



Rivers of Living Water

A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b

Trip Planning

Some journeys involve the need to cross expanses of water, perhaps lakes, rivers, or oceans. There are several ways to cross the water. One way is to swim, requiring some expertise and strength. Another way is to cross a bridge, and yet another is to use a boat. All these methods allow the traveler to discover their surroundings. They may include learning about the temperature of the water, the wildlife that may be present, and, if journeying on a river, the discovery of how the river gets bigger as it empties into the ocean. The symbol of water is used in today's lesson, focusing on Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b. Using this section of the Doctrine and Covenants during our class journey, we will focus on

1. how our life experience and the Temple experience can help additional sacred ministries emerge and
2. how developing these ministries can help us to be living water to others.

Packing List

- the Bible
- a ladle
- three buckets
- cups
- a flip chart and markers

Navigational Aids

“There are additional sacred ministries that will spring forth from the Temple as rivers of living water to help people soothe and resolve the brokenness and pain in their lives. Let the Temple continue to come to life as a sacred center of worship, education, community building, and discipleship preparation for all ages.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”

—John 7:37–38 NRSV

Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b. The scripture passage shares that more ministries will spring forth from the Temple as streams of living water to help people.

The Gospel of John also includes a scripture that shares that accepting the ministry, or water, Christ provides helps us become streams of living water. The following explores living water and its connection to us and to the Temple.

It’s in the Water

The navigational aids for today tell about the ministries of living water that flow from the Temple and from us. Before the class starts, fill two buckets halfway with water, leaving a third one empty. As an exploration of the ministries of the Temple, ask the youth one at a time to take a ladle of water from one bucket and pour it into the empty one. As they each pour in their water, ask them what Temple ministry the water represents. When they have completed this task, ask them to again pour water into the bucket. Ask them as they pour *this* water to name what ministry they personally bring that is represented by the water. To close this activity, ask them if there were likenesses between the Temple ministries and their individual ministries. Were there differences?

New Water

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b again. This passage not only talks about living water but suggests that added sacred ministries will flow from the Temple to help people soothe the brokenness and pain in their lives. The previous activity explored ministries associated with the Temple and individual ministries. For this activity, pour the water again, but this time while asking the following:

When you hear the words “help people soothe the brokenness and pain in their lives” what people come to mind? (Pour water and answer.)

Do you have any brokenness and pain in your life? (Pour water and answer if you are able.)

What might these added ministries be? (Pour and answer.)
How can you share in providing this new ministry? (Pour and answer.)

After completing this activity, bless and pour the water into individual cups. Invite the class to drink the living water.

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Repacking the Scripture Sharing the Living Water

Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b focuses on the Temple as a continuing revelation of sacred ministries that emerges as we continue to encounter God. Additionally the expression of Temple ministries identified as living water connects us to the Gospel of John that suggests that if we receive the living water, we then are givers of living water. During class the youth named ministries (both of the Temple and individually) that were defined as living water. As a closing activity, ask the class which of these ministries they want to further develop and share with others. List them on a flip chart.

The Importance of Water

This class has explored additional sacred ministries that may emerge from the Temple as well as individual ministries class members may have. An important aspect of 163:8b is its reference to living water. This metaphor of water is used in other places in scripture such as John 7:37–38 and the story of the woman at the well. This reference to living water strengthens the passages as it heightens the reader's awareness of the importance of water as life-giving. Water is also important because it gives life when we water plants, provide for animals, and again as a source of travel when other methods are not available. So, too, if we are to be living water for others, we must share in ministry with others. It is in sharing the living water that we allow others to know about it and the ministry of Christ, and then they may share it with others.

We're Not There Yet; The Journey Continues

Invite the youth to visualize the ministry of the Temple and their ministry, as well, as a river. The river starts out as a trickle or perhaps a small brook. It gains strength, eventually becoming a river. This river flows and becomes mighty perhaps with rapids and vistas that are incredible. It may eventually empty into the ocean. This ministry is a river of living water. Ask the youth, as they think of this river, what comes to mind and how they will be living water to others this week. Close with prayer.



Legend

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