

Sister Joy D. Jones - Primary General President "An Especially Noble Calling"

Teaching and Lesson Helps by LovePrayTeach.com
April 2020 General Conference

We have tried to include a variety of ideas for teaching from Sister Jones' talk. There probably won't be time to use all of these ideas in one lesson. We invite you to prayerfully consider which ideas are the most relevant to your sisters and focus your preparation on those sections. Please use your own studies and follow the spirit to know how best to teach the sisters in your ward.

1. Invite Sharing

Begin the class by asking "what experiences have you had living and learning the gospel this week?" Don't move on until a few sisters have shared their experiences. Even if you have to awkwardly stand there for a minute, wait in the silence and give them some time to think. Repeat the question if needed. Sharing experiences as Relief Society sisters strengthens and edifies us individually and as a group.

2. Teach the Doctrine

Lesson Preparation

As you study the talk, consider these questions:

- What does Sister Jones want us to **understand**?
- What **principles** does she teach?
- How can we **apply** that to our Relief Society?
- What **stories from my life** can I share to illustrate these principles?
- What **scripture stories** illustrate these principles?
- What **invitations** does Sister Jones extend to us?
- What **promises** does Sister Jones make?
- What **testimony** does she leave with us?

Teaching Ideas

Women's Continuing Roles in the Restoration

Give each sister one of the four quotes that Sister Jones shared at the beginning of her address. Divide the sisters into 4 groups according to which quote they have (all 1's together, 2's together, etc.) Have them read the quote and discuss as a group using the questions below.

1. "It is clear that throughout history women have held a distinctive place in our Heavenly Father's plan. President Russell M. Nelson taught, "It would be impossible to measure the influence that ... women have, not only on families but also on the Lord's Church, as wives, mothers, and grandmothers; as sisters and aunts; as teachers and leaders; and especially as exemplars and devout defenders of the faith."
2. "178 years ago, the Prophet Joseph Smith counseled the sisters to "live up to [their] privilege." Their example teaches us today. They unitedly followed a prophet's voice and lived with steadfast faith in Jesus Christ as they helped lay the foundation we now stand upon. Sisters, it is our turn. We have a divine errand from the Lord, and our faithful, unique contributions are vital."
3. "To be a righteous woman during the winding up scenes on this earth, before the second coming of our Savior, is an especially noble calling. The righteous woman's strength and influence today can be tenfold what it might be in more tranquil times." - President Spencer W. Kimball
4. "I plead with my sisters of [the] Church ... to step forward! Take your rightful and needful place in your home, in your community, and in the kingdom of God—more than you ever have before." - President Russell M. Nelson

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think the quote is teaching? What does the author want us to understand?
- What do you think of it? How do you feel about it? When have you experienced it?
- What are some of women's roles in the Restoration?
- Based on the quote, what do you feel inspired to do?
- How can we know what our divine errand from the Lord is?

Visual aid - 4 quotes on one page numbered 1-4, convenient to copy and pass out

What We Can Do To Step Forward

Show the video of President Nelson talking with Primary children (minute mark 1:56 to 4:36) or read the transcript included in the printed talk. Before watching, ask the sisters to look for lessons President Nelson teaches and pay attention to words or phrase that stand out to them. After watching, discuss as a large group. Consider asking a sister to act as scribe during the discussion and write important points on the chalk/whiteboard.

Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants 58:26-28 Doctrine and Covenants 6:33

Discussion Questions:

- What lessons did you pick up from the video (or transcript)?
- What words or phrases stood out to you?
- Why do we need to hear these messages today?
- How can these teachings help us step forward and "take our rightful and needful place"?
- How do these teaching help you feel encouraged and strengthened?

Visual aid – 8.5x11” poster of quote: “The Lord loves effort...”

[CLICK HERE for a jpeg file you can use to share with your Relief Society on social media.](#)

Lessons from Joseph Smith about Effort, Hard Work, Study and Receiving Our Own Revelation

Ask the sisters to think about Joseph Smith and the First Vision. Consider reading Joseph Smith—History 1:11-17 and ask them “What can we learn about effort, hard work, study and receiving personal revelation from Joseph Smith’s experience?” Write their answers on the board and discuss.

