



ACADEMICS

COLLEGE SUCCESS

Lesson Manual # 3: The Learning Model

Assignments

- Read *History of the Learning Model*
- Read excerpts from Elder Dallin H. Oaks' talk *Teaching and Learning by the Spirit*
- Watch video excerpt: BYU-Idaho: The Learning Model
- Complete Part 4 (key reflective insights) of the "ePrep" portion of your Journal document and submit this prior to the start of class.



History of the Learning Model

Shortly after his arrival at BYU-Idaho in the fall of 2005, President Kim B. Clark along with his vice presidents identified several initiatives that were aimed at moving the university forward. One of these initiatives was the creation of a learning model that would serve as the foundation for all learning and teaching at BYU-Idaho.

In 2006, President Clark asked the faculty at BYU-Idaho to create a model for learning and teaching. Input was given from over 350 instructors in a special faculty meeting. A faculty committee sifted through the ideas and suggestions to find common themes and approaches. In 2007, these ideas were distilled into key principles and processes that were articulated as the Learning Model.

The Learning Model gives instructors and students a common vocabulary for discussing

learning and teaching. Rooted in gospel principles and educational research, the Learning Model emphasizes individual responsibility, collaborative and reflective learning opportunities, and the need for both instructors and learners to rely on the guidance of the Holy Ghost in order to achieve desired learning outcomes. (Gateway Foundations Seminars, Inspired Learning and Teaching)

Steps of the Learning Model include:

- Prepare
- Teach One Another
- Ponder and Prove

Preparation

As we devote ourselves to the Lord's work, we must be involved in the hard work we call preparation.



Teaching & Learning by the Spirit

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Hyrum Smith learned this lesson in May 1829, just after the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood and almost a year before the Church was organized. The Lord gave him a revelation through his brother, the Prophet Joseph Smith. In that revelation Hyrum was told that he was not yet called to preach. And until he was called, he should keep the commandments of the Lord and prepare himself. These are the Lord's words:

"Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men."

"But now hold your peace; study my word which hath gone forth among the children of men, and also study my word which shall come forth among the children of men, or that which is now translating, yea, until you have obtained all which I shall grant unto the children of men in this generation, and then shall all things be added thereto" (D&C 11:21–22).

In the revelation on priesthood given a few years later in Kirtland, Ohio, the Lord instructed the Saints further on this subject: "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" (D&C 84:85).

In short, the Lord's instruction to teach by the Spirit does not relieve us in the slightest degree from the necessity of making personal preparation. Indeed, in view of the foregoing scriptures, the Lord has emphasized it.

We must study the scriptures. We must study the teachings of the living prophets. We must learn all that we can to make ourselves presentable and understandable to our children, our students, and our investigators. That includes grooming, speaking clearly, and knowing how to avoid offending people through ignorance of their culture and their personal and family circumstances. All of this and much more is part of preparation. And preparation is a prerequisite to teaching by the Spirit.

Being Led by the Spirit

The next principle after preparation is the requirement that we desire to be led by the Spirit and so are willing to put aside all our preparation and follow the Spirit's direction. That is a difficult principle to understand and an even more difficult one to apply.

