

Giving All

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b

Trip Planning

When traveling, it's necessary to arrange for times to eat, and this may involve preplanning regarding the availability of a restaurant. Sometimes when we stop, we find ourselves unable to make up our minds about what we want. The waiter or waitress may come to the table several times before we are ready to order. When we *are* ready, it may seem like the waitperson is nowhere to be found, resulting in an awkward moment. The reality is likely that the waitperson is serving someone else, and we feel the frustration of our own indecision. One question may be: Is the waitperson giving all? But just as important: Why weren't we prepared to order? During this portion of our class journey we will focus on

1. how God wants us to respond, and
2. obstacles that may cause us to wait or not respond and provide ministry.

Packing List

Table
Flip chart or chalkboard
Markers, chalk
Mark 12:28–31 NRSV
Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b

Navigational Aids

“Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” —Mark 12:28–31

“Truly authoritative priesthood ministry emerges from a growing capacity to bring blessing to others. Unfortunately, there are some who have chosen to view priesthood as a right of privilege or as a platform for promoting personal perspectives. Others hold priesthood as a casual aspect of their lives without regard to appropriate levels of preparation and response.” — Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read Mark 12:28–31. This scripture suggests or implies that love is so important that we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. How we love God may be expressed in how we respond to our neighbor and how we serve them. We are to love God with *all*, thus when we serve we should serve with *all*. But let's be honest, there are obstacles and excuses we may make for not loving or serving. In the following activity you will explore these issues and come up with ideas that can help you to minister in a growing capacity.

The Waiting Game

For this activity assign the roles of waitperson and customer to youth in the class. The first activity involves a waitperson visiting a table that has customers seated. The waitperson will ask one question and the responses may be recorded on a flip chart or chalkboard. The scenario is that the table of customers will be asked what they can do for another table that ministers to the needs of the world and its challenges.

What can you do to love God and others with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength?

Still Waiting

Read the last sentence of Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b. This scripture suggests that some of the priesthood take their ministry in a casual way and are not focused on being prepared and responding. Using the previous responses from The Waiting Game, discuss how all individuals can at times lack preparation. There may be issues or concerns that may get in the way of serving. Many times we wait or expect others to provide ministry when in fact we may be the most capable in certain settings to do the job. List some of the ways we might procrastinate instead of serving. Record on the flip chart or chalkboard.

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Repacking the Scripture

Doctrine and Covenants 163:6b focuses on the ministry and the capacity of service lived out by the priesthood. This section may also be applied to all disciples. The question becomes: Do we all provide ministry based on the aspect of growing capacity? Using the responses from The Waiting Game section and the Still Waiting activity, come up with alternatives to waiting to serve or expecting others to serve. Another area that may be explored is: What are the things that distract us from an opportunity to minister? List these on the flip chart and challenge each youth to come up with one thing they could do to serve with growing capacity. Explore again the following question, but have each student apply it to their own life.

What can you do this week to love God and others with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength?

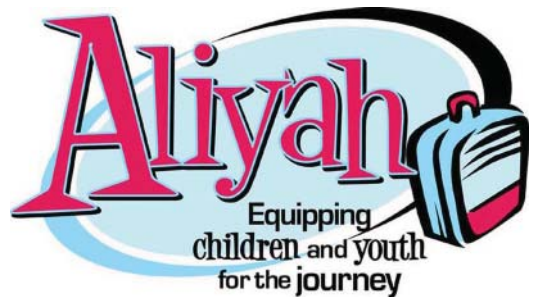
A Priesthood of Believers

The focus of this class has allowed the youth to explore their own callings and ministry. This is in line with the expectation shared in the last class lesson that lifted up the scripture 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." It is hoped that this lesson will challenge the youth to explore and enhance their giftedness in ways where they can sense their worth and calling in service to build a peaceable kingdom.

Using the calendar developed from the last class, discuss the importance of each activity that is planned. Assess whether some activities might be done sooner because of their significance.

We're Not There Yet; The Journey Continues

The importance of offering ministry is expressed in Section 163:6b. Today's lesson explores the call of the priesthood to live out their ministry in serious not casual ways. The idea of loving and serving in intentional ways was also explored. Suggest the class pray for the ministry of the priesthood that they will be serious in providing ministry wherever they go and whatever they do.



Legend

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