

LESSON 2

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

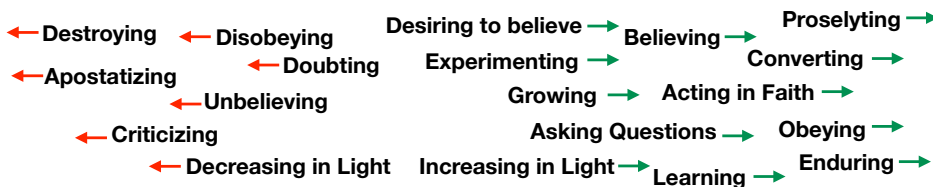
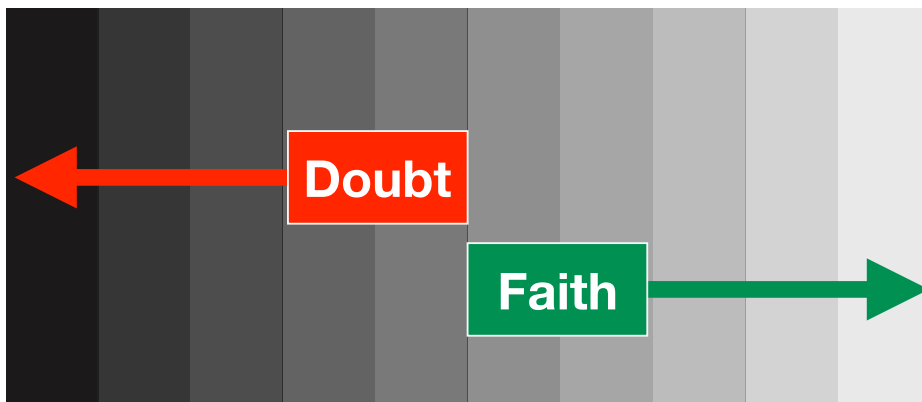
TODAY'S KEY WORD:

Questions

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

Will you replace your doubts with questions as you seek answers to puzzling topics?

Where are you on your spectrum of conversion?



WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

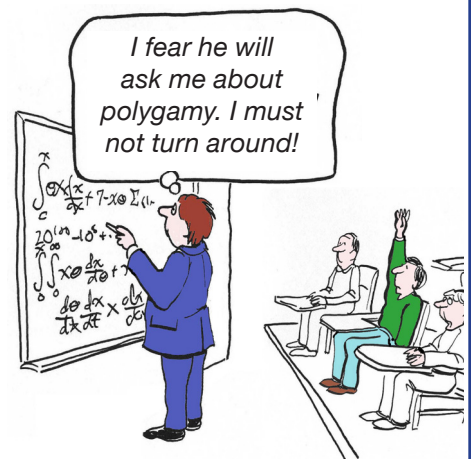
1. When you have questions, why does the Lord encourage you to “seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118)?
2. Why isn’t “question” synonymous with the term “doubt”? Describe the differences.
3. How is it possible to “Doubt not, but be believing” (Mormon 9:27)?
4. When you have questions or concerns about an aspect of Church teachings or practices, how can you seek answers without setting aside the testimony you had “been assured of” (2 Timothy 3:14)?
5. How can this statement be true? “Where doubt and uncertainty are there faith is not, nor can it be.” (Joseph Smith, Lectures on Faith [1985], 71.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY



“To those who have separated themselves from the Church, I say, my dear friends, there is yet a place for you here. Some might ask, “But what about my doubts?” It’s natural to have questions—the acorn of honest inquiry has often sprouted and matured into a great oak of understanding. There are few members of the Church who, at one time or another, have not wrestled with serious or sensitive questions. One of

the purposes of the Church is to nurture and cultivate the seed of faith—even in the sometimes sandy soil of doubt and uncertainty. Faith is to hope for things which are not seen but which are true. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters—my dear friends—please, first **doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith**. We must never allow doubt to hold us prisoner and keep us from the divine love, peace, and gifts that come through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, October 2013).



