



# Called to Serve

## A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a

### Trip Planning

Sometimes when we journey, various people provide important services to make our trip more comfortable. These people may include housekeepers who clean our rooms, waiters who assist us in ordering meals, cooks who prepare our meals, and campground attendants who help us settle in. The people providing these services often do so because they are hired to do a job, but others do it out of a sense of service or calling. In today's lesson, information is provided about the priesthood and their calling to extend themselves in service for the well-being of the faith community. During this portion of our class journey we will focus on

1. a brief overview of priesthood ministry;
2. an exploration of how priesthood ministry is service to others; and
3. a brief discussion with priesthood members in your congregation or mission center.

### Packing List

Doctrine and Covenants 17:8–18 and 163:6a  
Guest priesthood members, if available

### Navigational Aids

“Priesthood is a sacred covenant involving the highest form of stewardship of body, mind, spirit, and relationships. The priesthood shall be composed of people of humility and integrity who are willing to extend themselves in service for others and for the well-being of the faith community” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a).

**Doctrine and Covenants** 17:8–18 includes historical information relative to the ministry and duties of the priesthood. While there are other priesthood offices such as high priest, bishop, and evangelist, this lesson will focus on the ministry and offices of elder, priests, deacons, and teachers. It is also important to stress that in Doctrine and Covenants 17:18c there is mention of the behavior of members of the church.

### Unpacking the Scripture

Before reading Section 17 of the Doctrine and Covenants, ask the youth to share what they know about the priesthood and their tasks and responsibilities. Then ask a couple of youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 17:8–18. Use the following activity to further explore the ministry of the priesthood.

### Servers

There are individuals whose specific task is to provide service. In the church and on our faith journey there are also people that have been called to provide ministry based on their giftedness. Section 17 of the Doctrine and Covenants provides a listing of the offices and ministries of the priesthood. The priesthood offices are varied and have many specific ministries associated with them. So, what do the priesthood do? If possible have members of the priesthood available to support the following portion of the lesson. Ask the youth the following.

1. According to Doctrine and Covenants Section 17, what are the serving roles of the deacon,
2. the elder,
3. the teacher, and
4. the priest?

### The Responsible Server

Just imagine what it would be like if you didn't have people assisting or providing service for you when you traveled. You might go without a meal. You might go without having clean accommodations. You could go without shelter, because no one took the initiative to help you find a good campsite. You might say that people were irresponsible in providing service for you. Responsible action is expected from people who provide service. We think it is important enough that we stress teaching our children and youth to be responsible and keep their promises.

Section 163:6a implies that priesthood should “extend themselves in service.” What does this phrase mean to you?

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### Repacking the Scripture

Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a describes the importance of the ministry and work of the priesthood. This section stresses the importance of the priesthood in practicing stewardship as it relates to body, mind, spirit, and relationships. This stewardship empowers the priesthood to give service in tangible and vital ways. Ask the youth to share ideas about how they can practice good stewardship over their

bodies,  
minds,  
spirits, and  
relationships.

The priesthood are called to serve all of God's children. They have specific gifts and talents that provide them with a wealth of ways to serve and help build the peaceable kingdom. Ask the youth if they feel called in any particular way to serve God or what particular gift they possess that may help or support others. If they struggle in answering, make some brief observations affirming how you have seen them serving.

### A Priesthood of Believers

The youth have explored the responsibilities and current understandings of the priesthood offices. Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a suggests that "The priesthood shall be composed of people of humility and integrity who are willing to extend themselves in service for others and for the well-being of the faith community." The priesthood are to assist by serving the faith community. Equally important is the concept of "all are called." In 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) it says "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." This concept is referred to as the priesthood of believers and closely mirrors the Community of Christ belief that "all are called." So while priesthood members are called to specific tasks and ministry, the youth are also called to serve.

With the remaining time, discuss ways that the youth and their youth group can serve in the community. After this discussion develop a calendar of possible dates and times that the youth may extend themselves in service to others and for the well-being of the faith community.

### We're Not There Yet; The Journey Continues

The importance of priesthood ministry is expressed in Section 163:6a. Today's lesson explores some of the ministries of the offices of priesthood as well as reviews their key responsibilities. Suggest the class pray for the ministry of the priesthood and also for the development of their own gifts and talents.



### Legend

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