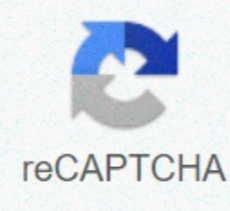




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Foundations of the restoration teacher manual

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In the revelation in Doctrine and Covenants 1:30, the Lord called the restored Church the only true and living church in the face of the whole earth that emphasizes the important role of the Church in the latter days and in our lives. Ensign or Liahona, May 2008, 20–24. Chapter 6 of the Organization of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Fullness of Times, The Student Manual, 2, of 17 Nov 1985 80–83.Jeffrey G. Cannon, Build My Church: D&C 18, 21, 22, Revelations in the Context Series, Jan 3, 2013, history.lds.org.The Restoration of the Church of Jesus ChristBegin the Restoration of the Church of Jesus ChristBegin the Lesson lesson, asking students to describe what they know about the Church that Jesus Christ created during the New Testament. Then ask: What do we think happened to the Church of Jesus Christ after the apostles died? How does this explain the need to restore the Church of Jesus Christ? Invite a student to read aloud the following statement, while students listen to ways in which the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints restored the important characteristics of the Church created by Jesus Christ during the New Testament. On April 6, 1830, just 11 days after the Book of Mormon was advertised for sale, a group of about 60 people gathered at the Peter Whitmer Sr. log cabin in Fayette, New York. There, Joseph Smith formally organized the Church, which was later referred to as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through revelation (see D&C 115:4). It was a joyous occasion where the spirit was poured out. The sacrament was administered, believers were baptized, given the gift of the Holy Ghost, and people priesthood. In the revelation received at the meeting, the Lord appointed Joseph Smith as head of the Church: seer, translator, prophet, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, the elder Father of the Church through the will of God, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ (D&C 21:1). The Church of Jesus Christ was established again on earth. Invite students to describe the qualities of the restored Church of Jesus Christ similar to those of the New Testament Church. This helps to create the historical context of the revelations. Invite a student to read aloud the title of Doctrine and Covenants 20. (You may want to point out that in the 2013 Edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, part of the historical information not mentioned in the 1981 edition was included in the section title.) Invite a student to read Doctrine and Covenants 20:1–3 aloud. Ask the class to follow along, looking for insight into the Restoration of the gospel. Ask: What truths are taught about the Restoration of the gospel in these verses? (One truth students should identify is that Joseph Smith was called by God and ordered to organize the Church of Jesus Christ.) Read aloud the following statement by President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008): Joseph Smith and his associates met in a striking log cabin in peter whitmer's farm in the quiet village of Fayette, New York, and organized the Church of Christ. Of the original six members, a large family of worshippers has grown. ... This quiet village has grown into a movement that today is scattered through about 160 nations of the land. ... This is a significant development. More Church members live in this nation than there are in this nation. That's a remarkable thing, too. No other church to come out of the soil in America has grown so fast and spread so widely. ... This is an unprecedented phenomenon. What is remarkable for you about the rapid growth of the Church in the latter days? As individuals, how can we help the Lord Church continue to grow in our day? The doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ and the responsibilities of the baptized members Explain that Doctrine and Covenants 20 was known to the early members of the Church as Church articles and covenants. This section contains many of the Lord's instructions about the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ and the responsibilities of its members. This revelation was read out at some early Church conferences. Invite students to imagine that they were 1830. Oh, my God. Invite half of the students to read Doctrine and Covenants 20:17–28 and the other half to read verses 29–36, looking for a doctrine that is important for every member of the Lord's restored Church to know. You may want to suggest that they mark what they find. After sufficient time, invite students to share the truths they have found and explain why each truth is important to them. You may want to write the following truth on the board: Through Revelation, the Lord explained the doctrine and principles on which His gospel is founded. You may want to invite half of the students to read Doctrine and Covenants 20:37 to read doctrine and covenants 20:37, looking for requirements for those who wish to be baptized. Invite the second half to read Doctrine and Covenants 20:68–69, looking for the Lord's expectations of us after baptism. Point out that the instructions found in these verses are a clear pattern for Church members. Discuss the following questions with the class: What must a person show before he or she is baptized? (Students should identify the following: Before people can be baptized, they must be humble, repent, ready to take the name of Jesus Christ, and choose to serve Him to the end.) What does the Lord expect of us after baptism? (Students' answers may vary, but they should identify the following truth: After baptism, we show the Lord our worthiness through our divine walk and conversation.) What do you think it means to manifest... God-feared walk and conversation? (D&C 20:69). Why can blessings come to Church members who walk in holiness before the Lord? (D&C 20:69). As time allows, you can point out to students that the Book of Mormon also describes doctrines and Church practices in Doctrine and Covenants 20, helping us understand that the Church of Jesus Christ has been fundamentally the same in all dispensations of the gospel. For example, the doctrines described in Doctrine and Covenants 20:17–36 are also described in the Book of Mormon. Similarly, the ordinances and practices recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 20:73–80 are also recorded in the Book of Mormon. But about a year and a half after organizing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Lord described the church greatly. Invite students to read Doctrine and Covenants 1:30 aloud. Then ask: How did the Lord describe the restored Church? (Students should express the following truth: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true and living church on earth.) What does it mean to you that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true and living church (Before students respond, you may want to remind them that this doctrine does not mean that we should know better than others.) Display the following statement by first member of the Presidency and Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and invite a student to read it aloud: Ask the class to follow along, looking for why the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is considered to be the only true and living church. This is the true Church, the only true Church, because it has priesthood keys. Only in this Church has the Lord given the power to seal the earth and seal the sky as he did in the apostle Peter's time. These keys were restored to Joseph Smith, who was then authorized to give them to members of the Quorum of the Twelve. The Lord has proclaimed that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true and living church in the whole earth (D&C 1:30). This restored Church is true because it is the Savior's Church; He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). And this is a living church because of the work and gifts of the Holy Ghost. How do the truths presented by President Eyring and Elder Bednar change the truths of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from other churches on earth? (This is the Savior's Church, it has the work and gifts of the Holy Ghost, and contains priesthood keys. You may want to suggest that students write some of these ideas on the edge of their scriptures next to Doctrine and Covenants 1:30.) Explain that President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles quoted Doctrine and Covenants 1:30 and then explained why this divinely given Description of the Church is so important. Invite a student to read aloud the following statement by President Packer: Give up this doctrine, and you cannot justify restoration. We didn't invent the doctrine of the only true church. It came from the Lord. No matter how perceived by the rest of us, no matter how blatant we seem, regardless of the criticism that is directed at us, we must teach it to all who listen. We're not saying the others don't have the truth. The Lord described them as a form of divinity. Converts to the Church can bring with them all the truth they have and have them added to it. How does this tutorial explain the need to restore? Invite students to explain how people themselves can learn that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true. Related ContentRelated Content

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