

Sunday School Lesson Outline

Lesson 29: Building the Kingdom of God in Nauvoo, IL

Write on Chalkboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can follow the example of the pioneers as I help to build the kingdom of God.
Post on Chalkboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picture of the Red Brick Store Pictures of Pioneers
Prelude Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #248 – <i>Up, Awake, Ye Defenders of Zion</i> #30 - <i>Come, Come Ye Saints</i> #36 – <i>They, The Builders of a Nation</i> #255 – <i>Carry On</i>
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out who is visting Ask someone to give opening & closing prayers
Opening Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask someone in advance
<p>Attention Activity</p> <p><i>After individual discussion in pairs, have the class share their answers with the whole class</i></p> <p><i>Write their answers on the chalkboard</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn to a partner and discuss: What would things look like, feel like, and sound like if the Savior were living here with us in our neighborhood? (If the Savior stood beside me, would I do the things I do....) What is the one thing you would like friends and family to remember you for after you have died? What tribute inscribed on your tombstone would please you most? http://www.ldsiving.com/story/73069-dc-lesson-29-building-the-kingdom-of-god-in-nauvoo-illinois ...By studying D&C 124 and the examples of the early Nauvoo Saints, we can more clearly understand the vital role each of us plays in building the kingdom of God.
Activate Prior Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the “kingdom of God?” What does it mean to “build the kingdom?” What does it mean to “endure?”
<p>Make Sense</p> <p><i>Ask the class to imagine how they would feel if these events were happening right now (i.e., substitute Pres. Monson’s name for the Prophet Joseph Smith, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>After you narrate the events, have them form small groups to discuss</i></p>	<p>What effects would these events have on you (physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, financially)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophet Joseph Smith had been in Liberty Jail Persecution → Travel to Nauvoo Drained swamps, constructed a city Tremendous illness and frequent deaths of children under 10 All but 2 of the apostles and their families were sick Tremendous persecution by mobs Prepared to flee Nauvoo Leaders asked to return to mob-guarded temple site Asked to leave their families to serve missions in England

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<p>Make Meaning</p>	<p>If those things had happened to you, would you still choose to remain an active, faithful member of the church?</p> <p>How did the pioneers endure such hardships? Where does the power to endure come from?</p> <p>Covenants produced UNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obedience• Gospel (Love & Service) – Do unto others . . .• Sacrifice – Easier to do that for those you love, symbol of trust in the Lord• Consecration – Of property, selves, and lives to the Lord• Trust in the Lord, in His love, wisdom, and timing <p>In Hymn #30, “<i>Come, Come Ye Saints</i>,” it says, “Though hard to you, this journey may appear, grace shall be as your day” – What do you think that last line means? (That as we keep our covenants, we invite the power of the atonement of Jesus Christ into our lives to sanctify us, comfort us, and most of all, to give us the power to endure)</p> <p>What can we learn from the humble, faithful endurance of the pioneers?</p> <p>Individual faithfulness (the willingness to act on their beliefs) produced enduring legacies that blessed thousands during that time period and multiple future generations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Physical</i> – Established cities, Relief Society (Read purple quote)• <i>Mental</i> – Believed it would matter, developed personal characteristics and capacities to endure (Read green quote)• <i>Emotional</i> – Faith does not mean you have a perfect knowledge or do everything without worry. It means even when you don’t think you can take one more step, endure one more day, believe for one more minute, you choose to do it anyway—even when you don’t want to or think you can’t• <i>Spiritual</i> – Sacrifice of the apostles on missions in England and their families = thousands converted (Read red & blue quotes)• <i>Social</i> – Relationships help us to endure, Satan seeks to destroy relationships—to get us to isolate in times of trouble
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<p>Encourage Involvement</p>	<p>How do these lessons apply to our current circumstances?</p> <p>In the July 2013 issue of the <i>Ensign</i>, President Monson says: “A dictionary defines a pioneer as “one who goes before to prepare or open up the way for others to follow.”³ Can we somehow muster the courage and steadfastness of purpose that characterized the pioneers of a former generation? Can you and I, in actual fact, be pioneers? I know we can be. Oh, how the world needs pioneers today!”http://www.lds.org/ensign/2013/07/the-world-needs-pioneers-today?lang=eng</p> <p>It is important to recognize the power of our individual influence—we may not be able to see how it connects to the larger plan, but we can look at the legacy of the pioneers and begin to understand that we are ESSENTIAL elements of the bigger picture. We can look for ways to anchor and support others. As we cleave to our covenants and become unified, we build Zion and prepare ourselves to receive the blessings promised by the scriptures: <i>Moses 7:18</i> And the Lord called his people ZION, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.</p>
<p>Closure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn to a partner and discuss: What next steps will you take THIS WEEK to build the kingdom of Zion—within yourself, your family, the ward, and your neighborhood? • What legacy would those steps allow you leave to those who come after you (i.e., extrapolate the potential, long-term consequences of those actions)? • The accomplishments of the Saints in Nauvoo are astonishing. But they are the fruit of faith and sacrifice and commitment and covenant. A community of exiles turned to the Lord and to each other and changed themselves and the world...we must remember that their lives are the example for our lives. None of us must ever expect it to be easy. The only promise we have is that it will be possible. http://www.ldsiving.com/story/73069-dc-lesson-29-building-the-kingdom-of-god-in-nauvoo-illinois
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask someone in advance