Alternatively, you could have sisters search paragraph 17 (quoted below) and the bullet points listed below it and then answer the same question above.

“What more do we learn from the Prophet Joseph Smith and the First Vision about effort, hard work, and study? The First Vision gives us direction in *our* unique, continuing roles. As women of faith, we can draw principles of truth from the Prophet Joseph’s experiences that provide insights for receiving our own revelation. For example:

- We labor under difficulties.
- We turn to the scriptures to receive wisdom to act.
- We demonstrate our faith and trust in God.
- We exert our power to plead with God to help us thwart the adversary’s influence.
- We offer up the desires of our hearts to God.
- We focus on His light guiding our life choices and resting upon us when we turn to Him.
- We realize He knows each of us by name and has individual roles for us to fulfill.”

Discussion Questions:

- How do these principles help you understand how to receive personal revelation?
- Which principles have helped you to receive your own personal revelation?

He Expects Us to Receive Revelation from Him

Read, or have a sister read these three paragraphs of Sister Jones’ talk.

“In addition, Joseph Smith restored the knowledge that we have divine potential and eternal worth. Because of that relationship with our Heavenly Father, I believe He *expects* us to receive revelation from Him.

“The Lord instructed Emma Smith to “receive the Holy Ghost,” learn much, “lay aside the things of this world, ... seek for the things of a better,” and “cleave unto [her] covenants” with God. Learning is integral to progression, especially as the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost teaches us what is needful for each of us to lay aside—meaning that which could *distract* us or *delay* our progression.

“President Nelson said, “I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation.” Our prophet’s words are continually with me as I contemplate women’s ability to step forward. He pleads with us, which indicates priority. He is teaching us how to survive spiritually in a sin-sick world by receiving and acting on revelation. As we do so, honoring and

living the Lord's commandments, we are promised, even as Emma Smith was, "a crown of righteousness." The Prophet Joseph taught of the importance of *knowing* that the path we are pursuing in this lifetime is approved of God. Without that knowledge, we "will grow weary in [our] minds, and faint."

Discussion Questions:

- What is our divine potential and eternal worth? Sister Jones believes that because of our divine potential and eternal worth, Heavenly Father expects us to receive revelation from Him. How do you feel about this? What else do her words teach us about receiving personal revelation?
- How is learning integral to progression? (Integral: essential, necessary, fundamental)
- Why do we, at times, need to lay things aside? How does the Holy Ghost help us know what we need to lay aside? When have you experienced it?
- What types of things might distract us or delay our progression? How can we identify and avoid these things?
- What does President Nelson plead with us to do? How can we increase our spiritual capacity to receive revelation?
- What does Sister Jones say President Nelson is teaching us? Why is it important to be able to "survive spiritually in a sin-sick world?"
- Why is it important to know that the path we are pursuing in this lifetime is approved of God? How can we receive this assurance?

Visual aid – Increase your spiritual capacity quote

[CLICK HERE for a jpeg file you can use to share with your Relief Society on social media.](#)

Preventing Overwhelm

"In this conference, we will hear truths that inspire us to change, improve, and purify our lives. Through personal revelation, we can prevent what some call "general conference overwhelm"—when we leave so determined to do it *all* now. Women wear many hats, but it is impossible, and unnecessary, to wear them all at once. The Spirit helps us determine which work to focus on today."

Discussion Questions:

- What does Sister Jones want us to understand? Why is it important?
- What do you think of it? How do you feel about it? When have you experienced it?
- What can we do when we feel like we need to wear many hats all at once? How do we prevent feeling overwhelmed?

Visual aid – handout and poster "Women wear many hats..."

[CLICK HERE for a jpeg file you can use to share with your Relief Society on social media.](#)

Personal Revelation Leads to Personal Progression

"The Lord's loving influence through the Holy Ghost helps us know *His* priority for our progression. Heeding personal revelation leads to *personal* progression. We listen and act. The Lord said, "Ask the Father in my name in faith, believing that you shall receive, and you shall have the Holy Ghost, which manifesteth all things which are expedient." Our continuing role is to receive continuing revelation.

