

Day 1 Home Evening Devotional

“A Great Work”

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.

Notes: Because this is your first time in front of the youth in your session for an extended period of time, it may be wise to spend 3-5 minutes introducing yourself to the youth and letting them get to know you before you begin the lesson. This is also a great opportunity for the session to get to know your spouse. Use this time to help build rapport with the youth in your session.

Also, because this is the first large group lesson experience as a session, it will set the stage for the rest of the week. Inviting participants to actively participate in the lesson will encourage them to do so in future devotionals and other learning experiences.

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.

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

- Read Doctrine and Covenants 64:33-34 and invite students to discuss what the Lord might have meant when He told Joseph Smith “ye are laying the foundation of a great work.”
- Show the video [Ask of God: Joseph Smith’s First Vision](#) (6:35) and discuss what great work began through this experience. Invite several students to discuss how this event has impacted their lives.
- Share selected quotes from Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf’s talk, “Are You Sleeping Through the Restoration?” Discuss the role we play in this continuing great work of the Restoration.

- Share President Nelson’s quotes regarding the gathering of Israel being the most important work of the latter-days. Invite the youth to share their experiences of how they have been a part of this great gathering.
- Share the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the wall to the city of Jerusalem, or consider showing Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf’s telling of the story (“We Are Doing a Great Work and Cannot Come Down, April 2009 General Conference, 8:35-11:53). How does this relate to the adversary’s attacks on youth today?

Scripture Resources

- Nehemiah 1-6 – I am doing a great work so that I cannot come down.
- Esther 4:14 - Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
- Isaiah 29:14 – I will proceed to do a marvelous work...and a wonder.
- D&C 4:1-2 – Marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men

Quotes:

- Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf: “Sometimes we think of the Restoration of the gospel as something that is complete, already behind us—Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, he received priesthood keys, the Church was organized. In reality, the Restoration is an ongoing process; we are living in it right now...
When our time in mortality is complete, what experiences will we be able to share about our own contribution to this significant period of our lives and to the furthering of the Lord’s work? Will we be able to say that we rolled up our sleeves and labored with all our heart, might, mind, and strength? Or will we have to admit that our role was mostly that of an observer? (Are You Sleeping Through the Restoration?, April 2014 General Conference)
- “My dear extraordinary youth, you were sent to earth at this precise time, the most crucial time in the history of the world, to help gather Israel. There is nothing happening on this earth right now that is more important than that. There is nothing of greater consequence. Absolutely nothing. This gathering should mean everything to you. This is the mission for which you were sent to earth.” (President Russell M. Nelson, Hope of Israel, June 3, 2018)
- “I am inviting every young woman and every young man between the ages of 12 and 18 in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to enlist in the youth battalion of the Lord to help gather Israel.” (President Russell M. Nelson, Hope of Israel, June 3, 2018)
- “It is no ordinary blessing to live in these latter days. These are glorious times foreseen by ancient prophets and attended by watchful, angelic hosts. The Lord is mindful of His Church. He is also mindful of those who follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost and join with their brothers and sisters the world over in helping to bring forth this great work of God.” (Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “A Great Work of God,” *Ensign*, Apr. 2010, 4)

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

- FSY Song – “We Know His Name”
- Welcome video from President Nelson?
- Video – Ask of God: Joseph Smith’s First Vision (6:35)