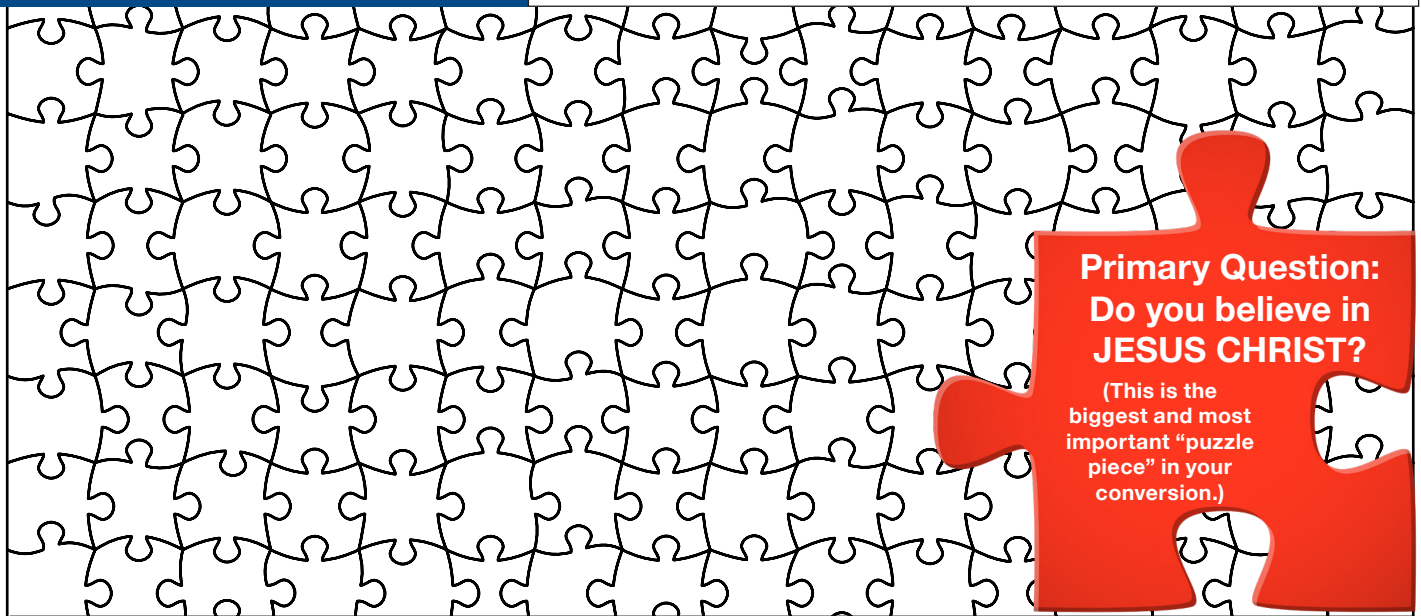
GOSPEL TOPICS

RESEARCH PAPER: Choose a gospel or Church topic where you may have a doubt, concern or question. Study this topic “by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118) using reliable sources and the Spirit. Would you be willing to present your findings in class?