"As we attain a greater degree of proficiency at doing so, we can receive more power in our individual roles to minister and accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation—to truly "lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better." We can then more effectively inspire our rising generation to do the same."

Discussion Questions:

- What does Sister Jones identify as our continuing role?
- How does personal revelation lead to personal progression? What is the pattern for this?
- When have you experienced it?
- How can we inspire our rising generation?

Visual aid - "Personal revelation leads to personal progression. Our continuing role is to receive continuing revelation."

[CLICK HERE for a jpeg file you can use to share with your Relief Society on social media.](#)

Direct Access to the Power of God

"Brothers and sisters, we all seek God's power in our lives. There is beautiful unity between women and men in accomplishing God's work today. We access the power of the priesthood through covenants, made first in the waters of baptism and then within the walls of holy temples. President Nelson taught us, "Every woman and every man who makes covenants with God and keeps those covenants, and who participates worthily in priesthood ordinances, has direct access to the power of God."

"My personal admission today is that as a woman I didn't realize, earlier in my life, that *I* had access, through my covenants, to the power of the priesthood. Sisters, I pray that we will recognize and cherish priesthood power as we "cleave unto [our] covenants," embrace the truths of the scriptures, and heed the words of our living prophets."

Discussion Questions

- How do men and women work in unity to accomplish God's work today?
- How do we access the power of the priesthood?
- Sister Jones admits that as a woman she didn't realize earlier in her life she had access through her covenants, to the power of the priesthood. Do you feel the same? What has helped you to understand your access to priesthood power?
- How have you been strengthened and blessed by your access to priesthood power?

Joyfully Journey Toward Our Highest Spiritual Potential

"Let us boldly declare our devotion to our Heavenly Father and our Savior, "with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save." Let us joyfully continue this journey toward our highest spiritual potential and help those around us to do the same through love, service, leadership, and compassion."

Discussion Questions:

- What does Sister Jones teach us in these words?
- What words or phrases stand out to you?
- Why is it important to be bold and joyful?
- What is the importance of love, service, leadership and compassion in our journey?

The Greatest Champion of Woman and Womanhood is Jesus the Christ

Read the quote and consider reading some of the scriptures below.

“Elder James E. Talmage tenderly reminded us, “The world’s greatest champion of woman and womanhood is Jesus the Christ.” In the final analysis of women’s continuing roles in the Restoration, and for us all, what role is preeminent? I testify that it is to *hear* Him, to follow Him, to trust Him, and to become an extension of His love. I know He lives.”

Scriptures:

Joseph Smith—History 1:17

Matthew 4:19-20

Proverbs 3:5-6

Doctrine and Covenants 11:12

John 13:34

Moroni 7:47

2 Nephi 33:6

Doctrine and Covenants 76:22.

Discussion Questions:

- In what ways is Jesus Christ the greatest champion of woman and womanhood? What does this mean to you?
- Which of our roles in the restoration is preeminent? (*Preeminent: surpassing all others*)
- What does it mean to hear Jesus Christ? To follow Him? To trust Him? To become an extension of His love?
- How do we do this better?

Visual aid - Picture of Christ

Bear Your Testimony

3. Invite To Act

End the lesson by extending an invitation for the sisters to put into practice the ideas discussed in Relief Society today.

- What invitation can you extend to your Relief Society sisters to help them apply the principles of this lesson in their lives this week?

Possible Invitations:

Encourage them to write down how they will take action this week.

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- Joy D. Jones



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- President Spencer W. Kimball



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- President Russell M. Nelson



“The Lord loves effort, and effort brings rewards.

We keep practicing. We are always progressing as long as we are striving to follow the Lord. He doesn't expect perfection today.

We keep climbing our personal Mount Sinai. As in times past, our journey does indeed take **effort, hard work, & study**, but our commitment to progress brings eternal rewards.”

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