

Joseph Smith—History 1:15-20

The First Vision

Context

As a young man in 1820, Joseph Smith studied 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 the Son? What have you done to receive a testimony of this event?



D&C 1:37-38

Jesus Christ's words shall all be fulfilled.

Context

The Lord revealed section 1 as a preface to 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 6:36

Look unto Christ in every thought.

Contex

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were given this revelation while translating the Book of Mormon.

Doctrine or Principle

As we look to Jesus Christ, we can overcome doubt and fear.

Application

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



D&C 8:2-3

Revelation comes to your mind and heart.

Context

The Lord taught Oliver Cowdery how he could receive and recognize revelation by asking in faith.

Doctrine or Principle

The Holy Ghost reveals truth to our minds and hearts.

Application

When has the Lord communicated to you through the Holy Ghost? What are some things you can do to invite such communication?



D&C 10:5

Pray always.

Context

After Martin Harris lost 116 pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript, the Lord taught Joseph Smith one way to overcome the designs 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 13:1

The Aaronic Priesthood was restored.

Context

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

Doctrine or Principle

The Aaronic Priesthood holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel 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 18:10-11

The worth of souls is great

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 each soul's great worth to God is 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?



D&C 18:15-16

Great joy comes from bringing souls unto Jesus Christ.

Context

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

Doctrine or Principle

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

Application

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



D&C 19:16-19

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 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

We are blessed with peace as we listen to the Savior and follow Him.

Application

Set a goal to improve in each of the areas mentioned in D&C 19:23.

5 aPray always, that you may	7
come off bconqueror; yea, that you	
may conquer Satan, and that you	
may 'escape the hands of the ser-	-
vants of Satan that do uphold his	s
work.	

- 2 Yea, 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 ^aLook unto me in every ^bthought; ^cdoubt not, fear not.

- 37 "Search these bcommandments, for they are true and cfaithful, 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 and the earth pass away, my "word shall not pass away, but shall all be 'fulfilled, whether by mine own 'voice or by the "voice of my 'servants, it is the 'same.
- 17 It no sooner appeared than I found myself "delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I baw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!
- 18 My object in going to "inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join.
- 19 I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all "wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those 'professors were all 'corrupt; that: "they 'draw near to me with their lips, but their 'hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the 'fcommandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the 'power thereof."

- 23 ^aLearn of me, and listen to my words; ^bwalk in the ^cmeekness of my Spirit, and you shall have ^dpeace in me.
- 16 For behold, I, God, have "suffered these things for all, that they might not bsuffer if they would "repent:
- 17 But if they would not repent they must "suffer even as I;
- 18 Which "suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might bnot drink the bitter cup, and shrink—
- 19 Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and "finished my preparations unto the children of men.
- 15 And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one "soul unto me, how 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 ⁴kingdom of my Father, how great will be your ⁵joy if you should bring many ⁵souls unto me!
- 10 Remember the ^aworth of ^bsouls is great in the sight of God;
- 11 For, behold, the Lord your "Redeemer suffered bdeath in the flesh; wherefore he 'suffered the 'pain of all men, that all men might repent and 'come unto him.

UPON you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I "confer the briesthood of Aaron, which holds the "keys of the ministering of "angels, and of the gospel of "repentance, and of 'baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of "Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in "righteousness.



D&C 25:13

Cleave to your covenants.

Context

During a time of persecution and worry, the Lord comforted and advised Emma Smith.

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 46:33

Practice virtue and holiness continually.

Context

The Lord revealed gifts of the Holy Spirit and taught the importance of doing all things according to His will.

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 58:27

Be anxiously engaged in a good cause.

Context

The Lord instructed those who had gathered to Independence, Missouri, to counsel among themselves and 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 ward or branch?



D&C 58:42-43

To repent we must confess and forsake sin

Context

The Lord taught the Saints who had just arrived in Missouri how they could build up Zion and be forgiven of their sins.

Doctrine or Principle

If we will confess and forsake our sins, the Lord will forgive us and remember our sins no more.

