Lesson Plan: “A Prepared Mind”

Objectives:
- Emphasize that we can better influence unexpected ideas or opportunities by preparing beforehand.
- Talk about how we can prepare through spiritual and educational means.

Reinforces Principle of: Preparedness

Each lesson contains 5 timed activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family’s schedule. Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

**Reverence Time:** Song, prayer, scripture and video clip
**Lesson Time:** Lesson summary and points to ponder
**Story Time:** Story
**Activity Time:** Object lesson or activity
**Treat Time:** Prayer, theme related recipe & music video
Sing Together: Children’s Songbook #300 “Families Can Be Together Forever.”
If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:
http://www.lds.org/cm
(Note: Navigate to the Interactive Church Music Player where you can listen to and print Church
hymns and children’s songs.)

Prayer:

Scripture Time: Doctrine and Covenants 109:14–16

14. And do thou grant, Holy Father, that all those who shall worship in this
house may be taught words of wisdom out of the best books, and that they may
seek learning even by study, and also by faith, as thou hast said;
15. And that they may grow up in thee, and receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost,
and be organized according to thy laws, and be prepared to obtain every needful
thing;
16. And that this house may be a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of
faith, a house of glory and of God, even thy house;

Video Clip: Watch chapter 8 from the animated Complete Learning System, *Louis Pasteur*
DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)
Lesson Summary:
Louis Pasteur wrote, “In the field of observation, chance favors only the prepared mind.”

What does the word chance mean? (Unexpected opportunity to do or achieve something.)

What does prepared mean? (Make oneself ready to do or deal with something.)

How did Louis Pasteur prepare himself for the insight needed to discover vaccines for chicken cholera and rabies? (Discuss ideas. Explain that sudden insight doesn’t just happen, but is born thru preparation.)

Louis Pasteur, struggling with his own limitations from a stroke, was not deterred by scientific criticism nor failed experiments. His determination, courage and hard work prepared him to perfect his vaccines.

How have our lives been blessed by Louis Pasteur’s preparation? (Discuss ideas.)

How can we prepare ourselves to temporally bless our lives and the lives of others? (Discuss ideas. Examples: Get a good education, work hard, be courageous, have determination, etc...)

President Brigham Young taught, “Our education should be such as to improve our minds and fit us for increased usefulness; to make us of greater service to the human family.”
Discourses of Brigham Young, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1941]

How can we prepare ourselves to receive the spiritual blessings the Lord has promised us? (Discuss thoughts. Examples: Obey our parents, keep the commandments, study the scriptures, pray, pay tithing, be baptized, serve missions, marry in the temple, etc...”

“However much faith to obey God we now have, we will need to strengthen it continually and keep it refreshed constantly. ... Learning to start early and to be steady are the keys to spiritual preparation. ... Decisions now to exercise faith and be steady in obedience will in time produce great faith and assurance. That is the spiritual preparedness we all will need.”
Henry B. Eyring, Liahona, Nov 2005 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
Points to Ponder:

What are some examples where we need to prepare both spiritually and temporally? (Discuss ideas.)

“You need to prepare to serve a mission long before you submit an application. ... You prepare temporally by saving money, staying healthy, and learning to be independent. You prepare spiritually by building a testimony of and commitment to the Savior and His restored Church.”

David A. Edwards, New Era, Mar 2007 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

“We must prepare young women with skills, both temporal and spiritual, that will bless their future homes.” Susan W. Tanner, Liahona, Jun 2005 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

“With God, and also with those who understand the principles of life and salvation, the Priesthood, the oracles of truth and the gifts and callings of God to the children of men, there is no difference in spiritual and temporal labors—all are one. If I am in the line of my duty, I am doing the will of God, whether I am preaching; praying, laboring with my hands for an honorable support; whether I am in the field, mechanic’s shop, or following mercantile business, or wherever duty calls, I am serving God as much in one place as another; and so it is with all, each in his place, turn and time.”

Living the Gospel, Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Quotes:

“Our children should not be neglected; they should receive a proper education in both spiritual and temporal things. That is the best legacy any parents can leave to their children.”

