

## Day 5 Morning Devotional

### “Be not weary in well-doing”

Doctrine & Covenants 64:33-34: “Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great. Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind.”

***This outline contains resources for you to use as you prepare for this learning experience. You will likely not have time to do all of these activities. You are invited to seek the Spirit and utilize effective teaching methods to help learners feel and understand the intended outcome of the topic.***

#### Resources:

- The Life and Ministry of Joseph Smith
  - <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/the-life-and-ministry-of-joseph-smith?lang=eng>
- Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet: Strengthened by Trials
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYvrGzWemol>
- Trials and Persecutions (From history.churchofjesuschrist.org)
  - <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/trials-and-persecutions?lang=eng>
- Joseph Smith Lecture 2: Joseph’s Personality and Character: Truman G. Madsen
  - <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/truman-g-madsen/joseph-smiths-personality-and-character/>
- Hope of Israel: By President Russell M. Nelson and Sister Wendy W. Nelson
  - <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2018/08-se/hope-of-israel?lang=eng>
- If the Way Be Full of Trial, Weary Not
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvEKxHqr\\_b0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvEKxHqr_b0)
    - Consider displaying the lyrics to this hymn if used
- FSY musical number(s) if applicable
- D&C 127:2
- 1 Nephi 19:9
- Isaiah 50:6

Below are some suggestions of what you may wish to teach:

- It might be valuable to take into context and teach much of what had already happened (in the life of Joseph Smith) when the Lord was counseling him to “*be not weary in well-doing*”:
  - Examples include:
    - Leg operation at a young age (1813)
    - Many moves (at least seven before the first vision + in his adult life)
    - Death of family (extended and immediate)
    - Persecution
    - Financial trials and ruins etc.
    - Legal issues and imprisonments
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYvrGzWemol> (good review of each)
    - Etc.
  - *Discuss*: “What mindset might you be in if you’d gone through all Joseph had been through?”
  - *Share*:
    - Perhaps ask a few participants to share how they have remained positive during the trials of their lives (have counselors suggest/clear potential participants/stories before inviting them to share).
  - Quotes/scriptures/stories of Joseph’s unwavering focus and efforts:
    - From Liberty Jail, Joseph wrote that his difficult experiences tutored him. “For my part, I think I never could have felt as I now do if I had not suffered the wrongs that I have suffered. All things shall work together for good to them that love God” (letter from Joseph Smith to Presendia Huntington Buell, Mar. 15, 1839, Liberty Jail, Liberty, Missouri, in *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, comp. Dean C. Jessee [2002], 427; punctuation modernized). <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/trials-and-persecutions?lang=eng>
    - To George A. Smith, “Never be discouraged. If I were sunk in the lowest pit of Nova Scotia, with the Rocky Mountains piled on me, I would hang on, exercise faith, and keep up good courage, and I would come out on top.” See Evans, *Joseph Smith: An American Prophet*, p. 9. As found here: <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/truman-g-madsen/joseph-smiths-personality-and-character/>
    - D&C 127:2 “And as for the perils which I am called to pass through, they seem but a small thing to me, . . . nevertheless, deep water is what I am wont to swim in. It all has become a second nature to me; and I feel, like Paul, to glory in tribulation; for to this day has the God of my fathers delivered me out of them all, and will deliver me from henceforth; for behold, and lo, I shall triumph over all my enemies, for the Lord God hath spoken it.”
    - Fun story of not being weary, “One day they had nothing to eat but a little corn meal. They made out of it a johnnycake, as it was called, and the Prophet offered the blessing as follows: “Lord, we thank thee for this johnnycake and ask thee to send us something better.

Amen.” Before the meal was over a knock came at the door, and there stood a man with a ham and some flour. The Prophet jumped to his feet and said to Emma, “I knew the Lord would answer my prayer.”

- <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/truman-g-madsen/joseph-smiths-personality-and-character/>
- You may consider connecting what was asked of Joseph Smith, in connecting his life to the life of the Savior and His “not being weary in well-doing”:
  - *Discuss*: “In what ways is the life of Joseph Smith a type or shadow of the life of Jesus Christ”?
  - You might consider cross-referencing the 1 Nephi 19:9 “and He suffereth it” statements . . .
    - “And the world, because of their iniquity, shall judge him to be a thing of naught; wherefore *they scourge him*, and he suffereth it; and *they smite him*, and he suffereth it. Yea, *they spit upon him*, and he suffereth it, *because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men.*” (italics added)
  - *Write and share*: Perhaps take some time to have participants reflect on these statements and how they show the character of the Savior and of how they are evidence of the Savior knowing exactly what He was commanding of Joseph Smith
  - Other scriptures related to the Savior not being weary:
    - Isaiah 50:6 (I gave my back to the smiters, . . . I hid not my face from shame and spitting.)
    - Matthew 27:29-31 (they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a breed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.)
    - Etc. (add others here?)
- For personal application, you could tie the messages above (concerning Joseph Smith and Jesus Christ) to President Nelson’s charge to you in the talk (*Hope of Israel RMN 6/3/2018*)
  - “I believe if you could remember who you said you would help while you are here on earth, or what anguishing experiences you agreed to go through, that whatever really tough situation you are presently in—or will be in—you would say, “Oh, now I remember. Now I understand. This difficult situation makes sense to me now. With the Lord’s help I can do this!”

Below is a suggestion of media that you might consider incorporating in closing the message of “not being weary” in well-doing:

- Video
  - Tabernacle choir “Weary Not”
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?=&OvEKxHqr\\_b0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?=&OvEKxHqr_b0)
    - Consider displaying the lyrics to this hymn if used