



Giving All

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d

Trip Planning

When traveling, part of the plan may be to go camping. The task of camping by necessity involves finding a camp site, setting up, and when leaving, tearing down the equipment. It also involves restoring the campsite to a condition where it may be used by others. A rule of camping is that you leave the site in better condition than when you came. This could mean taking the extra effort to pick up materials that were left by the previous campers. This simple example may be used as a metaphor for priesthood ministry as well as all of our discipleship. An additional scripture used for this lesson is Ephesians 5:1–2. This scripture suggests that discipleship involves being imitators of Christ's ministry and love. During this portion of our class journey we will focus on

1. how priesthood commitment and our commitment can increase
2. ways that we may imitate Christ.

Packing List

Bible
Ephesians 5:1–2 NRSV
Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d

Navigational Aids

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and a sacrifice. —Ephesians 5:1–2

“The expectation for priesthood to continually magnify their callings through spiritual growth, study, exemplary generosity, ethical choices, and fully accountable ministry is always present. How can the Spirit fill vessels that are unwilling to expand their capacity to receive and give according to a full measure of God's grace and truth? Counsel given previously regarding the need to develop ways whereby priesthood can magnify their ministry or determine their commitment to active service remains applicable and should be more intentionally implemented. The First Presidency will provide guidelines for processes to be applied in culturally respectful ways in the various fields of the church. Fundamentally, however, the ultimate responsibility for priesthood faithfulness rests on the individual in response to the needs and expectations of the faith community.” — Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read Ephesians 5:1–2. This scripture presents challenges to the reader to be imitators of God and to love and give ourselves as Christ did. In reading Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d the priesthood are challenged to magnify their callings through several different areas. In reviewing both scriptures the suggestion appears to be consistent that we all are to in a sense leave the world in a better way. Jesus ministry involved responding in love and kindness and particularly being sensitive to the marginalized. In the following activity being imitators of Christ will be examined in a way that we may all understand how to magnify our calling.

Look at the View/Strike that Pose

When camping part of the routine may include taking pictures of the sights and scenery around the site. When taking the pictures it is not uncommon for individuals to pose in front of certain objects or landmarks. For this activity ask the youth to think of ways that they could imitate Christ and instead of verbalizing have them either strike a pose or do a little skit. As part of the activity ask the other youth to guess what the person is doing. Afterwards ask the following.

Was it easy to think of examples of Christ's ministry?
What was it like to imitate Christ?
Is it difficult in daily life to imitate Christ? Why? Why not?

You're Not Alone

Okay so you've just explored what it means to you to be an imitator of Christ. Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d focuses specifically on the priesthood and how they should be imitators of Christ by “continually magnifying their callings through spiritual growth, study, exemplary generosity, ethical choices, and fully accountable ministry.” Ask the youth what this quotation means to them?

In your own exploration of imitating Christ you probably discovered there are obstacles that sometimes prevent this. Can you think of obstacles that priesthood may have to fulfilling the requirements in D&C 163:6c–d? Is there anything you can do to help?

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Repacking the Scripture

Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d focuses on the ministry of the priesthood and providing committed ministry by focusing on preparation, study, and increased generosity of time talent and treasure. This section may also be extended as an expectation that all will attempt to be imitators of Christ. The intent is to not diminish the focus of priesthood ministry but instead focus on the call of all to live out a life of discipleship modeled after the life of Jesus. In further exploring the scripture it may be a good idea to explore again the analogy of camping and prepare to leave the site better than when we came. Take a simple inventory using the challenges placed before the priesthood. Use the following as a way to chart progress? Use the following to gauge how you are imitating Christ by indicating what you are doing in each area and how you will improve:

- Spiritual Growth
- Study
- Exemplary Generosity
- Ethical Choices
- Accountable Ministry

Arrival to Camp	Departure From Camp

Imitate Christ

The focus of this class has allowed the youth how they may be imitators of Christ but also how the priesthood are challenged to provide committed, intentional ministry. Also explored were challenges that the youth and priesthood may have in providing ministry.

Using the chart from the previous activity brainstorm those activities that the youth suggested they can improve and share these with the pastorate as potential ways the priesthood and youth may journey as imitators of Christ.

We're Not There Yet; The Journey Continues

The importance of the priesthood offering committed ministry was the focus of the Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c–d. As an extension of the importance of this ministry the youth also explored their own ministry and areas they might improve. In closing offer prayers centered on the priesthood and youth seeking ways to improve their spiritual growth, studies, generosity, and choices that in doing so they may offer accountable ministry.



Legend

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