

Lesson 13

Doctrine and Covenants 68–75

The following assignments include various learning activities, such as questions, lists, essays, charts, comparisons, contrasts, and surveys. To receive credit for this lesson, you must complete the number of assignments indicated below and submit them to your institute instructor or administrator. You may submit your work either electronically or on paper, handwritten or typed.

Each lesson should take approximately 60–90 minutes to complete, the same amount of time you would typically spend in a weekly institute class. Since reading the scripture block listed in the lesson heading is expected of all institute students prior to class, the estimated time for each assignment does not include the time you need to spend reading the scripture block.

Complete assignment 1 and any two of the other assignments:

1. Doctrine and Covenants 68. “These Sayings Are True and Faithful”

- a. Read Doctrine and Covenants 68:1–5 and the institute student manual commentary “D&C 68:3–5: What Is Scripture?” (page 144). Write in your own words a definition of *scripture*. Explain in writing how the principles contained in these verses help us understand the importance of the following:
 - Seeking the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.
 - Listening to and heeding the counsel of Church leaders.
 - Listening to or watching general conference
 - Reading conference talks in the May and November issues of the *Ensign* or *Liahona*
- b. Read Doctrine and Covenants 68:6–12. What instruction did the Lord give the elders in these verses? Write a few sentences that explain how the principles contained in verses 1–5 can help individuals fulfill the calling in verse 8 to preach the gospel.
- c. Read Doctrine and Covenants 68:13–21 and the student manual commentary “D&C 68:15–21: Under What Conditions Can a Literal Descendant of Aaron Be a Bishop without Counselors?” (pages 144–45). Then write answers for the following questions:

- What office in the Church is described in verses 15–21? How does understanding which calling these verses refer to help prevent confusion?
- How do verses 20–21 say we maintain the divinely designated order of this priesthood office?

- d. Read Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28, 31 and the student manual commentary “D&C 68:25–26, 31: Parents Are to Teach the Gospel to Their Children” (pages 145–46). Write a few sentences explaining the responsibility that parents have to help their children understand and live the gospel. Include in your writing what the Lord said would happen if parents did not teach their children these principles.
- e. Read Doctrine and Covenants 68:29–34. Identify in writing three expectations the Lord placed upon those living in Zion. Briefly explain how living these principles would better bless your life.

2. Doctrine and Covenants 69. Preserving Historical Records

- a. Read Doctrine and Covenants 69, including the section heading. Write a few sentences explaining how Church history, such as what the Lord instructed John Whitmer to record, could be a source of spiritual strength to those who study it.
- b. Consider the Lord’s counsel to John Whitmer in verse 8, and read the student manual commentary “D&C 69:8: Of What Benefit Are Church Records to Future Generations?” (pages 147–48). Write a short paragraph that explains how your personal record (journal or personal history) could be of great benefit to your family living and yet unborn. If you do not keep a journal, make plans to begin to do so. Daily or weekly journal entries are the building blocks of personal histories.

3. Doctrine and Covenants 70. Managing Our Responsibilities

The Lord taught important principles of stewardship through the process of publishing the revelations which now make up the Doctrine and Covenants. Read Doctrine and Covenants 70:3–5,

9–18; 72:3–4. Also read the student manual “Historical Background” for section 70 and the commentaries “D&C 70:3: What Does It Mean to Be a Steward?” and “D&C 70:5–7: Stewardships Involve Both Spiritual and Temporal Needs” (page 149). Then write answers to the following questions:

- From what you have read, what other words could you use for *steward* and *stewardship* that mean the same thing?
- From verses 12–14 in section 70, what is the relationship between the manifestations of the Spirit and those who manage their responsibilities wisely over earthly blessings? What is promised to those who show concern for the temporal well-being of others?

4. Doctrine and Covenants 71, 73. Mission to Refute Falsehoods and Proclaim the Truth

Read Doctrine and Covenants sections 71 and 73, including the section headings, as well as the student manual “Historical Background” for both sections (pages 150, 153). Then write answers to the following questions:

- How was this missionary journey different from most proselyting missions?
- How were Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon to know what to say to the enemies of the Church and their false reports? How should this counsel influence us as we defend the Church in our day?
- How have you personally seen the promise given by the Lord in Doctrine and Covenants 71:9–11 fulfilled?
- From Doctrine and Covenants 73:4–5, how were Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon to continue the labors of this mission, even after recommencing the translation of the Bible? How does this pattern provide an example for those who have been released from a full-time missionary assignment?

5. Doctrine and Covenants 72. Bishops

Many of the responsibilities of a bishop that are identified in Doctrine and Covenants 72 pertain to the law of consecration that the Saints were living at that time. However, bishops today have many similar responsibilities. After reading Doctrine and Covenants 72, identify in writing at least three

duties of a bishop today that are like those of the bishops in the early days of the Church. Include the verse where you found each duty. Then respond to the following in writing:

- In what ways have you seen bishops perform their priesthood duties?
- How have the actions of current or past bishops blessed you personally?
- What can you do to help your bishop in his many responsibilities?

6. Doctrine and Covenants 74. “An Explanation of 1 Corinthians 7:14”

Read 1 Corinthians 7:14; Doctrine and Covenants section 74; and the student manual commentary “D&C 74:1–7: Little Children” (page 155). Then write answers for the following questions:

- What difficulties surrounded the law of Moses and the law of circumcision in the early Christian church?
- What did the Lord teach in section 74 about little children?
- How does understanding this doctrine help you better understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ?

7. Doctrine and Covenants 75. “Hearken, O Ye Who Have Given Your Names to Go Forth to Proclaim My Gospel”

- a. Review Doctrine and Covenants 75:1–11, 13, 16. From these verses, make a chart like the one below, listing what the Lord commanded and the promises He made to those who fulfilled his commandments:

Those Who Gave Their Names to Proclaim the Gospel	
Commandments	Promises

- b. Write a paragraph describing how these commandments and promises have blessed you or someone you know as a result of missionary service.