

Opening the Gate to the Covenant Path



Review



Purpose of that Instruction – Increase Spiritual Momentum

- Plan for the right invitation that is according to the level of faith of the individual
- Prepare for and teach the doctrine that underpins the invitation
- Make an inspired promise
- Bear a personal heartfelt testimony of the impact of keeping the invitation
- Follow-up to help support the individual in keeping the commitment

Plan for the Invitation(s)

- Decide on the invitation(s) to be extended
- Study and know the doctrine and supporting scriptures that underpin the invitation(s)
- Study and know the blessings associated with keeping the invitation(s)

How do we focus that spiritual momentum towards the covenant path?



The Magnifying Glass



The Three Foundational Invitations

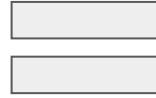
“Focus on helping them with actions that will build a foundation of faith, such as praying, reading, and attending church.”

“Some ways to act in faith include:

- Praying often and with real intent for inspiration and guidance.
- Studying the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon.
- Attending church.”

The Magnifying Glass

- Attending Sacrament Meeting
- Daily Study of the Book of Mormon
- Morning and Nightly Prayer



- These three invitations are the invitations that focus spiritual momentum towards the covenant path.
- If we begin to focus on helping our investigators do keep these three invitations as the forefront of our efforts, they will progress much quicker along the covenant path.

“My friends, I promise that as we strive to love God with all our heart, **pray in the name of Jesus Christ, study the Book of Mormon**, and prayerfully **partake of the sacrament**, we will have the ability, with the strength of the Lord, to overcome the *deceptive* practices of the adversary, to minimize *distractions* that limit our divine potential, and to resist the *discouragement* that diminishes our capacity to feel the love of our Heavenly Father and His Son. We will come to *fully* understand who we are as sons and daughters of God.”



“Power to Overcome the Adversary”
Elder Peter M Johnson October 2019 General
Conference

How does prayer help them progress?

Consistent prayer in the right way will lead to:

- Connecting with Heavenly Father.
- Inviting the Spirit to be with them, regardless of whether we are present or not.
- An increase of faith in Jesus Christ, which will help them to progress along the covenant path.
- Having spiritual witnesses of truth.
- Receiving personal revelation, guidance, and promptings.



How does studying the Book of Mormon help them progress?

Consistent study of the Book of Mormon will lead to:

- An unparalleled knowledge/testimony of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, His characteristics, and how to align our will with His.
- A testimony of the Restoration of the Church and Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith
- A knowledge of the “fulness of [the doctrine] required for our salvation.” (2 Nephi 32:3)

“Encouraging people to seek a witness from the Holy Ghost about the Book of Mormon should be a central focus of your teaching. The Book of Mormon can change their lives forever.”





President Gordon B. Hinckley taught that “those who have read [the Book of Mormon] prayerfully, be they rich or poor, learned or unlearned, have grown under its power.” He further taught:

“Without reservation I promise you that if you will prayerfully read the Book of Mormon, regardless of how many times you previously have read it, there will come into your hearts an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord. There will come a strengthened resolution to walk in obedience to his commandments, and there will come a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God” (“[The Power of the Book of Mormon](#),” Ensign, June 1988, 6).

How does coming to church help them progress?

Consistent church attendance will lead to:

- Developing close relationships with members at church, strengthening the investigator
- Connecting with the leaders at church, specifically the Bishop, EQ Pres, and RS Pres
- Witnessing the power of godliness manifested in the ordinances of the gospel.
- Feeling the presence of the Holy Ghost
- Partaking of the sacrament to renew covenants.
- Witnessing the faith and testimony of others



The Three Foundational Invitations

- These are three invitations that require repeated action, creating habits that will continually increase spiritual momentum
- No one can progress without doing these things.
- We want someone to do these three things as quickly as possible after we begin meeting with them.
- Once someone is consistently doing these three things, they will get baptized and confirmed, entering and staying on the covenant path.
- All other invitations build off of these three invitations.
- When someone keeps these three invitations, they will qualify for all the requirements for baptism as outlined in D&C 20:37 and PMG Chapter 12 pg. 209-210

Qualifications for Baptism (D&C 20:37, First Presidency)

- Humble yourself before God.(Prayer, Alma 34: 18-21)
- Desire to be baptized.(Prayer, Church, Mosiah 18:6-11)
- Come forth with a broken heart and contrite spirit.(Prayer, Church, Read, Mosiah 4:5)
- Repent of all your sins and pray for forgiveness.(Prayer, Enos 1:4)
- Be willing to take upon yourself the name of Christ.(Prayer, Church, Read, Mosiah 5:8)
- Have a determination to serve Christ to the end. (Church, 2 Nephi 31:19-21)
- Show by your works that you have received the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of your sins.(Read, Pray, Church, Enos 1:4, Alma 5:45-46)
- Respond appropriately to the baptismal interview questions.(Read, Pray)
- Receive all the missionary lessons. (Pray, Read)
- Meet the elders quorum president, Relief Society president, and bishop.(Church)
- Attend several sacrament meetings.(Church)

Required Commitments for Baptism (PMG App)

