

Teach Doctrines & Principles
Joint RS – PH Lesson– Mike Baird

Teaching the word from the scriptures has a "more powerful effect".....	1
Examples.....	2
True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior.....	3
Examples.....	3
Application.....	3
Teaching.....	3
Changing behaviors.....	3
Answering Questions.....	3
The Holy Ghost guides.....	4

Teaching the word from the scriptures has a "more powerful effect"

- Alma 31:5
"now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, *it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword*, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God"
- Mike Baird's personal experience
 - Experience with person in my office –
 - "What am I going to say..."
 - Scripture came to mind
 - Led me to conclude:
 - "Teaching from the scriptures and from the words of modern day prophets, has a greater and 'more powerful effect' than my own words alone"
 - Scriptures such as this then led be to decide I needed to study more so that things could be brought to remembrance by the Holy Ghost
 - D&C 84:85
"Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say; but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man"
 - Experience with President Kimball and Repentance

- Did not feel my counseling with regards to repentance was as it needed to be
 - Felt an overwhelming desire and obligation to not "short change" anyone by my inadequacies
- Searching in Gospelink and found chapter 16 of "Faith proceeds the Miracle" which is titled "Be Ye Clean"
 - Tells of true experience with a young couple who were engaged to be married (in the Temple) but had broken the law of Chastity
 - At every point he answered their questions by teaching from the scriptures or from quotes by modern day prophets.
- I was amazed at President Kimball and felt an overwhelming desire to be able to teach using the scriptures as he did
- During the next month I spent over 100 hours studying and outlining what I called the Doctrine of Forgiveness
 - Used the Miracle of Forgiveness as a guide
 - Outlined the doctrines
 - Ended up with a 12 page document which outlines 13 major doctrinal points relating to Repentance and Forgiveness.
- This:
 - Clarified the doctrines in my mind
 - Provided an outline I have used in Firesides and in counseling
 - Provided something to give someone to study that is more concise than the Miracle of Forgiveness
- This experience and the subsequent benefits from it has lead me to similarly study and outline doctrinal 51 topics since
 - I have used what I have learned countless times to teach from the scriptures when counseling or in other settings

Examples

- Repentance
 - Isaiah 1:18
 - Read then testify that a person can be clean if they repent
- Bitterness
 - Alma 7:11-13
 - Read then testify that the Savior understands our problems

True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior

- Boyd K Packer
"The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior. Preoccupation with unworthy behavior can lead to unworthy behavior. That is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel." ("Little Children," Ensign, Nov. 1986, 16)
- The focus for changing others should be on teaching doctrines and principles not on their behaviors

Examples

- Sabbath Day observance
 - D&C 59:9-15
 - Versus a list of to do and not to do
- Fast Offerings
 - Isaiah 58:3-12
 - Versus a list of to do and not to do with regards to fasting

Application

Teaching

- Teachers should focus on teaching doctrines and principles not behaviors in lessons
 - Each lesson has certain doctrines and principles to be taught
 - We should not stray outside the "box" drawn up by the lesson materials
 - Leaders should ensure that teachers are teaching these doctrines and principles

Changing behaviors

- Decide what behavior it is you want changed *then*:
 - Decide what doctrines and principles to teach to effect the change

Answering Questions

- "What is *your* interpretation of the (scripture, handbook, prophet's saying) as it applies to the issue?
- How do you feel this doctrine or principle applies to your problem?

The Holy Ghost guides

- Each one of us has the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide us in *each* situation as to *how* the doctrines and principles apply if we do not already know
 - 2 Nephi 32:1-5 (Nephi)

"And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts?

Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?

Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, *feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.*

Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive *the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.*"
 - Mike Baird

"We as members of the Cooper Mountain Ward need to have a greater reliance upon the Holy Ghost in our lives. And that need is going to grow greater" ("The Spirit in our lives", Cooper Mountain Ward sacrament meeting, Jan 26, 2003)