

General Sunday School Association

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PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION-

EXPANDED VERSION OF WHAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ZION'S ADVOCATE MAY 2021 VOLUME 98, NUMBER 2, 2021

GOAL OF THE LESSON: To understand what the principles of the gospel include, what they mean, and how we can apply them to our lives.

MEMORY VERSE: HEBREWS 6: 1-3

Suggestion: Middle school aged youth; all 3 verses

1: Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

2: Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **Suggestion:** Upper elementary children

3: And this will we do, if God permit. **Suggestion:** use for young children

STEP 1: PRAYER & TESTIMONY

Start the lesson with a prayer. Let's pray to be guided by the Holy Spirit as we study this lesson and learn about God's principles of the gospel.

Does anyone have a testimony they would like to share?

STEP 2: READ HEBREWS 6: 1-3

Underline or highlight these words:

repentance, faith, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection, & eternal judgement.
Put each term on an index card and write something you know about each one, or a question about it on one side of the card.

STEP 3: DISCUSSION

Jesus has a great love for us and he has a plan for our life because; after all, He is the Creator. We can compare a well built house to a well built life; both need to have a strong and immovable foundation to be strong. Both need a strong foundation!

Some houses aren't built very well, so they are abandoned and they will decay. We need the right materials. Jesus is the rock and His gospel is His church. We don't want a house built on sand and we don't want a weak foundation for ourselves. If we have a firm foundation when building our house, which we can compare to building our life, we will be strong in our spiritual life. The first step to having a solid spiritual foundation is to have faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and then to build on that as we get older. Middle school lesson: also **read 3 Nephi, chapter 6.**

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN; COMPARE THIS LESSON WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS STORY;

a fable about three pigs who build three houses of different materials. A Big Bad Wolf blows down the first two pigs' houses, made of straw and sticks respectively, but is unable to destroy the third pig's house, made of bricks.

What is repentance? Read 1 John 2:1-17. Repentance is an action word, when we ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, to forgive us from our sins and to direct our life. It's a conscious decision that we make to ask the Father to help us make wise decisions. *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:8-9

A way to know if this has worked is to honestly look at how we treat others. Let's also read Matthew 22:39; the 2nd greatest commandment; "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." If you can do that, along with the other commandments, then you are doing what God has asked of you.

"Let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith," Galatians 6:10

What is faith? Faith is believing in something you cannot see. Faith is a belief that leads to action in our mind and heart. When we do this we decide to obey the Father's commandments in the name of Jesus Christ. This is also repentance; asking the Father, in the name of Jesus to forgive and direct your life now; a very important decision to make. We need to believe in the only God, and his son Jesus, and that he loves us; this takes faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1

And now I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would shew unto the world that faith is things which are **hoped for** and not seen; Ether 5:6

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

**Why should I get baptized? How should I behave after being baptized?
Read John chapter 3 and Moroni chapter 6**

As we learn about Jesus, we develop a curiosity and want to know more about him, his Father and his salvation power; the gospel message. This is spiritual hunger for our soul. We have been awakened in the love of Jesus Christ. Once we have a desire to serve him, willing to follow his commandments, and are of an age of accountability, it is time to consider being baptized. (*Jesus doesn't want little children to get baptized; read Moroni chapter 8.*)

Alma 5:25

Therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world, which is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness;

Alma 7:41

And behold, he cometh to redeem those who will be baptized unto repentance, through faith on his name;

"And the first fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the visitation of the holy ghost, which comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God." Moroni 8:29

What is important about the "laying on of hands?"

After being baptized, the ordination of receiving the Holy Ghost happens when the ministry anoints you with oil and says a prayer as they are laying their hands on your head. This is for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Having the Holy Ghost with us helps keep us following in the right ways. It helps with understanding and decision making in a loving manner. It also gives us spiritual gifts.

Acts 19: 1-6

- 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
- 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.
- 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
- 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.
- 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Moroni 6:4

“And after that they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ, who was the author and finisher of their faith.”

3 Nephi 12:33 “Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day.”

What is the resurrection all about?

This is what happened to Jesus at the tomb; he arose to a new life. Resurrection means to be brought forth; we must become spiritually alive. Jesus was the first to rise because he is the resurrection. He created it. He is the power of resurrection.

John 11:25

Jesus said unto her, I am the **resurrection**, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live

What is eternal judgement?

We must be resurrected, or brought forth, so we can be judged. Judgement is a spiritual action.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Also, **Mosiah 1:126** reads similar;

Whereof, they shall be judged, every man, according to his works, whether they be good, or whether they be evil;

1 Nephi 4:52

For the day should come that they must be judged of their works, yea, even the works which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation;

STEP 4: ACTIVITY:

Use the other side of each index card to record something new that you learned of each one of the vocabulary terms.

Build a house; representing our life, with the base being Jesus Christ, the foundation to our house. You chose the size you want to build; and the style of house you would like, be creative!

MATERIALS:

- A rock, or several rocks, for your foundation.
- Blocks of some sort; like Legos, lincoln logs, sticks, graham crackers or whatever you like.
- Clay, play dough, glue, tape, something to keep your house together
- Decorations; make your house joyful looking.

**STEP 5: summary: THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL IS
THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST!**