Application

Are there any sins that you need to confess to your bishop or branch president? What can you do to forsake your sins?



D&C 64:9-11

We should forgive all men.

Context

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

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 76:22-24

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 76:40-41

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 sons of perdition.

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 78:19

Receive all things with thankfulness.

Context

The Lord commanded Church leaders to establish storehouses 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 82:10

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 does this scripture help you have faith in the Lord's promises?



D&C 88:124

Cease to be idle and unclean.

Context

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

Doctrine or Principle

If we will cease to sleep longer than needed, retire to bed early, and arise early, we are promised that our bodies and minds can be invigorated.

Application

Choose one commandment from D&C 88:124 that you could obey more fully. What will you do this week to improve your obedience to that commandment?

- 9 Wherefore, I say unto you, that ye ought to "forgive one another; for he that "forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord; for there remaineth in him the greater sin.
- 10 I, the Lord, will "forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to bforgive all men.
- 11 And ye ought to say in your hearts—let God "judge between me and thee, and breward thee according to thy "deeds.
- 42 Behold, he who has ^arepented of his ^bsins, the same is ^cforgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more.
- 43 By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and bforsake them.
- 27 Verily I say, men should be "anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;
- 33 And ye must practise "virtue and holiness before me continually. Even so. Amen.
- 13 Wherefore, alift up thy heart and brejoice, and cleave unto the covenants which thou hast made.

- 124 Cease to be "idle; cease to be bunclean; cease to "find fault one with another; cease to "sleep longer than is needful; retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be "invigorated."
- 10 I, the Lord, am "bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no bpromise.
- 19 And he who receiveth all things with "thankfulness shall be made glorious; and the things of this earth shall be added unto him, even an "hundred fold, yea, more.
- 40 And this is the ^agospel, the glad ^btidings, which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us—
- 41 That he "came into the world, even Jesus, to be bcrucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the "world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness;
- 22 And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the "testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he blives!
- 23 For we "saw him, even on the bright hand of "God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only "Begotten of the Father—
- 24 That by "him, and through him, and of him, the 'worlds are and were created, and the 'inhabitants thereof are begotten '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?



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?



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?



D&C 130:22-23

The Father and Son have bodies of flesh and bones.

Context

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.



D&C 131:1-4

The new and everlasting covenant of marriage

Context

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?





In the ^acelestial glory there are three ^bheavens or degrees;

- 2 And in order to obtain the "highest, a man must enter into this border of the 'priesthood [meaning the new and deverlasting covenant of 'marriage];
- 3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.
- 4 He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an "increase.
- 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.
- 23 A man may receive the ^aHoly Ghost, and it may descend upon him and not ^btarry with him.
- 36 That the "rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be bcontrolled nor handled 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 "long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; 42 By "kindness, and pure "knowl-
- 42 By "kindness, and pure δknowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the 'soul without 'hypocrisy, and without 'guile—
- 8 The "Melchizedek Priesthood holds the right of presidency, and has power and bauthority 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 bhealth in their navel and marrow to their bones;
- 19 And shall ^afind ^bwisdom and great ^ctreasures of ^dknowledge, even hidden treasures;
- 20 And shall "run and not be bweary, and shall walk and not faint. 21 And I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the "destroying angel shall bpass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Reading Chart

Testimony of the Twelve Apostles to the Truth of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants									
Joseph Smith— History	1								
Doctrine and	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Covenants	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	13	14	15	16	17	18			
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	127	128	129	130	131	132			
	133	134	135	136	137	138			
	Offic	ial Declarat	ion 1	Official Declaration 2					
Articles of Faith	1								

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	121	122	123	124	125	126			
	127	128	129	130	131	132			
	133	134	135	136	137	138			
	Official Declaration 1 Official Declaration 2								
Articles of Faith	1								

Daily Scripture Reading Chart

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
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29	(29)	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
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31		31		31		31	31		31		31



Daily Scripture Reading Chart

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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29	(29)	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
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31		31		31		31	31		31		31