

Spiritual Maturity Lesson Outline

Key to Visual Aids

- o (GAK) = Gospel Art Picture Kit
- o (Primary #-#) = Pictures From Primary Manuals
- o (Mormonad) = Available online from *New Era* magazine

Post Sign: "Reverence invites revelation" (Boyd K. Packer).

Introduction:

- o I pondered their needs
- o I sought inspiration
- o (GAK 119) Adam & Eve teaching their children
- o How I arrived at this topic

Spirituality is Developmental

Example 1: Joseph Smith

We look at him from the end of his life to the beginning, with 20/20 hindsight. However, he didn't have that perspective as he passed through his life! His spirituality grew "[aprecept](#)• upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:" (Isaiah 28:10).

- o (GAK 402) Joseph Smith had a question, read the scriptures, asked the question through prayer
- o (GAK 404) His question was answered, but he was given no further direction at that time
- o (GAK 406) He did not receive the plates until after 4 years of instruction

Example 2: Jesus Christ

- o (GAK 205) The scriptures tell us that even the Savior's progress was developmental
- o (GAK 206) He received "grace for grace" (D&C 93:12-13, 20)
- o (Primary 4-11) until He was spiritually mature enough to endure Gethsemane
- o (GAK 238) and to fulfill His mission here on earth.

You & I

We often "covet" one another's talents (*Oh, if only I could play the piano like Doug Neil does, paint like Susan Caldwell does, teach like Susan Ritchie does, quote scriptures like Julie Nelson does, etc.*) failing to acknowledge the accumulation of deep knowledge and expertise and the expenditure of time and energy that the expression of such talents represents.

- o (Primary 1-50) Sometimes we also forget that progress comes "line upon line, precept on precept" and we expect our children to hear what we say and then integrate it immediately into their lives

Concept Map for Macs: What price are we willing to pay for our spirituality?

- o High-end Users – Willing to pay a premium price for quality, features, and performance
- o Medium Users – Willing to compromise some features and performance in order to pay a more "reasonable" price
- o Low-end Users – Willing to sacrifice quality, features, and performance for a low price

Triangles

- o "How can people who are unsure of their faith teach correct principles to their children?" We need to broaden and deepen our understanding!
- o (Gray magnets and ball bearings) Understanding comes in pieces
- o (What? Why? How?) Children connect those pieces (with our help) to develop an understanding of one principle at a time—yielding their perspectives.
- o (Small green triangle) "We see through our perspectives." (Dr. Tonya Huber)
- o (Medium orange triangle) Our perspectives expand as our understanding of the gospel deepens.
- o (Large pink triangle) By the time we are adults, we can make better decisions because of our increased perspective and understanding. However, sometimes we forget to connect the pieces—especially for our children.

- o (Dimensionalized triangle made of magnets) The power of understanding is in connecting the pieces—understanding how pondering the scriptures connects to prayer, which connects to faith, which connects to fasting, etc.

Small Group Work

- 1) Announce principles and places for each group
- 2) Ask each person to join a group based on family struggles/interests
- 3) Tasks:
 - a) Think about how the pieces of content on the page connect to one another
 - b) Consider how you might go about teaching this content to your children

Adversity

- o Adversity Page
- o Contrasting Characters Page: Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
- o (Primary 2-33) Priesthood Blessings
- o (GAK 214) Stilling the Storm (Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:36-41; Luke 8:22-25)
- o (Mormonad) You Are Never Alone (John 14:18)
- o (Mormonad) You Can Conquer Giant Problems (Matthew 19:26)
- o (Mormonad) Rise Above the Blues (D&C 136:29)

Divine Worth

- o Divine Worth Page
- o Contrasting Characters Page: Jacob & Esau (Genesis 25:29-34)
- o (Mormonad) Be Your Own Kind of Beautiful (1 Samuel 16:7)
- o (Mormonad) There aren't any frogs, just handsome princes who don't know who they are. (Psalms 8:4-5)
- o (Mormonad) Family Photo: God Created the Races, but not Racism (Acts 10:34)

Gossip

- o Gossip Page
- o (Mormonad) Cutting Remarks

Magnifying Our Callings

- o Magnifying Our Callings Page
- o Contrasting Characters Page: Nephi v. Laman & Lemuel (1 Nephi 3:1-7)

Prayer

- o Prayer Page
- o (Mormonad) Need to Talk? With Prayer You'll Never Get A Busy Signal (Alma 34:17-27)
- o (GAK 243) Christ Walking on the Water (Matthew 14:13-33; Mark 6:45-51)
- o (GAK 123) Moses and the Brass Serpent (Numbers 20:17, 21; Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15; 1 Nephi 17:41; Alma 33:19-20; Helaman 8:14-15)
- o (GAK 313) Two Thousand Young Warriors (Alma 53:10-21; Alma 56:44-56; Alma 58:39)

Service

- o Service Page
- o (Primary 7-21) The Good Samaritan
- o (GAK 615) Matthew 6:1-4; Matthew 25:35-40; Mosiah 2:17
- o (Mormonad) Matthew 23:11

Spiritual Gifts

- o Spiritual Gifts Page
- o (Primary 3-4) Left Out Child at Soccer Game
- o (Mormonad) Make Room for Everyone (D&C 38:25)
- o (Mormonad) It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

Debriefing

- 1) Give a 1-minute warning to finish their last thoughts
- 2) Regain everyone's attention by asking a group to sing the first verse of "*Teach Me to Walk in the Light*" and waiting until everyone has joined in
- 3) What did you learn?
- 4) Principles of Effective Teaching
- 5) Choose a topic and brainstorm your own concept map

Spiritual Maturity

Spiritual Vision & Perspective – "Spirituality is not acquired suddenly. It is the consequence of a succession of right choices. It is the harvest of a righteous life" (Dallin H. Oaks, "Spirituality," *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, p. 61).

Sir Isaac Newton: Triangular Glass – "It is reported that on one occasion when Sir Isaac Newton was thinking seriously concerning the nature of light, he cut a hole in a window blind and a ray of light entered his room. He held a triangular piece of glass in the range of the light, and there were reflected in great beauty all the colors of the rainbow. And for the first time man learned that all of the glorious colors of the universe are locked up in a ray of white light

. . . With a wavering faith of that kind, how can such a person expect to have the true light of Christ, the true understanding and light of the gospel? How can

he expect to receive the blessings that the Lord has promised to the faithful? If he leaves out any one of these principles, he does not get pure white light. If he fails to have faith in all the principles of the gospel and does not have faith to live in accordance therewith, he cannot expect to get the pure light of the gospel in his heart" (Joseph Anderson, "Man's Eternal Horizon," *Ensign*, July 1972, p. 80).

Conclusion:

As we evaluate our own spiritual progress (and that of our children), it is important to remember that **spirituality is developmental!**

Judging

When we plant a rose seed in the earth, we notice that it is small, but we do not criticize it as "rootless and stemless."

We treat it as a seed, giving it the water and nourishment required of a seed.

When it first shoots up out of the earth, we don't condemn it as immature and underdeveloped: nor do we criticize the buds for not being open when they appear. We stand in wonder at the process taking place and give the plant the care it needs at each stage of its development.

The rose is a rose from the time it is a seed to the time it dies. Within it, at all times, it contains its whole potential. It seems to be constantly in the process of change: yet at each state, at each moment, it is perfectly all right as it is.

--Author Unknown

Share testimony and distribute handouts.