Joseph Smith—History 1:13–20
The First Vision

Context
As a young man in 1820, Joseph Smith asked and prayed to know which church to join.

Doctrine or Principle
God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph Smith in response to his prayer.

Application
Why is it important for you to know that Joseph Smith saw the Father and Son? What have you done to receive a testimony of this event?

D&C 3:18

The Aaronic Priesthood was restored.

Context
As Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery prayed to know about authority to baptize, John the Baptist appeared and confirmed the Aaronic Priesthood upon them.

Doctrine or Principle
The Aaronic Priesthood holds the keys of the ministration of angels, and of the gifts of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins.

Application
How can your life be blessed by the Aaronic Priesthood?

D&C 4:33

Practice virtue and holiness continually.

Context
During a time of persecution and poverty, the Lord commanded Church leaders to gather to Independence, Missouri, to counsel among themselves and to establish the community of Zion.

Doctrine or Principle
We must strive to be virtuous and holy at all times.

Application
What will you do today to maintain virtuous thoughts and actions continually?

D&C 5:8

Be anxious to engage in a good cause.

Context
After describing the need for all people to repent, the Lord called Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer to teach repentance to others.

Doctrine or Principle
An evidence of such a soul’s worth to God is that Jesus Christ look upon Himself the pains of all mankind.

Application
How do you listen to the voice of the apostles and prophets as though they are speaking for Jesus Christ?

D&C 5:90–43

To repent we must confess and forsake our sins.

Context
After teaching about the Day of Judgment and testifying of His atoning sacrifice, the Lord commanded Martin Harris to repent of his sins.

Doctrine or Principle
Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of all mankind so that we would not have to suffer for our own sins if we would repent.

Application
How can learning about the Savior’s suffering help you desire to repent? What sins do you need to repent of?

D&C 7:62–24

Jesus Christ lives.

Context
While receiving a vision of the three degrees of glory, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon saw Jesus Christ.

Doctrine or Principle
Jesus Christ lives and is the Only Begotten Son of God the Father.

Application
How do you know that Jesus Christ lives? Record your testimony of the Savior.

D&C 7:81

Jesus Christ was crucified and bore our sins.

Context
While receiving a vision of the three degrees of glory, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon learned that all of God’s children will eventually inherit a kingdom of glory—except the sins of probation.

Doctrine or Principle
The gospel is the glad tidings that Jesus Christ came to bear the sins of the world so that we could be cleansed from all unrighteousness.

Application
In what ways is the gospel of Jesus Christ glad tidings in your life? How would you help someone understand why the gospel is referred to as glad tidings?

D&C 8:10–11

The worth of souls is great.

Context
The Lord revealed section 13 as a prophecy of the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood, the importance of repentance, and the worth of all souls.

Doctrine or Principle
The Aaronic Priesthood holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gifts of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins.

Application
How can God’s children will eventually inherit a kingdom of glory help you understand why the gospel is referred to as glad tidings?

D&C 9:8–9

Jesus Christ suffered for all of us.

Context
After teaching about the Day of Judgment and testifying of His atoning sacrifice, the Lord commanded Martin Harris to repent of his sins.

Doctrine or Principle
Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of all mankind so that we would not have to suffer for our own sins if we would repent.

Application
Do you currently have a testimony of this event?

D&C 10:5

Pray always.

Context
After Martin Harris lost 130 pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript, the Lord taught Joseph Smith many ways to overcome the desires of Satan.

Doctrine or Principle
If we pray always, God will help us conquer Satan and his servants.

Application
How can you improve your prayers to help you better overcome temptation?

D&C 18:10–11

To repent, the Lord called Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer to teach repentance to others.

Context
After describing the need for all people to repent, the Lord called Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer to teach repentance to others.

Doctrine or Principle
Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of all mankind so that we would not have to suffer for our own sins if we would repent.

Application
How can learning about the Savior’s suffering help you desire to repent? What sins do you need to repent of?

