Exercising Faith to Invite Others to Hear the Gospel

Why this topic?

Joseph Smith taught that "after all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 330). Exercising faith in Jesus Christ will help us recognize opportunities to share the gospel and have the courage to open our mouths (see <u>D&C 33:8–10</u>) and invite others to "come and see" (John 1:39).

Prepare for an inspiring meeting

How have you exercised faith in Christ to share the gospel with others? How have these experiences strengthened your faith in Christ? How has your faith helped you overcome any fears about sharing the gospel?

How can you encourage those in your quorum or Relief Society to talk about experiences they have had sharing the gospel with others (including less-active members)? How could their testimonies strengthen others in the quorum or class?

Teaching in the Savior's Way

The Savior was an example and mentor to those He taught. How can your example inspire others to share the gospel with their friends and family members?

As you prayerfully study the resources below, what are you impressed to do to help those you teach rely on faith in Jesus Christ to share the gospel with others?

Exodus 3:9–12; Jeremiah 1:4–9; 2 Nephi 2:5–9; 31; 3 Nephi 11:31–41; Moses 6:27–34

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ," Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service (2004), 5–6

Elder M. Russell Ballard, "Put Your Trust in the Lord," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2013, 118–20

Elder Neil L. Andersen, "<u>It's a Miracle</u>," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 77–80

Sharing the Gospel Online, LDS.org

Videos: "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go" (5:45), "Sharing the Gospel: Immokalee" (2:55), "The Lord of the Harvest: The Adams Family" (4:41)

Begin the meeting

As you begin the meeting, think about how to help those you teach recognize the spiritual growth happening in their own lives and in their families. You could ask them to share what they have thought about or done as a result of last week's meeting, or you could prepare them for today's discussion by inviting someone who was recently baptized to share his or her conversion experience.

Ideas for learning together

Here are a few suggestions to help those you teach exercise faith in Christ as they share the gospel. As prompted by the Spirit, use one or more of these ideas, or ideas of your own to help meet the needs of those you teach.

- The class or quorum could review <u>2 Nephi 31:17–21</u>, which describes the doctrine of Christ, and share their thoughts about how these verses relate to missionary work. Consider inviting the full-time missionaries or ward mission leader to talk to the quorum or class about how the doctrine of Christ guides their work as missionaries and how it can inspire members to share the gospel.
- You could divide the quorum or class into three groups and assign each group one of the following scripture passages: Exodus 3:9-12; Jeremiah 1:4-9; Moses 6:27-34. Invite the groups to search their passages for (1) what the prophet was asked to do, (2) how he felt about it, and (3) the Lord's response. They could then share what they find and discuss questions like the following: What sometimes makes it difficult to share the gospel with others? How do these scriptural accounts strengthen our faith that the Lord will help us in our efforts to share the gospel?

Weeks 1 and 4: Locally Selected Topics

- As a group, you could read selected passages from one of the general conference talks suggested above.
 Quorum or class members could share statements from the talk that build their faith and discuss how
 these statements inspire them to share the gospel. Consider showing one of the video segments. Invite
 the quorum or class to discuss what they learn about ways to naturally engage people in gospel
 conversations.
- As a group, you could read selected passages from the website <u>Sharing the Gospel Online</u>. Quorum or class members could discuss ways they can use social media to share gospel messages and start gospel conversations. Consider inviting them to share positive experiences they have had sharing the gospel through social media.
- Quorum or class members could role-play natural ways to share the gospel in various settings. Invite them to share faith-promoting experiences they have had sharing the gospel. How can we share gospel principles to help our friends and neighbors increase their faith in Jesus Christ? In what ways could our efforts be considered successful even when the person we talk to is not interested in joining the Church?

Take action

Help the members think about how to apply—individually, in their families, and in your quorum, group, or Relief Society—what they have learned. How could they exercise faith to share the gospel with someone this week? For example, you might ask:

- Which of your family members or friends do not have the gospel in their lives? How can you reach out to them?
- What could you do to help others exercise faith in Jesus Christ, repent, make and keep baptismal covenants, and feel the Spirit?
- What will you do to receive direction and strength from your Heavenly Father in your efforts to share the gospel?
- How could you use social media to share the gospel?

You may want to ask class members to share other specific actions they feel inspired to take individually or in their families to exercise their faith as they share the gospel.

During the week, you may want to send out a reminder (through email, text message, or social media) to invite members to act on what they have learned and to share additional learning and teaching resources.