



# One in Christ Jesus

## A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c

### Trip Planning

When we travel on vacation, it is tempting to pack as many activities as possible into the time we have. This may lead to the assumption that we can control the journey, and it will only involve us. However, we know our *life's* journey will include many people, not just friends and family. In this journey, we sometimes experience discomfort being around others because of the way they look or act, their economic class, or even their religious beliefs. They may be very different than we are and those we normally associate with.

Today's lesson focuses on the tangible expression of the Temple and the entire church becoming a sanctuary of Christ's peace. Becoming this sanctuary challenges us to rid ourselves of patterns that create walls and instead create a community like that expressed in Galatians 3: being "one in Christ Jesus." Using Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c, as well as the supplemental Galatians scripture, we will focus on

1. issues that divide us as a people and interfere with our ability to live in community and
2. ways we might think or feel toward others that could help us be one in Christ Jesus.

### Packing List

- the Bible
- pictures of people clipped from magazines or newspapers
- glue
- poster board
- markers
- flip chart

### Navigational Aids

"As these ministries come to fuller expression, receptive congregations in the areas around the Temple and throughout the world will be revived and equipped for more effective ministry. Vital to this awakening is the understanding that the Temple calls the entire church to become a sanctuary of Christ's peace, where people from all nations, ethnicities, and life circumstances can be gathered into a spiritual home without dividing walls, as a fulfillment of the vision for which Jesus Christ sacrificed his life."

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

—Galatians 3:28 NRSV

### Unpacking the Scripture

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c. The scripture passage shares that the Temple is a sanctuary of Christ's peace. It is to be an example to congregations, calling them to be sanctuaries of peace. The passage also suggests that all should be included and empowered to feel the deepness of Christ's love. Galatians 3:28 shares that through Christ Jesus we are all one. The following activity will help in further taking apart the walls that separate us. In addition, there is an opportunity to build a broad image of who should be included in the sanctuary of Christ's peace.

### Behind the Wall

The navigational aids for today tell us that to create a sanctuary of Christ's peace it will be necessary to create a spiritual place without dividing walls. On the journey of life we may meet people who are difficult to reach out to. In fact we may build walls that divide us. For this activity ask the youth to call out words (labels) describing those people who are difficult for them to deal with. List these labels on a flip chart. After they have done this, ask them to call out words (labels) describing people who are easy for them to deal with. List these on the flip chart as well. When the class has finished with this activity, start a new page. At the top of this page write the word "Opposites." Draw a line down the middle of the paper, and, using the previous two lists, ask the class to name the labels that could be opposites. Post these on the paper.

### Tearing Down and Building Up

Ask the youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c again. This passage tells us that to build a sanctuary of Christ's peace we will be required to think of how all are included and to create a spiritual community for all. The Galatians 3 scripture suggests there are no distinctions among people; all are one in Christ Jesus. On the poster board, write either the words ONE IN CHRIST JESUS or SANCTUARY OF CHRIST'S PEACE. Using the pictures clipped from newspapers or magazines, invite the youth to build together a collage that creates an image of how all are one in Christ Jesus.

# One in Christ Jesus

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### Repacking the Scripture

#### Where to Start

Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c focuses on the Temple as an expression of a sanctuary of Christ's peace. This expression also helps us to understand how important it is for congregations to also be this same sanctuary. For the sanctuary to become a reality, we are called to build community. In building community it is also important to name those items or issues that are unjust or not peaceful. This also calls us to take unpopular stands against things that exclude or isolate others from community. As a closing, ask the class to think of issues that create walls preventing people from feeling they are a part of the sanctuary of Christ's peace. List these items on the flip chart.

#### What Now?

Our class has discussed possible issues that might prevent us from creating sacred community. These difficulties also make it difficult for us to create sanctuaries of Christ's peace. Exploration of Galatians 3:28 tells us that in Christ Jesus we are one. Being one with Christ encourages us to challenge the injustice that is present in our community. Using the previous list, ask the class what steps they might take that would help them to address these injustices. List these on the flip chart. Ask the class if they are willing to accept these as challenges. If so, create a plan to follow these steps. It will also be important to periodically check in and assess their progress.

### We're Not There Yet;

#### The Journey Continues

Invite the youth to read Galatians 3:28. This scripture tells about the oneness of being in Christ Jesus. The activities for today may be difficult due to the labeling or owning of behaviors that some may find uncomfortable. Suggest that while moving forward and building sanctuary, we may often experience uneasiness. But it is through the discovery and journey that we can change and create the peaceable kingdom. In closing, ask the youth to name one thing that may create walls that they may need help with. Ask them to offer thanks for one thing that might help them build community.



### Legend

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