Wilford Woodruff

“The real life we’re preparing for is eternal life. Secular knowledge has for us eternal significance. Our conviction is that God, our Heavenly Father, wants us to live the life that He does. All we can learn that is true while we are in this life will rise with us in the Resurrection. And all that we can learn will enhance our capacity to serve.”

Henry B. Eyring, New Era, Apr 2009 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
“I don’t want to go to school?” Scott moaned. “I’m tired.”

Mother open the curtains and the soft morning light crept through the room. “Come on, Scotty, it’s a beautiful day outside. There’s even ‘popcorn popping on the apricot tree’” she sang.

“Ugh!” Scott mumbled while pulling the covers over his head.

Mother sat down on the edge of the bed and tickled Scott. “Stop, stop! You win!” Scott giggled, “I’m getting up.”

“Hurry up,” Mother coaxed. “You’ve only got fifteen minutes before family scripture study.”

After Scott was up and dressed he plopped down on the couch. “Where are your scriptures?” Father asked.

“They’re too hard to read,” Scott complained. “Can’t I just listen?”

“If you’d pay more attention to your school work instead of playing in that dumb tree house they wouldn’t be so hard for you to read,” Brenda teased.

“It’s not a stupid tree house,” Scott protested. “It’s my fire station. That’s why Dad put a pole I can slide down in it. And since I’m going to be a firefighter I don’t need to be a good reader.”

“Firefighters do too need to be good readers. Other wise they wouldn’t be able to read street addresses in order to find the fire,” Brenda taunted.

“And if you don’t read your scriptures,” Brice added, “How will you be able to hear the Spirit when He tells you where to find the people who are trapped in the fire?”

“They have a point, Scott,” Mother agreed. “Now, go get your scriptures, Son, so we can get started.”

That evening Scott’s teacher called Father. “I’m sorry, Mrs. Vance, but I’ll be on a business trip that week,” Father spoke into the phone. ... “Scott’s mother? Yes, she was a high school music teacher before we had children.” ... “I think that’s a great idea. Hold on one moment and you can ask her.”
“Scott are you ready? We don’t want us to be late for for career week,” Mother coaxed.

“I don’t want to go! The other kids will make fun of me ‘cause you’re just a piano teacher!”

Mother smiled. “I’m not just a piano teacher. I’m a very good piano teacher. Plus, if I embarrass you too bad we’ll move far, far away,” Mother teased.

“I’m sorry, Mom,” Scott apologized. “You won’t embarrass me. You are a good piano teacher. After all you’ve been able to teach me!”

After Mother’s presentation she and Scott walked to the cafeteria to eat lunch. “So, did I embarrass you?” she asked.

“No way! Everyone loved you. A bunch of my friends even want to take lessons from you,” Scott answered enthusiastically. “But, Mom, How come you keep taking music classes when you’re already such a good piano player?”

“It’s simple, Scott. I love learning and the more I learn the more I can teach my students,” Mother replied, “You know, Son, our knowledge is the one thing that we take with us when we die.”

Scott thought about his shiny new fire truck, the money in his piggy bank and his tree house. They were all things he liked, but Mom was right, he couldn’t take them with him to Heaven. But, learning all the multiplications, memorizing scriptures in Primary, those were things he could always keep. “I should try harder in school,” Scott thought.

The next day Scott rushed home after school. “Mom, Mom, Brenda was right!” Scott exclaimed. “Jason’s dad came to career day. He’s a firefighter and He said that you have to study all kinds of things and take certification exams and write reports and everything to be a firefighter. So if I want to be a firefighter I have to learn all kinds of things!”

“No matter what career you choose, Son, your quest for knowledge should never end.”

“Jason’s dad also told us that even after studying and practicing everything about fighting fires there are times when the smoke is so thick he can’t see two inches in front of him. That’s when he has to rely on his instincts to guide him. But, when I’m fighting fires, I want the Spirit to guide me. So no more grumbling ’bout scripture study!

by Margie Nauta Lee
What you need: A copy of the “The Prepared Mind” activity (artwork included with this lesson) and scissors. Optional: Print on or glue to cardstock.

