

Ordinary Time, Proper 29

Courage for this task will be given if you will trust my Spirit to sustain and uphold you...in sensing the leadings of my Spirit, you will begin to see with new eyes.

—Doctrine and Covenants 159:7–8

Explore

kaleidoscopes for each student or kaleidoscope kits

New Perspectives

Purchase kaleidoscopes for each student. (They are available at party supply stores or in party supply sections of retail stores. If the class enjoys crafts, kaleidoscope kits and party favors are available for purchase by the dozen. Visit www.swww.com or call 1-800-288-9941.)

If you have purchased transparent kaleidoscopes, ask students to view familiar items in the classroom with their kaleidoscope. Then have them comment about how the items look different. Ask: “How can seeing things with new perspectives change attitudes and understanding?”

If you have purchased traditional kaleidoscopes or made them from kits, ask how the same materials contained in one kaleidoscope can be seen in so many new perspectives just by rotating the kaleidoscope. Discuss. Ask: “How can this same concept apply to our ability to see with new eyes?”

Extract

Doctrine and Covenants, *Heralds* from 1993–1994, guest, Bible, Doctrine and Covenants 162

Search for New Understanding

Doctrine and Covenants 159:7–8 provides counsel to the people of the church to study faith and doctrine and trust the guidance of the Spirit to provide understanding. Ask a volunteer to read the scripture passage. Discuss and explore the following.

1. Why do you think the church was being called to careful study of the faith and doctrine in 1994 when Section 159 was given? If possible, find copies of the *Herald* from 1993 and 1994 and explore some of the issues presented, or ask members of your congregation who remember the receiving of Section 159 to share with the class.
2. How can the process of studying scripture and other good publications bring you to a closer relationship with the Spirit? What experiences have students had with study and understanding new information, for example at school? Invite a guest to share a personal testimony about how study of the scriptures has increased their understanding.
3. How does trust impact the ability of the Spirit to lead you to new understanding? Discuss what trust means to the students in various relationships—parents, siblings, friends, teachers, coaches, counselors, and ministers. How do we trust in the Spirit when we can’t see it, or do we trust the Spirit because we’ve learned to look for its presence? Talk about times at camps, reunions, retreats, or other experiences where students may have experienced the presence of the Spirit. Be prepared to share your own testimony of the presence of the Spirit or invite a guest to share.
4. How do we know if the Spirit is authentic? Ask volunteers to read 1 John 4:1–6, Moroni 10:4–7, Doctrine and Covenants 9:3, Doctrine and Covenants 10:6, and Doctrine and Covenants 155:7–8.

Doctrine and Covenants 159:7–8
1 John 4:1–6
Moroni 10:4–7
Doctrine and Covenants 9:3
Doctrine and Covenants 10:6
Doctrine and Covenants 155:7–8
Doctrine and Covenants 162:2c, e, 3a

5. At the 2004 World Conference of Community of Christ, then President W. Grant McMurray presented “Words of Counsel to the Church.” After consideration by different bodies within the group, the Conference voted to accept the document as inspired counsel and direction to the church and to include it as Section 162 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Compare parts of Section 162, specifically 2c, e, and 3a to today’s emphasized scripture, Doctrine and Covenants 159:7–8. What are the implications for seeing with new eyes?

Experience

New Images: New Visions

What have you seen recently that gives you new understanding of Jesus Christ? On a flip chart list images, movies, and publications that students have seen. Discuss some of their new understandings.

flip chart, marker,
Bible

In the early days of Christianity, the message of Jesus Christ was new to many. It brought new images and visions to the people who chose to follow. Colossians 1:15–20 described their understanding. Read the scripture passage. What images here seem familiar to you? Are there some that are new?

Colossians 1:15–20

Doctrine and
Covenants, flip
chart, marker

Being in Tune

Being in tune with or sensing the leadings of the Spirit frequently puts us at the edge of our understanding, moving us to new venues frequently beyond our current comprehension and abilities. Often we close our minds to things that make us uncomfortable, but that’s not what we’re asked to do in Section 159:7–8. Ask students to discuss some of the things that give them confidence and some of the ways they find courage to try new activities and new adventures. Then ask: “What is the commitment required for those who see, listen, and choose to do for Jesus Christ? What are some issues at home, in your congregation, in the church, and in the culture that could use new visioning?” Make a list on the flip chart and save for future reference when discussing projects to do.

Doctrine and
Covenants
159:7–8

Expand

What to Do with the New Vision: A Challenge

Where is Christ’s presence around us? Where can we be Christ’s presence? With your new eyes of faith, what new visions do you see for yourself? On the paper provided, draw or write in words and phrases describing yourself as your discipleship takes on new forms and ministry.

paper, pens,
Bible,
Doctrine and
Covenants

As a closing, read Psalm 46 as a prayer to sustain and uphold the students in their new visions of discipleship. As a challenge or sending forth, read Doctrine and Covenants 156:11.

Psalm 46
Doctrine and
Covenants
156:11