

Day 3 Morning Devotional

“...out of small things proceedeth that which is great”

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: Help the youth understand and feel that they are a part of a great work in the latter-days.

Note: 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:

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

- Read Doctrine and Covenants 64:33-34 and discuss the phrase “out of small things proceedeth that which is great.” What do you think the Lord means by this? Cross reference Alma 37:6-7 and discuss how the two are similar.
- Invite students to think of examples from the scriptures and Church History when a seemingly small thing resulted in a great thing being brought to pass. Below are some suggestions:
 - The Children of Israel and the Brass Serpent (see Numbers 21:4-9; Alma 33:19-22)
 - The Liahona (see 1 Nephi 16; Alma 37:38-47)
 - Naaman and Elisha. (see 2 Kings 5:13)
- Discuss the small things that youth can do that will make a large impact on their conversion and testimonies (consider writing them for all to see). Invite students to share how doing one of these has made a big impact for them. Invite youth to share examples of how small things have brought great blessings to them and their family.
- Share the story of President Gordon B. Hinckley and the tree he planted in his first home (“Bring Up a Child in the Way He Should Go”, November 1993 General Conference). Discuss the importance of doing the small things early in our lives and the big impact they will make later in our lives.

Below are some quotes you may wish to use:

- President Dallin H. Oaks: ““So is the powerful effect over time of the small and simple things we are taught in the scriptures and by living prophets. Consider the scripture study

we've been taught to incorporate into our daily lives. Or consider the personal prayers and the kneeling family prayers that are regular practices for faithful Latter-day Saints. Consider attendance at seminary for youth or institute classes for young adults. Though each of these practices may seem to be small and simple, over time they result in powerful spiritual uplift and growth. This occurs because each of these small and simple things invites the companionship of the Holy Ghost, the Testifier who enlightens us and guides us into truth . . ." (Small and Simple Things, April 2018 General Conference)

- President M. Russell Ballard: "May the Lord bless each one of us to follow the counsel of our prophets. We need to have family and personal prayers; study the scriptures, particularly the Book of Mormon; hold family home evenings; follow the admonition of the Savior to love one another; and be thoughtful, kind, and gentle within the family. Through these and other similar small and simple things, we have the promise that our lives will be filled with peace and joy." (Small and Simple Things, April 1990 General Conference)
- L. Whitney Clayton: "A few years ago, I spoke with a young bishop who was spending hours each week counseling with members of his ward. He made a striking observation. The problems that members of his ward faced, he said, were those faced by Church members everywhere—issues such as how to establish a happy marriage; struggles with balancing work, family, and Church duties; challenges with the Word of Wisdom, with employment, or with pornography; or trouble gaining peace about a Church policy or historical question they didn't understand.

His counsel to ward members very often included getting back to simple practices of faith, such as studying the Book of Mormon—as we were counseled by President Thomas S. Monson to do—paying tithing, and serving in the Church with devotion. Frequently, however, their response to him was one of skepticism: "I don't agree with you, Bishop. We all know those are good things to do. We talk about those things all the time in the Church. But I'm not sure you're understanding me. What does doing any of those things have to do with the issues I'm facing?"

It's a fair question. Over time, that young bishop and I have observed that those who are deliberate about doing the "small and simple things"⁷ Alma 37:6—obeying in seemingly little ways—are blessed with faith and strength that go far beyond the actual acts of obedience themselves and, in fact, may seem totally unrelated to them. It may seem hard to draw a connection between the basic daily acts of obedience and solutions to the big, complicated problems we face. But they are related. In my experience, getting the little daily habits of faith right is the single best way to fortify ourselves against the troubles of life, whatever they may be. Small acts of faith, even when they seem insignificant or entirely disconnected from the specific problems that vex us, bless us in all we do." ("Whatsoever He Saith Unto You, Do It", April 2017 General Conference)

Below are some suggestions of media that you might consider incorporating:

- FSY Song – "Small Things"
- Video – "Spiritual Balance – Small and Simple Things"
- Video – "By Small and Simple Things – Sharing the Gospel"