

Thursday Evening Devotional

Jesus Christ and His Atonement: “In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him”

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Reminder

President Russell M. Nelson has given the following admonishment as we teach and speak of the Savior and His Atonement:

“It is doctrinally incomplete to speak of the Lord’s atoning sacrifice by shortcut phrases, such as “the Atonement” or “the enabling power of the Atonement” or “applying the Atonement” or “being strengthened by the Atonement.” These expressions present a real risk of misdirecting faith by treating the event as if it had living existence and capabilities independent of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

“Under the Father’s great eternal plan, it is the Savior who suffered. It is the Savior who broke the bands of death. It is the Savior who paid the price for our sins and transgressions and blots them out on condition of our repentance. It is the Savior who delivers us from physical and spiritual death.

“There is no amorphous entity called “the Atonement” upon which we may call for succor, healing, forgiveness, or power. Jesus Christ is the source. Sacred terms such as Atonement and Resurrection describe what the Savior did, according to the Father’s plan, so that we may live with hope in this life and gain eternal life in the world to come. The Savior’s atoning sacrifice—the central act of all human history—is best understood and appreciated when we expressly and clearly connect it to Him” (President Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into our Lives,” April 2017).

Purpose

Teach and testify of the Savior and His mercy and grace made possible by His atoning sacrifice. The fireside setting provides a powerful opportunity to help the youth understand the Savior’s divine power to forgive sin and strengthen us in times of need. You may wish to tie it into the theme of “Trust[ing] in the Lord” by highlighting the Savior’s trust in His Father and how “the Lord has revealed Himself and His character . . . so as to enable the mind of man to place confidence in Him without reservation.” (Bible Dictionary, “Faith”)

Note

The evening devotional will be preceded by a musical presentation by participants. It will include music, spoken word, and multi-media. This fireside will *immediately* follow the musical presentation. If using a PowerPoint presentation or other AV, you may want to coordinate with technicians to ensure a smooth transition. For example, the participants can sing a reverent hymn while you set up.

Please plan for a ten-minute period at the end of the devotional where participants are to be given the opportunity to write their testimonies (in preparation for sharing them as part of the testimony meeting that will follow the devotional).

Immediately following the devotional, everyone will sing the “FSY Medley.” It is important to end promptly to provide adequate time for the testimony meetings.

Teaching Ideas

Here are some suggestions of what you may wish to do.

- Reference the Youth Theme and specifically the importance of “acknowledging Him” in “all our ways.” Discuss how Jesus perfectly exemplifies these principles in all that He does.
 - You may wish to discuss what “acknowledging Him” looks like, especially as it applies to partaking of the Savior’s grace and mercy made possible through His Atonement. Is it just lip service? How does it manifest itself more deeply in the life of a person who trusts in the Lord?
- Ponder in your preparations how to help the youth feel the relevance of the Savior and His atoning sacrifice their own lives. How can they partake of His mercy and grace today?
- Consider discussing the following questions: How does our trust in Him allow us to more fully partake of the Savior’s divine help? In what ways does He desire to bless you more abundantly?
- You may wish to highlight examples from the scriptures that illustrate the Savior’s power and desire to lift, strengthen, forgive, heal, and bless all people. How do they acknowledge Him and His aid?

Scriptural Resources

- 3 Nephi 11:11 (see also Luke 22:42; John 6:38–39; Mosiah 15:7; Doctrine and Covenants 19:2)—Christ does “the will of the Father”
- Doctrine and Covenants 45:3–5—“Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause.”
- 2 Nephi 4:19—“I know in whom I have trusted.”

Quotes

- “Brothers and sisters, if you feel discouraged or wonder if you can ever get out of the spiritual hole that you have dug, please remember who stands ‘betwixt [us] and justice,’ who is ‘filled with compassion towards the children of men,’ and who has taken upon Himself our iniquities and transgressions and ‘satisfied the demands of justice’ [Mosiah 15:9]. In other words, as Nephi did in his moment of self-doubt, simply remember ‘in whom [you] have trusted’ [2 Nephi 4:19], even Jesus Christ, and then repent and experience yet again ‘a perfect brightness of hope’ [2 Nephi 31:20].” (Allen D. Haynie, “Remembering in Whom We Have Trusted,” general conference, Oct. 2015)
- “Repentance begins with our Savior, and it is a joy, not a burden. ... President Nelson taught: ‘True repentance is not an event. It is a never-ending privilege. It is *fundamental* to progression and having peace of mind, comfort, and joy.’” (Dallin H. Oaks, “Cleansed by Repentance,” general conference, Apr. 2019)

- “When you reach up for the Lord’s power in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours. When the Savior knows you truly want to reach up to Him—when He can feel that the greatest desire of your heart is to draw His power into your life—you will be led by the Holy Ghost to know exactly what you should do.
“When you spiritually stretch beyond anything you have ever done before, then His power will flow into you. ...
“The gospel of Jesus Christ is filled with His power, which is available to every earnestly seeking daughter or son of God. It is my testimony that when we draw His power into our lives, both He and we will rejoice.” (Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives,” general conference, Apr. 2017)

Additional Resources

- EFY and Mutual Theme album songs, as applicable
- Jeffrey R. Holland, “[Good Things to Come](#)” (video), ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
- Although a lot of media has already been used, the song “[In Christ Alone](#)” may fit here for a counselor or participant to sing. If using the video is desired, please adhere to the following guidelines:
 - *Videos from sites other than the Church’s websites (i.e., YouTube) **cannot be downloaded** for use in lessons. This is to avoid copyright infringement policies. You are able to use videos from websites not belonging to the Church, but they cannot be downloaded.*