

# Day 4 Evening Devotional

## Jesus Christ and His Atonement:

### *“The Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind”*

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.”

**Purpose:** Teach and testify of the Savior and His mercy and grace made possible by His atoning sacrifice. The fireside setting provides a powerful opportunity to help the youth understand the Savior’s divine power to forgive sin and strengthen us in times of need. You may wish to tie it into the week’s theme of “A Great Work” by highlighting the Savior’s commitment to and perfect example of submission to the will of His Father.

**Note:** The fireside will be preceded by a musical choral presentation by participants. It will include music, spoken word and multi-media. This fireside will *immediately* follow the musical presentation. If using a PowerPoint presentation or other AV, you may want to coordinate with technicians to ensure a smooth transition. For example, the participants can sing a reverent hymn while you set up.

**Please plan for a ten-minute period at the end of the fireside where participants are to be given the chance to write their testimonies (in preparation for sharing them as part of the testimony meeting that will follow the fireside).**

Immediately following the fireside, everyone will sing the “FSY Medley.” It is important to end on time to provide adequate time for the testimony meetings.

#### **Scriptural resources:**

- Mosiah 15:7; 3 Nephi 11:11; Luke 22:42; John 6:38-39 Christ does the will of the Father
- Alma 7:11-12 “he will take upon him their infirmities. . .”
- 2 Nephi 2:6-8 “through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah. . .”
- D&C 45:3-5 “Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause. . .”
- 2 Nephi 2:7; 3 Nephi 9:20 Lord requires a broken heart and contrite spirit

#### **Teaching Ideas:**

**Reminder:** President Russell M. Nelson has given the following admonishment to us as we teach and speak of the Savior and His atonement:

“It is doctrinally incomplete to speak of the Lord’s atoning sacrifice by shortcut phrases, such as “the Atonement” or “the enabling power of the Atonement” or “applying the Atonement” or “being strengthened by the Atonement.” These expressions present a real risk of misdirecting faith by treating the event as if it had living existence and capabilities independent of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

“Under the Father’s great eternal plan, it is the Savior who suffered. It is the Savior who broke the bands of death. It is the Savior who paid the price for our sins and

transgressions and blots them out on condition of our repentance. It is the Savior who delivers us from physical and spiritual death.

“There is no amorphous entity called “the Atonement” upon which we may call for succor, healing, forgiveness, or power. Jesus Christ is the source. Sacred terms such as Atonement and Resurrection describe what the Savior did, according to the Father’s plan, so that we may live with hope in this life and gain eternal life in the world to come. The Savior’s atoning sacrifice—the central act of all human history—is best understood and appreciated when we expressly and clearly connect it to Him” (President Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into our Lives,” April 2017).

- You may wish to reference the Youth Theme and specifically “the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind,” and discuss how Jesus perfectly exemplified these attributes in all that He does.
- You may wish to ponder in your preparations how to help the youth feel the relevance of the Savior and His atoning sacrifice their own lives. How can they partake of His mercy and grace today?
- Consider discussing the following questions: How does “[our] heart and a willing mind” allow us to more fully partake of the Savior’s divine help? In what ways does He desire to bless us more abundantly?
- You may wish to highlight examples from the scriptures that illustrate the Savior’s power and desire to lift, strengthen, forgive, heal and bless individuals, families and Israel?

**Resource quotes:**

- “Jesus achieved perfect unity with the Father by submitting Himself, both flesh and spirit, to the will of the Father. His ministry was always clearly focused because there was no debilitating or distracting double-mindedness in Him. Referring to His Father, Jesus said, “I do always those things that please him” (John 8:29).

“Because it was the Father’s will, Jesus submitted even to death, “the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father” (Mosiah 15:7).

“This was certainly no small thing. That suffering, He said, ‘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 not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

“Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men’ (D&C 19:18–19).

“These statements reveal that the Savior’s overarching ambition is to glorify the Father. The Father is “in” the Son in the sense that the Father’s glory and the Father’s will are the

all-consuming occupation of the Son.” (Elder D. Todd Christofferson, “That They May Be One in Us,” October 2002)

- “I repeat, save for the exception of the very few who defect to perdition, there is no habit, no addiction, no rebellion, no transgression, no apostasy, no crime exempted from the promise of complete forgiveness. That is the promise of the atonement of Christ.” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, “The Brilliant Morning of Forgiveness,” Ensign, Nov 1995, 18)
- “Repentance begins with our Savior, and it is a joy, not a burden. In last December’s Christmas devotional, President Nelson taught: “True repentance is not an event. It is a never-ending privilege. It is fundamental to progression and having peace of mind, comfort, and joy.” (President Dallin H. Oaks, “Cleansed by Repentance, General Conference, April 2019)
- “When you reach up for the Lord’s power in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours. When the Savior knows you truly want to reach up to Him—when He can feel that the greatest desire of your heart is to draw His power into your life—you will be led by the Holy Ghost to know exactly what you should do. When you spiritually stretch beyond anything you have ever done before, then His power will flow into you. . . The gospel of Jesus Christ is filled with His power, which is available to every earnestly seeking daughter or son of God. It is my testimony that when we draw His power into our lives, both He and we will rejoice.” (President Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ,” General Conference, April 2017)

**Suggested Music from FSY: (Remember that there will be a music presentation right before your fireside)**

- “Hear Him”
- “Faith in You”
- “Come to the Well”