

# Student 1

Invite your group to imagine that they attended a sacrament meeting in which a returned missionary talked about his mission. During his talk, he related that he had baptized several people. A week later, another returned missionary talked in sacrament meeting about her mission and related that she had taught many people who were eventually baptized after she had been transferred to other areas.

- How would you respond if someone said the missionary who baptized several people on his mission was more successful than the missionary whose investigators were not baptized until after she had left the area?

Write the words *planted* and *watered* on a piece of paper, and show it to your group. Explain that Paul compared missionaries to people who plant seeds and water crops. Remind your group that the Saints in Corinth had begun dividing into groups based on who had baptized them. They believed their status in the Church was based on the importance of the person who baptized them. (See 1 Corinthians 1:10–16.)

Take turns with the members of your group reading aloud from 1 Corinthians 3:4–9. Ask the group to follow along, looking for what Paul said about the missionaries who had taught and baptized the people in Corinth.

- According to verse 5, what did Paul say he and Apollos were? (Point out verse 5, footnote *a*, and explain that *ministers* means servants.)
- According to verses 6–7, what did Paul say about missionaries who plant the seeds of the gospel and missionaries who help those seeds grow?

If necessary, point out the phrases “neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth” in verse 7, and explain that Paul used these phrases to teach that neither of these roles is more important than God’s role.

- What does the phrase “God that giveth the increase” (verse 7) mean? (It is God, through the Holy Ghost, who causes the changes in people’s hearts that lead to conversion, not those who teach and baptize.)
- What truth can we learn from 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 about our role and God’s role in helping others become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ? (After your group responds, invite them to write the following truth in their scriptures next to 1 Corinthians 3:6–7: **While we can help others learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ, it is through the power of the Holy Ghost that people are converted.**)

Clarify that in order for people to receive the Holy Ghost and be converted, they must do their part by exercising faith and following God’s commandments.

- How do you think knowing this truth might have helped the Corinthian Saints become more united?

Ask your group how this truth could help them respond in the scenario about the two returned missionaries.

- Why is it important for us to understand that it is the Holy Ghost, not our own power, that converts?

