and peace.” OK, so what does that mean? Sometimes even tour guides need some assistance and the traveler can help. The following activity is intended to explore what it means to establish a signal community of justice and peace. After reading Section 163:5a have the students brainstorm what the term “signal community” means to them. Record these responses on the paper provided and retain for use at the end of the class. Now have the youth brainstorm and record any ideas they have about justice and peace and how it can be carried out in these communities.

#### Telling Your Guide What You Need

The youth have explored the history, responsibilities, and current understandings of the apostle (“one sent out”). Sometimes the one sent out just doesn’t have the capacity to meet with all members of the faith community. This may mean we need to dialogue with them by letter writing or e-mail. This last activity is an exercise in communicating the youth’s understandings and questions to their apostle. If you know the name of the apostle for your area, that is great. If you don’t, you may obtain information from your mission center president or from the church’s Web site at *CofChrist.org*. For the last few minutes of class allow the youth to record on the paper provided their understandings of

- 1) signal community,
- 2) peace,
- 3) justice, and
- 4) any other questions or observations they may have.

Place these responses in an envelope and mail them to their apostle at:

Community of Christ  
1001 West Walnut  
Independence, MO 64050

### We’re Not There Yet; We Have More to See

Today’s lesson focuses on addressing Doctrine and Covenants 163:5a and exploring some of the history of the office of apostle, as well as reviewing their key responsibilities. The ministry of the apostle often takes them far from home, family, and friends. Close with prayer focusing on the ministry provided by the apostles as well as the special needs they may have as they minister as “ones called out.” Also pray for the communities and people they will touch and serve in the world.



#### Legend

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