Preparation
1. Print out artwork.
2. Cut along dotted lines.

Activity:
1. Explain: Louis Pasteur said, “Chance favors only the prepared mind.”

2. Ask: What is a prepared mind? (Discuss ideas.)

3. Explain: “As Latter-day Saints we believe in education, and we have a philosophy about how and why we should pursue it. Our religious faith teaches us that we should seek learning by the Spirit and that we have a stewardship to use our knowledge for the benefit of mankind.” Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, Apr 2009

4. Ask: Do you think after preparing his mind that the “chance” or opportunity given to Louis Pasteur to benefit mankind was inspired by the Spirit? (Discuss thoughts.)

5. Explain: We might not all be great scientists like Louis Pasteur, but we all can prepare our minds to benefit mankind in some way, whether it’s in our chosen professions or our personal lives.

   a. Go through the cards and discuss how “Prepared Minds” can help each “Person” benefit mankind and things that they might have done to prepare.
   b. Place the six “Person” cards in three rows with space for “Prepared Minds” cards to go next to them.
   c. Mix up “Prepared Minds” cards and place one next to each “Person” card that is not its match.
   d. Take turns trading places with two “Prepared Mind” cards at a time until each “Person” card lines up with their “Prepared Mind” card.

7. Quote: “The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.”
   
   B. B. King

8. Ask: What have you learned from this activity that nobody can take away from you? (Discuss ideas.)
I prepared my mind so that I can benefit mankind by growing and providing fruits and vegetables.

I prepared my mind so that I can benefit mankind by providing medical care for patients.

I prepared my mind so that I can benefit mankind by providing emergency assistance and putting out threatening fires.
HUSBAND/FATHER

I prepared my mind so that I can benefit mankind by providing a loving, spiritual and safe home in order to give my children a good foundation to build their lives upon.

SON

I am preparing my mind so that I can benefit mankind by becoming a missionary, a productive member of society and a righteous husband and father.

DAUGHTER

I am preparing my mind so that I can benefit mankind by becoming a productive member of society and a righteous wife/mother.

FUTURE MISSIONARY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
TEACHER

I prepared my mind so that I can benefit mankind by providing a good education for today's youth.

WIFE/MOTHER

I prepared my mind so that I might benefit mankind by providing a loving, spiritual and nurturing home in order to give my children a good foundation to build their lives upon.

Judge

I prepared my mind so that I can benefit mankind by enforcing the law and providing justice.

Have a good weekend!
HOME WORK
Arithmetic-
Pgs. 24-26 due Mon.
Odd problems only
Reading-
Book reports due Wed.
Writing-
short stories due Fri.

8 × 7 = ?

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Prep Time: 10 minutes

Scriptures & Graduation Cap Cookies

Fudge Covered Graham Crackers
Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups®
Twizzlers Pull ’N Peel Candies®
Junior Mints®
Frosting
Large Marshmallows

Scriptures: Place a marshmallow on a Fudge Covered Graham Cracker. Place in microwave for ten seconds. Write “The Holy Scriptures” on another Fudge Covered Graham Cracker with a toothpick. Place on top of melted marshmallow to form a book.

Graduation Caps: Place Peanut Butter Cup upside down. Place a small dab of frosting in center of a Chocolate Covered Graham Cracker and place on the Peanut Butter Cup. Separate a 3-1/2” piece of a Twizzler Pull ’N Peel into single strands. Fold four strands in half to form tassel end. Place a fifth strand down the middle of the tassel end. Wrap a 1-1/2” piece around the top of the tassel end and press tightly to hold. Carefully cut a Junior Mint in half to form a button. Attach tassel with the sticky side of the Junior Mint.

Treat Time: These treats are to remind us that it is important to pursue both a temporal education and a spiritual education.

“As Latter-day Saints we believe in education, and we have a philosophy about how and why we should pursue it. Our religious faith teaches us that we should seek learning by the Spirit and that we have a stewardship to use our knowledge for the benefit of mankind.” Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, Apr 2009 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.