1. Aaronic Priesthood	50. Conscience	101. Gardening	151. Light of Christ	198. Prayer	247. Smith, Joseph, Jr.
2. Abortion	51. Conversion	102. Garden of Eden	152. Love	199. Premortality	248. Social Media
3. Abraham, Book of	52. Council in Heaven	103. Garments	153. Marriage	200. Priest	249. Soul
4. Abrahamic Covenant	53. Covenant	104. Gay	154. Masonry	201. Priesthood	250. Spaulding Manuscript
5. Abuse	54. Creation	105. Genealogy	155. Media	202. Priesthood and Race	251. Spirit
6. Accountability	55. Cross	106. General Authorities	156. Melchizedek Priesthood	203. Priesthood Blessing	252. Spirit Children of Heavenly Parents
7. Adam and Eve	56. Crucifixion	107. Gifts of the Spirit	157. Membership Councils	204. Primary	253. Spirit Prison
8. Addiction	57. Dating and Courtship	108. Godhead	158. Mercy	205. Prison Ministry	254. Spiritual Death
9. Adoption	58. Daughters in My Kingdom	109. God the Father	159. Millennium	206. Profanity	255. Spiritual Experiences
10. Adultery	59. Deacon	110. Gold Plates	160. Ministering	207. Prophecy	256. Spiritual Gifts
11. Adversity	60. Death, Physical	111. Gospel	161. Miracles	208. Prophets	257. Spiritual Self-Reliance
12. Agency and Accountability	61. Death, Spiritual	112. Gospel Topics Essays	162. Missionary Training Centers	209. Proxy Baptism	258. Spirit World
13. Alcohol	62. Debt	113. Government	163. Missionary Work	210. Purpose of Life	259. Stake
14. Answering Gospel Questions	63. Disabilities	114. Grace	164. Modesty	211. Questions	260. Standard Works
15. Apostasy	64. Disaster Response	115. Gratitude	165. Mormon Church	212. Quorum	261. Stewardship
16. Apostles	65. Dispensations	116. Grief	166. Mormonism	213. Quorum of the Twelve	262. Suicide
17. Area Presidency	66. District	117. Happiness	167. Mormons	214. Race and the Priesthood	263. Tattooing and Body Piercing
18. Are Mormons Christian?	67. Diversity and Unity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	118. Healings	168. Mortality	215. Racial and Cultural Prejudice	264. Tea
19. Articles of Faith	68. Divorce	119. Health	169. Mother in Heaven	216. Relief Society	265. Teacher (Aaronic Priesthood)
20. Atonement of Jesus Christ	69. Doctrine and Covenants	120. Heaven	170. Mountain Meadows Massacre	217. Religious Freedom	266. Teaching the Gospel
21. Baptism	70. Doubt	121. Heavenly Father	171. Movies and Television	218. Repentance	267. Telestial Kingdom
22. Baptisms for the Dead	71. Drugs	122. Heavenly Mother	172. Music	219. Restoration of the Church	268. Temples
23. Becoming Like God	72. Easter	123. Heavenly Parents	173. New Testament	220. Restoration of the Priesthood	269. Temptation
24. Bible	73. Education	124. Hell	174. Noah	221. Resurrection	270. Ten Commandments
25. Bible, Inerrancy of	74. Elder	125. High Council	175. Obedience	222. Revelation	271. Terrestrial Kingdom
26. Birth Control	75. Elders Quorum	126. High Priest	176. Old Testament	223. Reverence	272. Testimony
27. Bishop	76. Emergency Preparedness	127. Holy Ghost	177. Opposition	224. Sabbath Day	273. The Family: A Proclamation
28. Blessing	77. Emergency Response	128. Home Evening	178. Ordinances	225. Sacrament	274. The Manifesto and the End of Plural Marriage
29. Book of Mormon	78. Employment	129. Home Teaching	179. Original Sin	226. Sacrament Meeting	275. Tithing
30. Book of Mormon and DNA Studies	79. Endowment	130. Homosexuality	180. Outer Darkness	227. Sacrifice	276. Tobacco
31. Book of Mormon Geography	80. Environmental Stewardship and Conservation	131. Honesty	181. Paradise	228. Salvation	277. Transgender
32. Book of Mormon Translation	81. Eternal Life	132. Hope	182. Parenting	229. Same-Sex Attraction	278. Transgression
33. Born Again	82. Exaltation	133. Humanitarian Service	183. Patriarch	230. Same-Sex Marriage	279. Translation and Historicity of the Book of Abraham
34. Branch	83. Excommunication	134. Humility	184. Patriarchal Blessings	231. Satan	280. Trials
35. Celestial Kingdom	84. Faith Crisis	135. Immortality	185. Peace	232. Saved	281. Unity
36. Charity	85. Faith in Jesus Christ	136. Inspiration	186. Peace and Violence among Saints	233. Scriptures	282. Unwed Pregnancy
37. Chastity	86. Fall of Adam and Eve	137. Integrity	187. Pearl of Great Price	234. Sealing	283. Urim and Thummim
38. Children	87. Family	138. Internet	188. Peer Pressure	235. Second Coming of Jesus Christ	284. Vicarious Work
39. Children	88. Family Councils	139. Introduction to Gospel Topics	189. Personal Revelation	236. Seer	285. Virtue
40. Christmas	89. Family Finances	140. Jesus Christ	190. Piercing	237. Self-Reliance	286. Visions
41. Church Councils	90. Family History	141. Jesus Christ Chosen as Savior	191. Plan of Salvation	238. Service	287. Visiting Teaching
42. Church Disciplinary Councils	91. Family Home Evening	142. Joseph Smith	192. Plural Marriage and Families in Early Utah	239. Seventy	288. War
43. Church Finances—Commercial Businesses	92. Fasting and Fast Offerings	143. Joseph Smith's Teachings about Priesthood, Temple, and Women	193. Plural Marriage in Kirtland and Nauvoo	240. Sex Education and Behavior	289. Ward
44. Church History	93. First Presidency	144. Journal of Discourses	194. Plural Marriage in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	241. Sexual Abuse	290. War in Heaven
45. Church Organization	94. First Vision	145. Joy	195. Polygamy	242. Sexual Immorality	291. Welfare
46. Citizenship	95. Food Storage	146. Judging Others	196. Pornography	243. Signs	292. Witness
47. Coffee	96. Foreordination	147. Justice	197. Postmortality	244. Sin	293. Women in the Church
48. Communication	97. Foreordination	148. Keys of the Priesthood		245. Single Adult Members of the Church	294. Word of Wisdom
49. Confirmation	98. Forgiveness	149. Kingdoms of Glory		246. Single-Parent Families	295. Worship
	99. Fornication	150. Laying On of Hands			296. Zion
	100. Gambling				

SECONDARY QUESTIONS

There are “primary” questions: Is there a God? Was Joseph Smith a prophet.
There are “secondary” questions: Those are all other questions.



HOMEWORK

Choose one topic. Select any gospel topic where you have a question, concern or doubt. Over the next 13 weeks, study that topic until you find resolution. Use your head; use your heart. Study that topic “by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118) using reliable sources and the Spirit. The goal of this exercise is to strengthen your ability find answers and resolve issues by yourself. Share your findings with me after Lesson #15.