

LESSON 3: OBEDIENCE

THERE WILL BE NO READINGS IN THE USUAL SENSE AS PART OF LESSON THREE. INDIVIDUAL VERSES WILL BE READ FOR EACH QUESTION. ON THE TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS, CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER BEFORE LOOKING UP THE REFERENCE.

1. a. **TRUE** or **FALSE**. Even though we are sometimes slow to be obedient to God's commandments, He is always quick to answer our prayers.
 - b. Read: Doctrine and Covenants 101: 1-9. Write in your own words the main message you get from these verses for your life.
 - c. Read 101: 43-62. What is the key to being found a faithful and wise steward? Cite verse.
 - d. In which verse in this reading did the servants begin to go wrong? _____
 - e. What was the reasoning of the servants who failed in their task?
 - f. What would be some possible modern day equivalents to this type of reasoning?

2. a. **True** or **FALSE**. The health promises in "The Word of Wisdom," D&C 89, are for those who are also obeying God's other commandments.
 - b. Read: D&C 89. What are the promised blessings found in the last four verses?
 - c. Who is it that meets the conditions for receiving these blessings? Cite verse.

3. a. **TRUE** or **FALSE**. We cannot profess to be a Christian without obeying Christ.
 - b. Read 1 John 2:4-6. Though we may be a member of God's church, what does it say about our discipleship when we do not obey Christ's commandments?

4. a. **TRUE** or **FALSE**. Sacrifice is greater than obedience.
 - b. Read 1 Samuel: 15. What was God's command to Saul given through the prophet Samuel?
 - c. How did Saul disobey God?
 - d. How do you explain Saul's greeting to the prophet in verse 13?
 - e. What is Saul's defense of himself?
 - f. When we stubbornly go our way and do not obey exactly the Lord, what sin are we guilty of? Cite verse.

- g. Why do you think that God regards obedience as more important than any sacrifice that we might make?
- h. What is wrong with Saul's confession in verse 24?
- i. When we use the powers of our human reasoning to tell ourselves "rational lies" we are, of course, rationalizing. This widespread human tendency gets us all in trouble. Make up a nice sounding rationalization for:
1. Watching the Superbowl.
 2. Buying something you want but can't afford.
 3. Getting back at your spouse or roommate for their inconsiderate behavior.
5. a. **TRUE or FALSE.** When a law is revealed to the saints, they become obliged to live it.
 b. Read D&C 132:3 and James 4:17. What laws are we to live by as Latter-day Saints?
 c. Why is the study of the word of God of such great importance?
6. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** Present obedience can result in the forgiveness of past sins.
 b. Read D&C 108:1-3. What can we learn about obedience from these verses?
7. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** To hearken means to hear and obey.
 b. Read D&C 42:1-2; D&C 103:1-10. From these scriptures, tell what you think the Lord means when he tells us to *hearken* to his commandments.
 c. Read D&C 124:44-48. How serious are the results of having commands given to us by the Lord and not both hearing and obeying?
 d. What do you think is involved in the "hearing" part of hearkening?
 e. Read D&C 132:3 and D&C 29:8. How do you think we can prepare our hearts to be obedient?
8. a. True or False: In some situations it is necessary to hearken to men rather than to God.
 b. Read Acts 4:18-20. What do these verses describe?
 c. How can these verses be a guide to us in this present world?

9. Look up the word *hearken* in the Topical Guide. Find one scripture there that enlarged your understanding of the concept of hearkening and share what it means to you.

10. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** The Lord uses only positive methods to teach his children to obey.

b. Read D&C 105:1-10. What are ways we learn obedience in this life?

c. How can suffering teach us greater obedience?

d. Missouri had been revealed to the church as Zion, the ultimate gathering place of the Saints. From v. 8, what was the reason that some people were reluctant to gather with the saints there?

e. List the ways found in verse 10 that life shapes our character and causes us to grow.

f. **PERSONAL:** Can you list a hard or negative experience that ultimately brought you greater spiritual maturity, increased your faith in God, or brought you closer to Him?

11. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** Jesus learned obedience through suffering.

b. Read Hebrews 5:8. What does this passage teach us about what we can expect in our own lives.

c. Read James 1:2-4. What could it mean that “patience may have her perfect work”?

d. What do we learn from the following scriptures about patience?

D&C 67:13—

D&C 6: 19-20—

12. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** Zion, or “the pure in heart,” shall escape the scourge* of the last days if she is obedient.

b. Read D&C 97: 21-28. What will be the result if Zion does not obey all the things God commands?

c. Read D&C 84: 54-59. Zion must repent of what sin in order to avoid a scourge and judgment?

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This “scourge” is a specific pestilence or sickness. In the D&C the word is always singular and refers to a specific event.

13. Read D&C 5:19 and D&C 45:31. These scriptures describe a scourge, i.e., sickness and disease, to be poured out on the wicked. Name a commandment that gives the saints protection against diseases in the last days?
14. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** The rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim.
 b. Read D&C 64: 33-36. What does the Lord require of his people?
 c. Are there things we can do that will help cultivate these attitudes?
15. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** Blessings are ultimately connected to obedience to law.
 b. **PERSONAL:** Read D&D 130: 18-21. What is a blessing that you feel you have received that was connected in a specific way to actions of obedience in your life?
 c. In what way is obedience connected to knowledge?
 d. Can you think of an example from your life of how obedience brought you greater knowledge and intelligence?
16. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** God judges us not only on what we have done, but on what we wanted in our hearts.
 b. Read D&C 137:9. Why do you think God considers the things mentioned in this verse in his judgment of us?
17. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** God allows his people to suffer the consequences of their mistakes but he will still own them as his people even though they have to suffer from his chastening.
 b. Read D&C 101: 1-6, 9 How do the mistakes we make and the sins we commit serve to teach us?
 c. What is God's promise to his people in spite of their failures and sins?
 d. Read D&C 56:1-4. What quality of character makes God so angry he declares that such people will not be saved?
18. a. **TRUE or FALSE:** Obeying and trying to obey will both bring blessings.
 b. Read D&C 46:8-9. What comfort do you find in the phrase "seeketh so to do"?
 c. **CHALLENGE QUESTION:** What is a good parent's attitude toward children who are trying to be obedient and sometimes failing as opposed to children who are openly rebellious?
19. What have you learned about obedience that was new to you from this study or that you want to apply in your life in a new way?