- Read from the Book of Mormon (Read)
- Pray about Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon (Pray)
- Keep the Sabbath Day Holy and attend church weekly (Church)
- Meet the Bishop (Church)
- Keep the Ten Commandments(Read, Church)
- Live the Law of Chastity (Pray, Read)
- Obey and Honor the Law (Read, Alma 1:1, 1 Peter 2:13-14)
- Obey the Law of Tithing after Baptism (Pray, Read, Church)
- Obey the Word of Wisdom (Pray, Read)
- Be Interviewed for Baptism and Confirmation (Pray, Read, Church)
- Be Baptized and Confirmed (Pray, Read, Church)

Variability of the Foundational Invitations

These invitations to be presented in a way meets an individual's needs or desires:

- If someone is yearning for peace,
 - Invite them to pray to invite the Holy Ghost into their lives
 - Invite them to read selected passages from the Book of Mormon
 - Invite them to come to church
- If someone is mourning the loss of a loved one,
 - Invite them to pray to invite the Holy Ghost to bring them comfort
 - Invite them to study from the Book of Mormon, using the index section about “Resurrection” to gain hope.
 - Invite them to come to church to meet members can share their experiences with the temple and eternal families.

Extend these three invitations as a habit, not an event.

- “Will you begin attending church with us weekly?” not “Will you come visit us at church on Sunday?”

The Next Step (Again)

Seek First to
Understand



Ask Big and Inspired Questions,
Discern, Use Silence, and allow
the Holy Ghost to connect and
ignite the Light of Christ



Invite for action so they
can maintain and grow
their spiritual
momentum



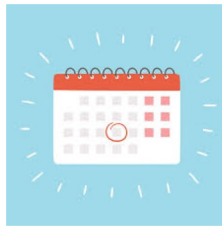
Focus spiritual
momentum towards
progression on the
covenant path

Planning for Progress

“Create a schedule for the events that are needed to prepare for baptism and confirmation. Review this schedule with the person.”

- From the beginning of the progression process, we should plan for how and when we will extend the three foundational invitations.
- As we use these three invitations to meet the needs of the individual, it will also progress them towards baptism.
- The three foundational invitations are the invitations that help to qualify someone for baptism and confirmation.





Planning for Progress

- Plan for the three foundational invitations to help investigators progress faster
- The best way to motivate someone to do these things is to show them how these three invitations address their spiritual needs.
- Plan which order we will extend these invitations and how. We do this from the first day we meet someone.
- Use the in-depth planning process that we discussed last transfer to plan for specific visits.
- Once you have helped someone to do these three things, you can then focus on teaching the rest of the PMG principles and extending the lesson-specific invitations as you do.
- Helping your people to do these three things early in the teaching process will help progress people quickly, reducing the number of people we have on date that never get baptized.
- Use these three foundational invitations to help investigators meet all of the qualifications for baptism outlined in D&C 20:37

Scenario: Kofi

You met a man named Kofi. He stopped attending church about a year ago. Throughout his lifetime, he has visited many churches, but he is dissatisfied with what he sees. He is fed up with the hypocrisy he sees at church and the focus on money, which is why he stopped attending church. He doesn't feel much of a desire to go to church again. When asked what would motivate him to go to church again, he said, "well, if God or an angel came and told me to go, I would go." Kofi did open up to tell you that he is a very busy man and always feels tired. He wants more peace and rest in his life, but he doesn't know where to find it. He also doesn't know why God sent him to the earth, so he lacks needed direction for his life. He is available to meet with you, and he can read English well.

Example

- We will invite Kofi to begin attending church. We will teach him about Our Life on Earth, specifically about how part of his purpose is to learn to use his agency righteously. We will transition to teaching him about Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy as a way to use his agency righteously.
- After Kofi begins coming to church, we will invite him to study from the Book of Mormon. We will teach him about prophets, The Book of Mormon, and Study the Scriptures. We will invite him to read 3 Nephi 11 to come to know some of what the Book of Mormon talks about and set up a future discussion about baptism.
- After Kofi begins to study Book of Mormon, we will follow-up on what he learned about baptism and learn about the doctrine of baptism. We will then invite him to be baptized and confirmed.
- After Kofi accepts to be baptized and confirmed, we will invite him to begin praying the right way consistently in order to have heaven's help in preparing for his baptism. We will learn about Pray Often and Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost.
- Now, we will continue to teach the rest of the 40 PMG principles, continually reinviting Kofi to come to church, read from the Book of Mormon, and pray in the right way.

Scenario: Bright

You've met a man named Bright. Bright is very religious, and loves God and wants to learn more about him. He loves to visit different churches with his family and friends. Despite all this Bright still feels an overwhelming sense of anxiety, and regularly feels depressed. Because you took time to seek to understand Bright, asking big/inspired questions, you've had a spiritual experience with him, in which he's told you that he wants to find peace. Bright speaks good english and is free to meet with you in the evenings.

Discussion: Planning for Progress

With the scenario you are given plan how you will use each of the three foundational invitations to address Brights need, and help him progress towards his baptism.

Plan how you will help Bright to begin....

- Attending Church Weekly
- Praying Daily
- Studying the Book of Mormon

Entering the Covenant Path through Baptism is our Goal

“Keeping commitments prepares people for ordinances and covenants along the path of lifelong conversion.”

As someone keeps the three foundational invitations they will:

- Progress to their baptism in a timely manner
- Become spiritually self-reliant
- Enter into and stay on the covenant path



Invitations

- Early in the progression process, plan and put emphasis on helping people to begin attending church, studying the Book of Mormon, and praying the right way in order to focus their spiritual momentum towards the covenant path.
- Help your investigators establish these habits so they are prepared for all of the covenants they will make starting at baptism.