

LDS Women's Scripture Study

Course Guidelines

A Relief Society Activity Group

*How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men
put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. . .*

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Psalm 36:7-9

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this scripture study is for you to drink of the pure "fountain", and to deepen, in a direct way, your relationship and understanding of the great and matchless Savior of the world. One of the obvious conditions of mortality is that we need daily food and drink or we weaken and eventually die. Less obvious to us, but just as true, is that our spirits need a comparable "feeding" process, or we weaken and die spiritually. There is no better metaphor for what we need to grow and prosper spiritually in this life than that of eating and drinking.

For many it is difficult to really be "fed" by reading the scriptures. We prefer fiction or historical fiction, which make events seem to come alive. Scripture commentaries may clarify confusing cultural or textual puzzles and seem to answer all our questions. "Church books" may give ready-made insights. Although all of these are useful, none of them can take the place of the Holy Scriptures themselves. The Lord's command to us is to search the SCRIPTURES. Consistent and sincere scripture study can empower you, protect you and distill upon you pure knowledge that will turn you to the Father's will and transform your soul. A woman who is able to glean insights for her own life from the scriptures has established the relationship with her Savior by which she "come[s] unto Him." She knows that the Holy Spirit has communicated something directly to her own heart and mind; this creates a bridge between our own souls and our God. It creates in our lives a confidence and a vital resource when we need help in life situations.

So, congratulations on making time to come and accept the gracious invitation of the Lord---

"Hearken diligently unto me, and remember the words which I have spoken; and come unto the Holy One of Israel, and feast upon that which perisheth not..." 2nd Nephi 9:51

GUIDELINES FOR THE STUDY

As noted, this scripture study is for YOU to learn to feast when you come to the scriptures. This is not a class in which we come to hear what a teacher has learned through his or her study. We meet to share with each other what the Lord has taught us through our own study and to encourage one another in this endeavor. We will have the best experience if we all follow these guidelines:

1. Read and answer your questions without looking at any commentary or outside sources.
2. As you read and answer questions, note down the verse where you found your answer. This helps others to understand and discuss your ideas in the group meetings.
3. Because we only meet twice as month, we hope you will attend the sharing session faithfully. You will be buoyed up by others even if your lesson is not complete. Where 2 or 3 meet in His name, He is there! In our group sharing session, to encourage all who have studied their lessons, we ask that you refrain from commenting on any question for which you have not written the answer.
4. Always begin your study with a simple prayer for the Spirit's help. What we ask for, He graciously gives. By taking the time to ask for His help in studying the scriptures, Heaven's resources are made available to us and we are grateful for what we receive.
5. We encourage you to keep a three ring binder of all your lessons and notes. This will become a valuable resource to you.
6. Sharing with each other our insights into the scriptures and our spiritual journeys creates a marvelous bond of trust and closeness. Please be sensitive and completely trustworthy. Never share something about another person who has not given their permission to do so.
7. Do not read the study notes or any outside material when answering questions. You need to know how great a resource you and the Spirit are when combined!
8. If you haven't had time to answer any of the questions, come to the group meeting anyway. You will feel the spirit there and be re-committed to scripture study for the following weeks.