D&C 19:23

Learn of the Savior, and listen to His words.

Context
Martin Harris was commanded to repent, sell a portion of his land so that the Book of Mormon could be published, and seek the Lord.

Doctrine or Principle
If we do not follow the commandment to forgive all men, then God will not forgive us of our sins.

Application
Is there someone you need to forgive? Pray for the ability to forgive that person.

D&C 25:13

Cleave to your covenants.

Context
During a time of persecution and poverty, the Lord commanded Church leaders to gather to Independence, Missouri, to counsel among themselves and to establish the community of Zion.

Doctrine or Principle
We can find joy and comfort in keeping the covenants we have made with God.

Application
What divine covenants have you made? How can you “cleave” to these covenants?

D&C 33:1

Jesus Christ’s words shall all be fulfilled.

Context
The Lord revealed section 1 as a prophecy of the other revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants and warned all people of His coming judgments.

Doctrine or Principle
The prophecies and promises spoken by the voice of Jesus Christ or His servants will all be fulfilled.

Application
Do you listen to the voice of the apostles and prophets as though they are speaking for Jesus Christ?

D&C 46:33

To repent we must confess and forsake our sins.

Context
After teaching about the Day of Judgment and testifying of His atoning sacrifice, the Lord commanded Martin Harris to repent of his sins.

Doctrine or Principle
Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of all mankind so that we would not have to suffer for our own sins if we would repent.

Application
Do you currently have a testimony of this event?

D&C 52:27

Be anxiously engaged in a good cause.

Context
The Lord instructed those who had gathered to Independence, Missouri, for purposes of priesthood and teaching to do good rather than waiting to be commanded in all things.

Doctrine or Principle
We should be anxiously engaged in choosing to do good things and in bringing to pass righteousness.

Application
What are some ways you can be anxiously engaged in doing good at home, at school, and in your work or branch?

D&C 58:20

The Lord is bound to bless the obedient.

Context
At a general conference of the Church, the Lord chastised His servants for their sins and their failure to obey revelations He had previously given.

Doctrine or Principle
If we will obey the Lord, He will always keep His promises to bless us.

Application
In what ways has the Lord blessed you for obeying His commandments? How do these spiritual blessings help you have faith in the Lord’s promises?

D&C 65:9

Receive all things with thankfulness.

Context
The Lord commanded Church leaders to establish storeshouses and to enter a covenant to care for the poor among them.

Doctrine or Principle
If we receive all things from God with thankfulness, He will give us additional blessings.

Application
What blessings are you grateful for? What are some ways you will show your thankfulness to God today?

D&C 70:2

Pray always.

Context
After Martin Harris lost 130 pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript, the Lord taught Joseph Smith many ways to overcome the desires of Satan.

Doctrine or Principle
If we pray always, God will help us conquer Satan and his servants.

Application
How can you improve your prayers to help you better overcome temptation?

D&C 71:6

Receive all things with thankfulness.

Context
The Lord commanded Church leaders to establish storeshouses and to enter a covenant to care for the poor among them.

Doctrine or Principle
If we receive all things from God with thankfulness, He will give us additional blessings.

Application
What blessings are you grateful for? What are some ways you will show your thankfulness to God today?
23 "Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the remembrance of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.

16 For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent; 17 but if they would not repent they must suffer even as I. 18 Which suffering caused me, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to braid at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and bear this uncovenanted苦楚. 19 Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: for all things are thine; and therefore, glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, even the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Amen.

15 And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and they will not listen to your words, and their hearts are hardened against you, what if your joy shall be great in that day, and your rejoicing shall be great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father? 16 And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!

10 Remember the ‘worth of souls’ is great in the sight of God; 11 For, behold, the Lord your God remembereth the souls of men; he remembereth them in his flesh; wherefore he saith he will suffer the pains of all men, that all men might repent and ‘come unto him.’

