

THE APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

“I have sent forth the fulness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph” (D&C 35:17).

The outlines in this unit will help the young women understand the Great Apostasy and how Jesus Christ restored His Church and the fulness of His gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. In this unit the young women can learn about the key events of the Restoration and discover the relevance of those events in their lives. Learning about the Apostasy and Restoration can help young women value and appreciate the precious truths that God has restored in our day. The experiences they have in this unit can strengthen their testimony of the Book of Mormon, the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and Heavenly Father’s love for His children.

Why was a restoration necessary?

During His mortal ministry, Jesus Christ established His Church with priesthood authority. It was led by prophets and apostles who taught true doctrine and received revelation that was recorded as scripture. With the death of the apostles, priesthood authority was taken from the earth, revelation ceased, and essential doctrines were lost or corrupted. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Church that Jesus Christ established was restored.

- What effects of the Apostasy have you seen in the world? How has the Restoration of the gospel blessed your family?
- What do the young women need to know about the Apostasy and Restoration? How can an understanding of the Apostasy and Restoration help them?

Activity idea: Give each young woman the name of a person mentioned in Elder Robert D. Hales’s talk “Preparations for the Restoration and the Second Coming: ‘My Hand Shall Be over Thee’” (such as William Tyndale, Johannes Gutenberg, and Martin Luther). Ask the young women to read or watch the talk and find out what the person did to prepare the world for the Restoration. Invite them to share what they found. (create a skit, or make dioramas!) How have the sacrifices these people made affected the lives of the young women today?

Why do we need the Book of Mormon?

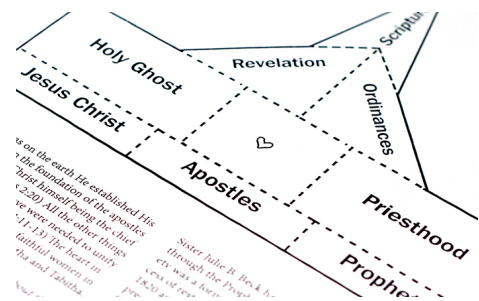
- Consider your feelings about the Book of Mormon. How has it brought you closer to Jesus Christ? How did you gain your testimony of the Book of Mormon? How has this knowledge helped you in your life?
- Think of the young women in your class. What experiences have they had with the Book of Mormon? How will a testimony of its truth bring strength to them in their teen years and in their future?

Activity idea: Write your testimonies in copies of the Book of Mormon. Highlight meaningful scriptures, then give to a friend or family member.

How was the priesthood restored?

- How does our claim to priesthood authority make Latter-day Saints unique? How has the priesthood blessed your life?
- What do the young women already know about the restoration of the priesthood? How can you help them understand the blessings they have received because of the restoration of the priesthood?

Activity idea: Create a family home evening lesson about the restoration of the priesthood. Here are some possibilities: <http://ayearoffhe.blogspot.com/2011/08/2011-wk-34-priesthood.html> and <http://inkablinka.com/2011/01/a-restoration-of-all-things.html>



What was Joseph Smith’s role in the Restoration?

- How has your life been blessed by the truths restored through Joseph Smith? How did you gain your testimony of Joseph Smith? How can you encourage the young women to gain testimonies of their own?
- How can studying the life, testimony, and sacrifice of Joseph Smith deepen the testimony of each young woman in your class? How can hearing the testimonies of others help?

Why is the First Vision important?

- How did you receive a witness that Joseph Smith saw God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ? How has your life been blessed because of this testimony? What is the significance of the First Vision for you?
- How can studying the First Vision deepen the testimony of each young woman in your class? How can you help the young women understand the significance of this great event?