



# The Path

## A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:7d

### Trip Planning

Would you go a journey without some type of planning? Many times we head out on a journey only to find we have forgotten to pack certain items, or went the wrong way. In life we have certain tools available that make our faith journey meaningful. These tools are the stories of scripture, guidance of others, knowledge, and awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit. On our journey it is possible that we may forget things but we can come back to the path by accessing the tools that assist us on our way. During this portion of our class journey we will focus on:

- exploring scripture stories that assist us
- defining discernment
- exploring wisdom's place on our faith journey

### Packing List

- suitcase, backpack, or piece of luggage
- poster board, paper, pens, markers
- dictionary

### Navigational Aids

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom that comes from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace a partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

—James 3:13–18 NRSV

“Scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment in the faith community must walk hand in hand to reveal the true will of God. Follow this pathway, which is the way of the Living Christ, and you will discover more than sufficient light for the journey ahead.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:7d

### Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read James 3:13–18. The scripture passage provides a brief overview of the importance of wisdom in our life. As a faith community this passage assists us in knowing wisdom is not only important, but critical in creating a peaceable kingdom. In Doctrine and Covenants 163:7d wisdom could be expressed through guidance, knowledge, and discernment. Taken together, these scriptures help us to remember what is important and what we need to do on our journey. But sometimes we forget and then we must revisit the stories, seek guidance and knowledge, and explore how discernment can help us. The following activities provide opportunities to explore the importance of certain items on your faith journey.

### Building Walls

Prior to class write the following words on separate pieces of poster board: “scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge and discernment.” Place them in the suitcase. After exploring the scriptures in the Navigational Aids and Unpacking the Scripture open the suitcase and have the youth spread the poster board on the floor. Suggest to them that today’s class focuses on wisdom and the use of different items to help us on our Christian path. Invite the youth to write on the poster board their own definitions of the words scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment. After they have done so if a dictionary is available look up the definition for the words and discuss the difference between their definitions and the ones in the dictionary.

### Leave Behind

Now that the class has defined the important things that they need on their faith journey go ahead and put the pieces of poster board back in the suitcase and ask the following questions:

What are the things that make us forget how important the items in the bag are?

What are the things you routinely forget about on your faith journey?

How can you remember to take those things with you?  
How can you help others?

# Building Peace

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### Repacking the Suitcase

#### Remembering

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7d focuses on the importance of using scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment for the faith journey. The following is a continuation of the “Leave Behind” activity. Open the suitcase and have the youth remove the poster board. Ask the youth to use the other (blank) side of the poster board and list those things they discussed during the “Leave Behind” activity. After they have completed listing provide pieces of paper and pencils. Ask them to write on their paper those items they think will be helpful for them to remember on their journey. After they are done ask them to make another copy and place it with the poster board back into the suitcase. Inform the youth that if time permits the suitcase will be opened next week to review how they are making progress on their faith journey. They will have the opportunity to review what they have written and if necessary make changes and discuss if they feel the need.

#### Wisdom and Journey

The focus of this class has explored the importance of using resources on the faith journey. These resources include scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment. In addition to Doctrine and Covenants 163:7d the scripture passage found in James 3:13–18 was lifted up as an important lesson on the place that wisdom holds. “But the wisdom that comes from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace a partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” Taken together these scriptures provide teaching in the importance of wisdom on our faith journey.

The wisdom that comes from above will assist all in learning and applying the Bible lessons. It will also assist in seeking guidance as we all continue on our journey. Additionally this guidance coupled with knowledge can open our eyes to the call to the peaceable kingdom. Lastly the practice of discernment can make the Holy Spirit available to us in ways we may have forgotten or perhaps open us up to opportunities we may never have had.

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

The importance of making sure we use all available resources for our personal faith journey can not be understated. Read Doctrine and Covenants 163:7d again. As a final activity have each youth pick up the suitcase and pray for their faith journey. Have them pass the suitcase and allow those who would like to pray to do so. If none are willing place the suitcase in the middle of the classroom and pray for the journey of all and that they would possess the wisdom to journey with Christ.



#### Legend

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