27 Verily I say, men should be judiciously inclined in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

33 And ye must practice virtue and holiness before me continually. Even so. Amen."
Jesus Christ’s words shall all be fulfilled.

The Lord revealed section 1 as a prophecy to the other revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants and warned all people of His coming judgments. Doctrine or Principle

As we look to Jesus Christ, we can overcome our trials and fear. Application

When faced with doubts and fears, how will you look to Jesus Christ to help you overcome them?

Great joy comes from bringing souls unto Jesus Christ.

The Lord taught Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer about the worth of souls and called them to teach repentance to others. Doctrine or Principle

An evidence of each soul’s great worth to God in that Jesus Christ took upon Himself the pains of all mankind. Application

How does knowing that Jesus Christ atoned for you help you understand your worth in the sight of God?

Be anxiously engaged in a good cause.

The Lord instructed those who had listened to the word of God to do good things and in bringing to pass righteous covenants. Doctrine or Principle

We should be anxiously engaged in choosing to do good things and in bringing to pass righteous covenants.

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

We should be anxious in doing good at home, at school, and in your ward or branch.

Be anxious to do your duty.

To repent we must confess and forsake our sins.

The Lord taught the Saints who had listened to the word of God that they had to do good rather than waiting to be commanded in all things.

We should be anxiously engaged in choosing to do good things and in bringing to pass righteous covenants.

The Lord taught the Saints in Kirtland, Ohio, to stop being critical of Joseph Smith and start to forgive one another.

If we do not follow the commandment of the Lord, He will not forgive us of our sins.

To repent we must confess and forsake our sins.

We should forgive all men. Do you feel there is anyone that you need to forgive that you need to confess to your bishop or branch president? What can you do to forsake your sins?

Cease to be idle and unclean.

The Lord taught the Saints in the Kirtland Temple that they should become clean and be forgiven of their sins.

We should be anxious in doing good at home, at school, and in your ward or branch.

Cease to be idle and unclean.

The Lord gave His servants specific commandments to prepare them for their missions and to eventually meet the Savior. Doctrine or Principle

If we cannot cease to sleep longer than needed, enter into home, and arise early, we are promised that our bodies and minds can be invigorated.

Be anxious to do your duty.

The Lord taught the Saints how to help others come unto Jesus Christ. Doctrine or Principle

As we help others come unto Jesus Christ, we experience great joy.

What can you do to bring someone closer to Jesus Christ?

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As we help others come unto Jesus Christ, we experience great joy.

What can you do to bring someone closer to Jesus Christ?
“Fray always, that you may come off conquerors; yea, that you may prosper and live, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of him that do uphold his work.

2. Yes, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

3. Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.

36 “Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.

37 “Spear these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens shall pass away, and the earth shall be removed, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, which I have spoken by my servant Isaiah, and by him of old.

39 “For the Voice of the Lord goeth before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be before you, and the Lord shall be king over all the earth. In that day shall the Lord be one, and his name one.

40 And he that believeth and is baptized shall receive the Holy Ghost, and shall be sealed with the Holy Ghost which is promised, and shall have power to command devils, and shall receive gifts of the Holy Ghost; and he shall be able to work all things that are spiritually possible.

41 And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, which the voice out of the heavens have record unto the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness;

42 Behold, he who has repented of his sins, and is baptized, the Lord, remembereth them no more.

43 Yea, and ye may know that a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them.

44 And ye ought to say in your hearts, let God judge between me and mine, and reward thee according to thy deeds.

45 Verily I say, men should be traditionally entered in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

46 And ye must practice virtue and holiness before me continually. Even so. Amen.

47 I am the Lord, the God of all the earth, and there is none that can help me but me. And there is none that can withstand me but me. And there is none that can resist me but me. And there is none that can bear me but me. And there is none that can save me but me. And there is none that can help me but me.

