

Lesson 7

Doctrine and Covenants 35–41

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 assignments 2, 4, and 5, and either assignment 1 or 3:

1. Doctrine and Covenants 35. Sidney Rigdon—a Forerunner

- a. Read the section heading for Doctrine and Covenants 35, Doctrine and Covenants 35:3–6, and the institute student manual commentary “D&C 35:3–6: ‘Sidney, . . . Thou Wast Sent Forth . . . to Prepare the Way’” (page 71). Also skim through the references for “Rigdon, Sidney” in the index of your triple combination (page 307). Then answer the following questions in writing:
 - What religious work had Sidney Rigdon done before he accepted the restored gospel?
 - What principle do you learn about the person who performs ordinations in the Church? (see verse 2).
 - In what ways do you think Sidney Rigdon’s prior work helped prepare him to receive the restored gospel and become a leader in the Church?
 - The Lord told Sidney Rigdon that he had been prepared “for a greater work” (verse 3). Using the entries in the triple combination index, make a list of what Sidney Rigdon did after accepting the restored gospel that was greater than his previous ministry.
 - In verse 4 the Lord compared Sidney Rigdon to John the Baptist, the forerunner

who prepared the way for the Savior. How was Sidney Rigdon a forerunner of the restored Church?

- b. Read Doctrine and Covenants 35:13–24, and write answers to the following questions:
 - What do verses 13–18 teach you about the role of Joseph Smith in the restoration of the gospel?
 - In what ways was Sidney Rigdon to be a help and a blessing for Joseph Smith?

2. Doctrine and Covenants 36. Edward Partridge—a Servant of the Lord

Read Doctrine and Covenants 36 and the student manual commentaries “D&C 36:2: ‘I Will Lay My Hand upon You’” and “D&C 36:6: What Does It Mean to ‘Come Forth out of the Fire, Hating Even the Garments Spotted with the Flesh?’” (pages 72–73). Then write answers to the following questions:

- The Lord told Edward Partridge, “I will lay my hand upon you.” How did the Lord do this? In what ways has the Lord laid His hand upon you?
- Section 36 uses some interesting phrases. Choose four of the following phrases to write a short explanation about, and explain how they relate to your life:
 - “Mighty One of Israel”
 - “As with the voice of a trump”
 - “Peaceable things of the kingdom”
 - “Hosanna”
 - “Untoward generation”
 - “Come forth out of the fire, hating even the garments spotted with the flesh”
 - “Singleness of heart”
 - “Gird up your loins”

3. Doctrine and Covenants 37–38. “Assemble Together at the Ohio”

- a. Read the student manual “Historical Background” for section 37 (page 74), and read Doctrine and Covenants 37. Explain in writing what this revelation describes about the westward migration of the Church to Ohio, and then write answers to the following questions:

- What did the Lord want Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon to do temporarily instead of translating?
- What do you learn about the Saints in Colesville from the Lord’s comment about them in Doctrine and Covenants 37:2?
- How is it helpful for you to know that the Lord is mindful of you and your community’s prayers?
- Note that the Lord did not tell the Saints in section 37 *why* they were to move from New York to the Ohio. The Lord did not answer that question until Doctrine and Covenants 38:31–32; 39:15. How do Ether 12:6 and Proverbs 3:5–6 help you understand why the Lord does not always tell us why He commands us to do some things?

b. Read Doctrine and Covenants 38:1–2, 7–9, 13–15. In writing, identify some principles you learn from these verses concerning the Lord and His knowledge. Also write how understanding these principles leads to increased trust in the Lord.

c. In Doctrine and Covenants 38:17–42, the Lord explained some principles concerning the “land of promise.” On a piece of paper, make two columns. From these verses, list information in the first column that describes the land of promise that the righteous will have for their inheritance. In the second column, list the requirements the Lord gave in these verses to those who wish to obtain this land of promise. Then answer the following questions in writing:

- How do the requirements that the Lord gave to those who would obtain the land of promise help you better understand the description of Zion given in Moses 7:18?
- How did the Saints help the Lord fulfill His promise to endow them “with power from on high”? (D&C 38:32; see student manual “Historical Background” for section 109 [page 270]).

4. Doctrine and Covenants 39–40. James Covill and the Lost Promise

Read the student manual “Historical Background” for sections 39–40 (page 79), Doctrine and Covenants 39:7–24, the section heading for Doctrine and Covenants 40, and Doctrine and

Covenants 40:1–3. Then write answers for the following questions:

- What did the Lord say in Doctrine and Covenants 39:8 about James Covill’s heart?
- From Doctrine and Covenants 39:11–24, what blessings were promised to James Covill if he would hearken to the Lord’s voice?
- According to Doctrine and Covenants 40, what caused the change in James Covill’s heart? What did the Lord say would happen to him because of that change?
- What can the account of James Covill and Doctrine and Covenants 130:20–21 teach you about receiving blessings from the Lord? (see also D&C 132:5).
- What can you do to keep your heart right before the Lord so you can obey His word and receive the blessings He promises you?

5. Doctrine and Covenants 41. True Disciples of Jesus Christ

a. Read Doctrine and Covenants 41:1–6. Summarize in writing the Lord’s description of a true disciple.

b. Edward Partridge was called to be the first bishop in the Church (see verses 9–12). Since that time, thousands of faithful men have been called to serve as bishops and branch presidents, just as Bishop Partridge was. Write what you think each of the following statements teaches about the office of bishop:

- “I have called my servant” (verse 9).
- “He should be appointed by the voice of the church” (verse 9).
- He should be “ordained a bishop” (verse 9).
- “This because his heart is pure before me” (verse 11).

Explain in writing how these statements could encourage you to more faithfully sustain your bishop or branch president.

c. The Lord described Edward Partridge in verse 11, as a man without guile. Read John 1:45–49 about another man with no guile. Find three synonyms for *guile* and examine your own life for any guile. Write a paragraph about ways you can become a person “in whom there is no guile.”