

Journey Together

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b

Trip Planning

Sometimes in traveling it is necessary to get directions. These directions may come via a map or an individual. Sometimes the map may be of the shortest route in miles but the journey takes longer due to road conditions. Other maps may likewise lead us on a longer route but get us there quicker, again because of the travel conditions. Sometimes people will disagree over which route to take because they depend upon the same info but interpret it differently. This too may happen when we use scripture. We may look at the same material but disagree over the message it provides. In a sense we lose sight of the destination and instead focus on the side trips that may in the long run be insignificant. During this portion of our class journey we will focus on

- responsible use of scripture, and
- how we can share scripture with others.

Packing List

Bible
Flip chart, markers
Maps
Index cards, pencils
2 Timothy 3:16 NRSV
Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b

Navigational Aids

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for corrections, for correction in righteousness.

—2 Timothy 3:16

“Scripture is an indispensable witness to the Eternal Source of light and truth, which cannot be fully contained in any finite vessel or language. Scripture has been written and shaped by human authors through experiences of revelation and ongoing inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the midst of time and culture. Scripture is not to be worshiped or idolized. Only God, the Eternal One of whom scripture testifies, is worthy of worship. God’s nature, as revealed in Jesus Christ and affirmed by the Holy Spirit, provides the ultimate standard by which any portion of scripture should be interpreted and applied.”

— Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read 2 Timothy 3:16. The scripture passage suggests that the scripture are provided through divine inspiration and as a tool to assist in discipleship. This story also expressed in the ministry of Jesus has been lived out and recorded. The recording of the story is often times what we struggle with because just as the story was written by humans so, too, is it interpreted by humans. This is the struggle as expressed in the counsel provided in D&C 163:7a–b. In the following activity discovery will be made of just how limiting language may be and how it hampers us and sometimes leads us in different directions.

Is it a Creek or a Run?

Using maps look at places or narratives that may suggest one thing but is called something else. An example may be in that some small towns may be referred to as Mount _____ but when viewing there are no mountains around. Continue to explore the maps and search for items that may have dual meanings or may be unclear. Answer the following.

What kinds of map mysteries did you discover?

Were there any humorous items discovered?

Scripture often times has passages that may seem confusing or point us in multiple directions? Can you think of any? What are they?

Opening the Scripture Map

The activity just experienced focused on maps and some of the difficulties they contain. Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b focuses on the responsible use of scripture and points us to God as the source of worship rather than scripture. Using some of the examples from the scriptures of the last activity discuss some of the issues that often times causes disagreement when scripture is interpreted a certain way. Some examples are as follows: Should women be silent in church? Should we not cut our hair? Should we not eat pork? Should we be eunuchs for God? Should we not marry? Be cautious that this is an open dialogue rather than an opportunity to debate theological understanding. If this does occur it is a wonderful teachable moment to further discuss D&C 163:7a–b.

Giving All

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Repacking the Scripture

The Mystery of Maps

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b focuses on the responsible use of scripture and how God—not scripture—is to be worshiped. The following activity is an exploration of how the teens would continue to write their understanding of God. Suggest that the ultimate use of scripture may be the understanding that God can't be reduced to a finite number of words on a page. God is mystery and many of the questions and concerns we have are based on the reality that we just don't have the answers. Using a flip chart instruct the youth to create a map that contains some issues and concerns they have that may be a mystery they want the answer to. Some example may be:

Global Warming
Is cloning okay?

After the map has been created have a brief discussion, again being cautious that there is not debate but constructive dialogue.

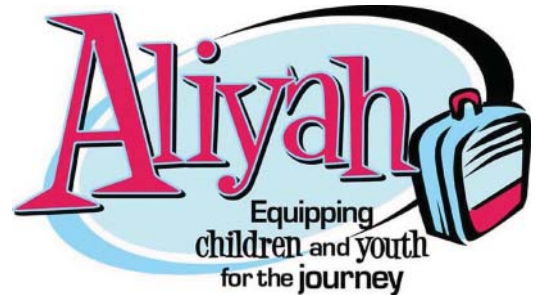
Sharing My Map

The focus of this class has explored the necessity to be responsible in scripture study and how we share scripture with others. It has also suggested that we are to worship God and not the scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:16 states “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for corrections, for correction in righteousness.” This passage suggests the importance of scripture as an instrument used in discipleship but more importantly it suggests that the scriptures have been made possible by divine workings as well as divine mystery. It is the divine that is to be worshipped and not the scriptures.

The task of discipleship includes sharing the word but it is the word referred to as the life and the ministry of God. On the flip chart list ways that are tangible expressions of how the teens may live out the word during the next week.

We're Not There Yet; The Journey Continues

The importance of responsible use of scripture was the focus of the Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–b. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 again and instruct the kids that their life is an expression of living out the scriptures. As a final activity have the youth write on index cards items from the Sharing My Map activity. Suggest that the challenge for the week is to do as many of the sharing activities as possible. Close with prayer.



Legend

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