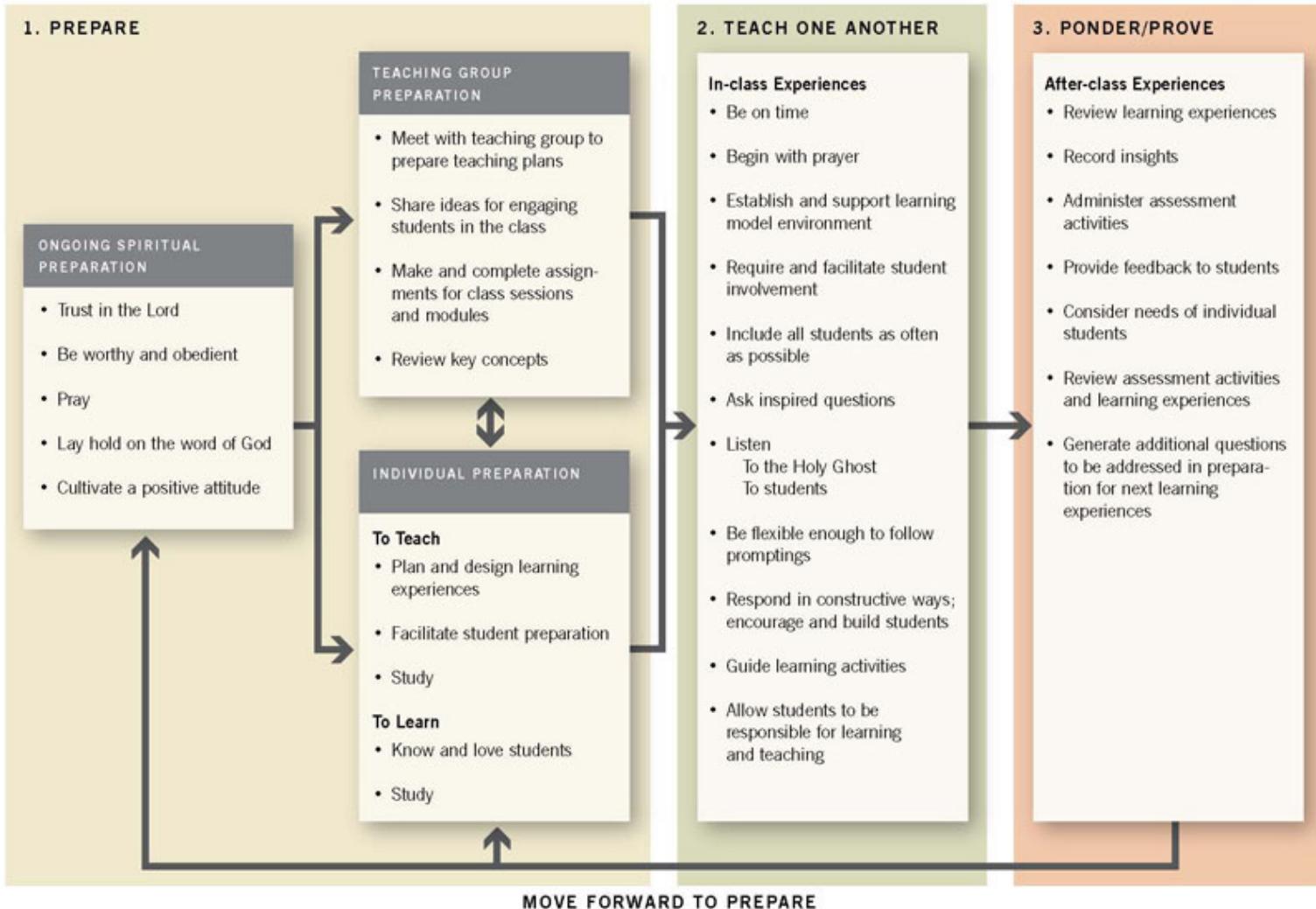
When I have tried to teach that principle in the past, I have observed that some people use it as an excuse for not preparing. Some will say, "Since the Spirit may prompt me to cast away my prepared talk, perhaps I don't need to prepare at all." That approach is not "treasuring up in [our] minds continually the words of life."

We should be in constant general preparation by "treasuring up" in our minds the teachings of the gospel, and when invited to give a talk or to present a lesson, we should make specific preparations. Most of the time we will carry through with our preparations. But sometimes there will be an authentic impression to leave something out or to add something. We should make careful preparation, but we should not be exclusively bound to that preparation.



BYU-Idaho Learning Model: Teacher Process

Figure 2





One of the greatest explanations of being taught by the Spirit is in the revelation given to Oliver Cowdery at Harmony, Pennsylvania, in April 1829. In this revelation, printed in section 8 of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord told Oliver Cowdery:

“Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

“Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation” (D&C 8:2–3; emphasis added).

Similarly, the Prophet Joseph Smith referred to the spirit of revelation as “pure intelligence,” which “may give you sudden strokes of ideas” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 151).

In another revelation, Oliver Cowdery was reminded that he had inquired of the Lord and that “as often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit” (D&C 6:14). How did that instruction come? The Lord said, “Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy mind” (D&C 6:15; emphasis added). The Lord repeated that same teaching in a revelation given to Hyrum Smith, wherein the Lord said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy” (D&C 11:13; emphasis added). These are great descriptions of the way the Lord communicates with us by his Spirit.

LEARNING MODEL PROCESS



www.byui.edu/learningmodel

Teaching by the Spirit is the Lord’s way. How do we do this? First, we must keep the commandments, especially the commandment to keep our thoughts and actions clean. Second, we must prepare. Third, we must desire to be led and be willing to be led by the Spirit.

I testify that these things are true. We have the gift of the Holy Ghost, the right to the constant companionship of the Spirit of the Lord to testify of the Father and the Son, to lead us into truth, to teach us all things, and to bring all things to our remembrance (see John 14:26; John 16:13).

Principles of the Learning Model

Learners and Teachers at BYU-Idaho:

1. Exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a principle of action and power;
2. Understand that true teaching is done by and with the Holy Ghost;
3. Lay hold upon the word of God—as found in the holy scriptures and in the words of the prophets—in all disciplines;
4. Act for themselves and accept responsibility for learning and teaching;
5. Love, serve, and teach one another.



Video: BYU-Idaho: The Learning Model

View Video

Access and view the following video:

- [BYU-Idaho: The Learning Model](#)

