

LESSON 7

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

TODAY'S KEY WORD:

Study ↔ Faith

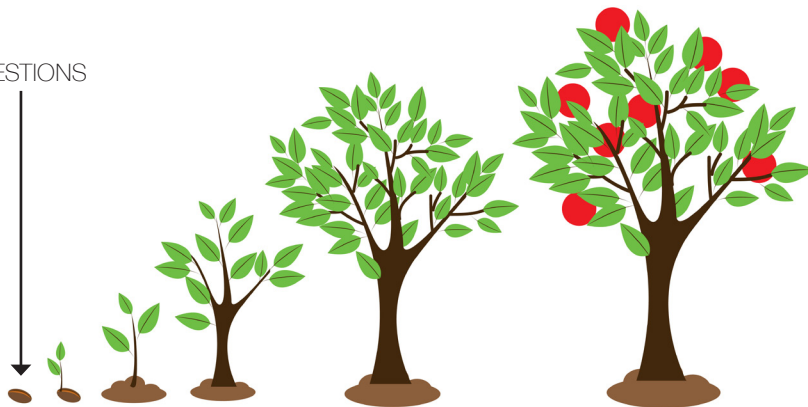
TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

**Will you find answers to your questions
“even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118)?**

“Some might feel embarrassed or unworthy because they have searching questions regarding the gospel, but they needn't feel that way. Asking questions isn't a sign of weakness; it's a precursor of growth.”

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, *The Reflection in the Water*, November 1, 2009

QUESTIONS



WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

For you to be converted and fully come unto Christ—and find answers to your most pressing questions, concerns and doubts—you must Learn (L), Apply (A) and Believe (B) gospel principles. What do these scriptures say about learning the gospel? What are other “learning” words used in these scriptures?

- Deuteronomy 6:7
- Deuteronomy 17:19
- Joshua 1:8
- John 5:39
- Acts 17:11
- 2 Timothy 2:15
- 1 Nephi 19:23
- 1 Nephi 19:24
- 2 Nephi 4:15
- Nephi 31:20
- 2 Nephi 32:3
- Enos 1:4
- Jacob 7:23
- Mosiah 1:7
- Alma 17:2
- Alma 33:2
- 3 Nephi 17:3
- 3 Nephi 23:1
- Moroni 10:3
- D&C 11:22
- D&C 26:1
- D&C 70:1
- D&C 84:85
- D&C 88:118
- D&C 138:1
- JS—M 1:37

QUOTES OF THE DAY



“My hope, especially for people who are troubled by such occurrences, is that they will ask themselves this question: ‘Am I willing to set aside or lose the entirety of restored truth because of historical events about which we may not know all of the relevant information or because of awkward experiences with other Church members?’ To judge wisely, consider the entirety of the gospel of Jesus Christ—all of the truths revealed in the dispensation of the fulness of times.” (David A. Bednar, *Religious Educator* 12, no. 2 (2011): 10–11.)



“In moments of fear or doubt or troubling times, hold the ground you have already won, even if that ground is limited. ... When those moments come and issues surface, the resolution of which is not immediately forthcoming, hold fast to what you already know and stand strong until additional knowledge comes. ... The size of your faith or the degree of your knowledge is not the issue—it is the integrity you demonstrate toward the faith you do have and the truth you already know.” (Jeffrey R. Holland, “Lord, I Believe,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 93–94.)



*“Do not answer so quickly.
Let them struggle and pay the
price to find their own answers.”*

GENERAL TYPES OF QUESTIONS

1 SEARCH

Ask questions that invite you to SEARCH for information

As you search for information, uncover the who, what, where, why, when and how. Examples:

- According to Matthew 19:22, why did the rich young man leave feeling sorrowful?
- In 1 Samuel 17:24, how did the men of Israel respond when they saw Goliath? How did David respond in verse 26?
- What counsel did Alma give his son Shiblon in Alma chapter 38, verses 5–15?

2 ANALYZE

Ask questions that invite you to ANALYZE for understanding.

As you analyze, look for CONTENT and CONTEXT.

- How does Jesus's explanation in Matthew 13:18–23 help us understand His teachings in verses 3 through 8?
 - What differences do you see between Laman and Lemuel's response to the angel's direction and Nephi's response? (1 Nephi 3:31; 4:1–7).
 - What led to the loss of the 116 pages that prompted the Lord to counsel Joseph Smith that he "should not have feared man more than God"? (D&C 3:7).
- As you analyze, look for DOCTRINE and PRINCIPLES.
- What principle is illustrated by Nephi's success in obtaining the brass plates despite great difficulty? (1 Nephi 3–4).
 - What doctrines concerning the nature of God can we learn from the First Vision? (JS—H 1:15–20).
 - What lesson can we learn from the effort made by the woman with the issue of blood to reach the Savior, and His response to her as a result? (Mark 5:24–34).

As you analyze, develop a DEEPER UNDERSTANDING of the truths. Examples:

- Why would praying always help you gain the spiritual strength necessary to overcome such temptations as speaking unkindly to others or participating in entertainment that is offensive to the Spirit? (D&C 10:5).

3 FEEL

Ask questions that invite FEELINGS about the topic.

As you search and understand, reflect on spiritual experiences. Examples:

- When have you felt the peace and joy that comes from forgiving someone?
- Think of a time when the Lord directed your decisions because you trusted in Him rather than relying on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5–6). How were you blessed for doing so?

As you search and understand, reflect on spiritual experiences. Examples:

- If you could personally express your gratitude to the Savior for His sacrifice for you, what would you tell Him?
- When have you seen others respond faithfully to trials? How has that influenced you?

4 EXPERIMENT

Ask questions that lead you to EXPERIMENT (Alma 32:27) or apply what you have learned.

Ask how you can apply what you have learned and felt. Examples:

- What changes would you need to make to better keep the Sabbath day holy so that you can be unspotted from the world? (D&C 59:9–13).
- What is something the prophet has counseled that you could follow with greater exactness? (Alma 57:1–27).

- How can the principle that if we seek the kingdom of God first, we will be blessed in other areas of our lives help you prioritize your goals? (see Matthew 6:33).



Dallin



HOMWORK

Study the word "learn" in the scriptures. On the front side of this handout, there are several scriptures that talk about learning. First, read these scriptures. Second, in your study journal, write down what you have learned about learning. Your goal in this exercise is to learn about studying using your head and heart. EXTRA CREDIT: In addition to searching "learn" in the Topical Guide, see also Education; Holy Ghost, Mission of; Knowledge; Mysteries of Godliness; Scriptures, Value of; Study; Teaching; Understanding; Wisdom.