Quotes from the Lesson Manual

Within a few months after arriving in England, Elder Wilford Woodruff had baptized and confirmed many people. Then he had the following experience:

“I ... met with a large assembly of Saints and strangers, and while singing the first hymn the spirit of the Lord rested upon me and the voice of God said to me, ‘This is the last meeting that you will hold with this people for many days.’ I was astonished at this, as I had many appointments out in that district. When I arose to speak to the people, I told them that it was the last meeting I should hold with them for many days. They were as much astonished as I was. At the close of the meeting four persons came forward for baptism; we went down into the water and baptized them.

“In the morning I went in secret before the Lord, and asked Him what was His will concerning me. The answer I received was that I should go to the south; for the Lord had a great work for me to perform there, as many souls were waiting for His word.” For the next two days he traveled south until he came to the farm of John Benbow in Herefordshire. Mr. Benbow and his wife, Jane, received him gladly and said that there was a company of over 600 men and women who had formed their own congregation called the United Brethren. Elder Woodruff said:

“This body of United Brethren were searching for light and truth, but had gone as far as they could, and were calling upon the Lord continually to open the way before them and send them light and knowledge, that they might know the true way to be saved. When I heard these things I could clearly see why the Lord had commanded me, while in the town of Hanley, to leave that place of labor and go to the south; for in Herefordshire there was a great harvest-field for gathering many saints into the Kingdom of God.” Elder Woodruff’s efforts in this area of England enabled him “to bring into the Church, through the blessings of God, over eighteen hundred souls during eight months, including all of the six hundred United Brethren except one person” (in Wilford Woodruff: History of His Life and Labors, ed. Matthias F. Cowley [1909], 116–19).

Point out that the Church was strengthened by the sacrifices and efforts of the missionaries who served in England. Elder Harold B. Lee summarized what happened during this remarkable time:

“In one year, 1840 to 1841—one year and fourteen days, to be exact—nine members of the twelve were called to labor in the British Mission. If you remember the history [in Nauvoo], those years marked the period of some of the severest persecution that the Church was to undergo in this dispensation. In that one year and fourteen days the nine members of the twelve, with their associates, established churches in every noted town and city in the kingdom of Great Britain. They baptized between 7000 and 8000 converts. They printed 5000 copies of the Book of Mormon, 3000 hymnbooks, and 50,000 tracts, ... and [they] emigrated 1000 souls to America” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1960, 108).

Quotes from the Lesson Manual

The Prophet Joseph Smith said of his brother Hyrum, “I could pray in my heart that all my brethren were like unto my beloved brother Hyrum, who possesses the mildness of a lamb, and the integrity of a Job, and in short, the meekness and humility of Christ; and I love him with that love that is stronger than death, for I never had occasion to rebuke him, nor he me” (History of the Church, 2:338).

“We are beloved spirit daughters of God, and our lives have meaning, purpose, and direction. As a worldwide sisterhood, we are united in our devotion to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Exemplar. We are women of faith, virtue, vision, and charity who:

“Increase our testimonies of Jesus Christ through prayer and scripture study.

“Seek spiritual strength by following the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

“Dedicate ourselves to strengthening marriages, families, and homes.

“Find nobility in motherhood and joy in womanhood.

“Delight in service and good works.

“Love life and learning.

“Stand for truth and righteousness.

“Sustain the priesthood as the authority of God on earth.

“Rejoice in the blessings of the temple, understand our divine destiny, and strive for exaltation” (Mary Ellen Smoot, “Rejoice, Daughters of Zion,” Ensign, Nov. 1999, 92–93).