48 And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, but of him which we give of him: That he is the Father.

49 For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—That by his name all men are called; and that the inhabitants thereof shall call him Father, sons and daughters unto God.
**D&C 89:18–21**

Blessings of the Word of Wisdom

**Context**

After instructing the Saints to avoid harmful substances and to partake of those that are healthy, the Lord promised blessings for obedience.

**Doctrine or Principle**

If we will obey the Word of Wisdom, we will receive blessings of health, treasures of knowledge, strength, and protection.

**Application**

How have you been blessed for obeying the Word of Wisdom? What are the effects of disobedience to this commandment? Is there something you could do to more fully obey the Word of Wisdom?

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**D&C 107:8**

The Melchizedek Priesthood administers in spiritual things.

**Context**

The Lord revealed that the Melchizedek Priesthood is called after a great high priest from ancient days. The Lord described the offices and duties of the priesthood.

**Doctrine or Principle**

The Melchizedek Priesthood is the greater priesthood and administers in spiritual things.

**Application**

How have you been blessed from the service of those who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood?

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**D&C 121:36, 41–42**

The principles of righteousness give power to the priesthood.

**Context**

In a letter from Liberty Jail, Joseph Smith recorded the Lord's words of comfort to the righteous and the consequences that would come to priesthood holders who had been unrighteous.

**Doctrine or Principle**

The power of the priesthood can only be controlled on the principles of righteousness.

**Application**

How have priesthood holders that you know demonstrated the characteristics in D&C 121? How can remembering these characteristics help you as you interact with others?
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22. The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.

36. That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be confused nor built upon only upon the principles of righteousness.

41. No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by gentleness and meekness, and by love untrammelled.

8. The Melchizedek Priesthood holds the right of presidency, and has power and authority over all the offices in the church in all ages of the world, to administer in spiritual things.

18. And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, “Shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones;”

21. And I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the celestial angels shall spake them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.
Blessings of the Word of Wisdom

After instructing the Saints to avoid harmful substances and to partake of those that are healthy, the Lord promised blessings for obedience.

Doctrine or Principle
If we will obey the Word of Wisdom, we will receive blessings of health, treasures of knowledge, strength, and protection.

Application
How have you been blessed for obeying the Word of Wisdom? What are the effects of disobedience to this commandment? Is there something you could do to more fully obey the Word of Wisdom?

The Melchizedek Priesthood administers in spiritual things.

The Lord revealed that the Melchizedek Priesthood is called after a great high priest from ancient days. The Lord described the offices and duties of the priesthood.

Doctrine or Principle
The Melchizedek Priesthood is the greater priesthood and administers in spiritual things.

Application
How have you been blessed from the service of those who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood?

To obtain exaltation in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, we must enter into the new and everlasting covenant of marriage.

While visiting Saints in Ramus, Illinois, Joseph Smith taught the importance of celestial marriage.

Doctrine or Principle
To obtain exaltation in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, we must enter into the new and everlasting covenant of marriage.

Application
How can you prepare to receive the blessings of marriage in the covenant?

The Father and Son have bodies of flesh and bone.

Responding to questions, Joseph Smith clarified and expounded several points of doctrine.

Doctrine or Principle
The Father and the Son have physical bodies of flesh and bone, and the Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit.

Application
Find additional scriptures that you could use to teach someone that the members of the Godhead are three separate beings.

Testimony of the Twelve Apostles to the Truth of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants

Joseph Smith—History

Doctrine and Covenants

1 2 3 4 5 6

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19 20 21 22 23 24

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67 68 69 70 71 72

73 74 75 76 77 78

79 80 81 82 83 84

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91 92 93 94 95 96

97 98 99 100 101 102

103 104 105 106 107 108

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115 116 117 118 119 120

121 122 123 124 125 126

127 128 129 130 131 132

Artificial Declaration 1

133 134 135 136 137 138

Artificial Declaration 2

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Artificial Declaration 2
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