



# Discovery

## A Youth Journey through Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

### Trip Planning

When planning for a journey, many people create a list to identify what they need to take, a map to where they are going, and instructions for what they will do when they get there. For this lesson the focus will be on exploring Doctrine and Covenants 163:1.

The elements of this trip include:

- 1) identifying the importance of a name,
- 2) claiming Christ as the one we follow,
- 3) discovering the meaning of community, and
- 4) discovering the blessings of community.

### Packing List

Matthew 1:23 NRSV

Isaiah 9:6 NRSV

Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

Blank name tags

Markers

Flip chart

Thank-you notes

### Navigational Aids

“Community of Christ,’ your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.”

— Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

—Isaiah 9:6 NRSV

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’”

—Matthew 1:23 NRSV

### WHAT IS ALIYAH?

ALIYAH is a new resource for youth based on scripture, including Doctrine and Covenants 163. Doctrine and Covenants 163 is an affirmation of paths taken and an encouragement for ways to move onward. Doctrine and Covenants 163 challenges us as a church to “generously share the invitations, ministries, and sacraments through which people encounter the Living Christ...” and so these lessons for youth are provided to bring these ministries. Aliyah is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God. One lesson each month will be posted on this Web site to be downloaded and used for church school or other times to connect youth to the vision of the church. Enjoy the journey together!

### We’re on Our Way

#### Unpacking the Scripture

Ask a youth to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:1. Use the following activity to further explore the importance of “naming.”

#### Claim a Name

As the youth gather, make sure they have a name tag, and instruct them to put the name they prefer to be called on the tag. Encourage the students to share their name, explaining to the class if it has any particular significance (i.e., parental friend, family name, etc.). After this activity, have the youth read the scriptures listed on the packing list. Ask the following:

In Matthew 1:23 what name was Joseph told his son would be called?

In Isaiah 9:6 what were some of the names that are alternatives for Jesus?

In Doctrine and Covenants 163:1 the church is referred to as Community of Christ. Ask the students what this name means to them. List their answers on a flip chart.

### Whose I Am...

When we take a trip we often take others with us. We do so to be more comfortable and enjoy companionship with others. Doctrine and Covenants 163:1 informs us that we are identified as Community of Christ. It is who we are. On our faith journey Christ is our ever present companion assisting us when the path is difficult or the path is easy. Suggest to the youth that claiming Christ is a part of our journey, but that before claiming him, Christ claimed us. Christ claims us each as a special, one-of-a-kind individual.

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This allows us to bring our gifts and talents for building community. (But slow down, it's a long and winding road.) Ask the youth to respond to the following:

1) I am Christ's and Christ has given me the gift of \_\_\_\_\_. Allow all the students to respond and fill in the blank. List their responses on a flip chart. Then ask the following:

2) \_\_\_\_\_ is Christ's child and Christ has given him/her the gift of \_\_\_\_\_. (These are observations of the students about their peers. Also list these on a flip chart.)

### Repacking the Scripture:

Read Jesus birth story found in Luke 2. This story suggests that angels, shepherds, and—later—wise men shared in the events of Jesus' birth. Shepherds were not accepted as respected members of the community because of the nature of their work and their status in the community. But angels announced Jesus' birth to them and they were welcomed and directed to the manger. Ask the youth to share who they could think of that perhaps would be looked down upon by the community if they were to visit the manger. This can be informal and the descriptive names need not be listed. Section 163:1 refers to the Community of Christ indicating a community composed of people that follow Christ and reach out to all people regardless of their life circumstance.

### Destination Community

Okay, so it's really not so much a destination but a stopover on our journey. Christ calls us to live in community: to reach out to the least, the last, the lost, and the labeled. A community is defined as a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society. For our purposes the community is defined as the worldwide global community of God's children. Living in community means there are problems, issues, and opportunities that need to be addressed so the community can function healthfully.

Ask the students to express thanks for the worldwide community and members of the local community by writing notes on the cards provided. Additionally have the students list problems that can be identified that the community needs to address.

### We're Not There Yet

Today's lesson focused on addressing Doctrine and Covenants 163:1, our name, and Christ's call to community. Community is a place where we are both blessed and pressed by the events that surround us. The call to be Community of Christ is an invitation to take Christ as our companion and journey together to build a community based on sharing Christ's peace. Request brief commitment statements from the students expressing how they will share Christ's peace in community. Close with a prayer.



### Legend

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