PC 103 University Skills
Gathering Agenda for Week 11
Relying on Faith

Gathering Purposes

- Discuss the importance of relying on faith during your time as an online student.

Preparation

- For *face-to-face Gatherings*, arrive early to setup the room, prepare any visual aids, and greet students as they arrive.
- For *virtual Gatherings*, start the meeting early, share your screen with a message welcoming them to the gathering and letting them know you will start soon.
    - When the Gathering Agenda asks that students meet in small groups, use Breakout Rooms.
    - When the Gathering Agenda asks you to display things on "the board," you can use the whiteboard.

Document Preparation:

- For *face-to-face Gatherings*, print the experiences of modern apostles at the bottom of this document and cut them out for each group.
- For *virtual Gatherings,* email all of the experiences to students prior to the gathering.

Min.	Activities		Teaching Tips
Welcome and Devotional			
10	Welcome	Welcome, announcements, and housekeeping	
	Hymn or thought, prayer	Please sing one or two verses of a hymn. If you meet with a virtual gathering, the lead student or another student should be invited to share a brief spiritual thought. A volunteer will then give an opening prayer	
	BYU-Pathway Worldwide Devotional	Students were asked to watch the BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional this week, as contained in the course. They should have done this prior to the gathering. As a class discuss the devotional using the discussion questions provided in the course	Look up the questions in advance so you are ready.
Student Success Discussion			
15	Next Steps Reminder	Remind students to be working on the Next Steps portion of the course. This includes the application and graduation planning. See this week's module called "Next Steps" in the course.	
	Read and Discuss	Read about Leone Matavesi to see what he did to overcome the challenges he faced as he worked to complete a degree.	

		Then discuss the questions that follow. Click here to share/read the article. If that doesn't work, you can share the text below called "Finding Faith in Fiji" **Discussion Questions**: • Describe Leone's commute to his weekly gatherings? Why was he willing to make that sacrifice? • Leone describes at least two major discoveries he has made about himself and the world around him as a result of being a student in this program. What were they? • As a student, you can learn content, and you can also have that content transform you in good ways. This is what is happening to Leone. Why is it important for that to happen to you? • Leone's faith has grown because of his educational experiences. How have you seen your faith grow as a result of your educational experiences? How will you continue to rely on faith once you have completed the program?	
Student Skills Discussion			
20	Share	Introduce the topic in one to two minutes by sharing your thoughts about the importance of faith during your time as an online student. Throughout this course you have learned about skills and resources that can help you as an online student. You have reviewed goal setting, time management, communication, working with others, accessing help and much more. Even when you dig in your heels, sometimes your willpower isn't quite enough. You need to rely on your faith to pull you through challenges. The very nature of life here on Earth is to experience hard things and grow into what our Heavenly Father wants us to become.	Come prepared to share your 1-2 minute introduction.
	Discuss	Invite a class member to read Ether 12:6: "And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith." Instruct the students that they will take time to ponder their own faith and experiences they have had.	If you would like to print this scripture you will find it below this outline. You might also choose to have everyone look it up in their scriptures.

	Write and discuss	Invite the class to write their answers to the writing prompt below. Write for 60-90 seconds. Then discuss the questions that follow. **Writing Prompt** 1. Write about an experience you have had in your life that has strengthened your faith. **Discussion Questions:** ● What did you write about? Why? ● Think of the circumstances around that experience. Was it easy? Hard? ● How did you act in faith? ● How was your faith strengthened? ● Moroni spoke about the trial of our faith. This can be related to taking a few steps into the darkness before the light appears. What is it like to take those few steps into darkness?	
Student Skills Application			
15	Share	At this time in your life you are facing many decisions. You might be deciding what you want to study, what your career will be or what your family will become. Along with these stages in life come questions, struggles and challenges. Remember, opposition doesn't mean that Heavenly Father has abandoned you. He is there and He will guide you. Sometimes you have to take those steps into darkness to receive the light.	Read or say in your own words.
	Case Study Group Activity	As a class you will review the experiences and words of modern apostles about waiting for light and answers. Divide the class into groups, 5 if possible. Give each group one modern apostle experience. Have the groups read their selection and discuss the following questions: 1. What challenge is being discussed? 2. What action was taken? 3. What do we learn through this story that we can use in our lives? 4. How can you apply this while you are an online student? Allow the groups 10 minutes to review their sections.	The experiences of the modern prophets can be found below this outline. Print them and cut them apart to be ready to hand them out to students in this activity. Consider writing the discussion questions on the board. See "Document Preparation" at the

			top of the page.
	Share and Discuss	Invite each group to choose a spokesperson for their group and share what their group discussed. Invite them to share what the quote taught and how they can specifically apply it to the life of an online student. After each group shares, invite the other class members to share any additional thoughts or insights.	
	Testimony and Prayer	Bear a 30-90 second testimony of the importance of acting in faith to help you be successful as an online student. Invite the members of the class to pray for help on your specific challenges and use the atonement to relieve your burdens. End with a prayer by invitation.	

FINDING FAITH IN FIJI
Leone traveled 12 hours each way to attend his weekly gatherings and learn more about Jesus Christ.

Leone Matavesi had never heard of PathwayConnect — or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for that matter — before Tropical Cyclone Winston, a Category 5 storm, hit Fiji in February 2016.

The cyclone severely damaged many areas, including Leone's home island of Vanua Levu. International volunteer groups arrived to provide aid. Leone coordinated several groups and was responsible for guiding them around the island.

He never imagined that Jocelyn, a member of the second group to arrive, would become his wife. Jocelyn grew up in Arizona and is a member of the Church. After she and Leone fell in love and got married, she told him about PathwayConnect and encouraged him to enroll.

"I asked her if I could participate without being a member of the Church," he said. "We tried, and I got in."*

Once Leone was accepted, he faced a new challenge. At the time, virtual gatherings were not available in his area, so he needed to attend the weekly gatherings in Suva — a city on a completely different island.

Leone's commute required great sacrifice and dedication. He traveled 12 hours each way to attend the gatherings. "I left home around 4:00 a.m. to catch the bus and travel to the other part of the island," he explained. "Then I caught the ferry across the sea for six to eight hours … and then a second bus that took another two to three hours."

Leone would attend the gathering on Thursday, stay at his sister's home in Suva that night, then return to Vanua Levu on Friday. The commute was long, but it was worth it to Leone to receive an education.
In addition to learning important academic and career skills, he looked forward to increasing his faith in Christ. "Listening to people in my classes talking about [Jesus Christ], it got to me. It

made me really want to know more. That interest made me keep trying and wanting to move forward," he said.

In fact, learning more about the Savior completely transformed Leone. "I used to … go out, drink alcohol, and party every night," he said.

"Once I came to know more about Jesus Christ, it just made me see that all those things were a waste. … It really changed me."

Although Leone is Catholic and his wife is a member of the Church, they both have strong testimonies of Jesus Christ and support each other in their religious beliefs.

"Every Sunday we go to [The Church of Jesus Christ] in the morning and the Catholic church in the afternoon," he explained.

Participating in PathwayConnect also helped Leone discover talents he didn't know he had. When he was assigned to be the lead student, he found his gift for teaching. He said, "I was kind of scared, but after a few minutes, I was totally okay, and I was just teaching and listening at the same time. It made me feel that I want to do it more."

Leone has followed through with that desire by sharing his knowledge with others. "After class I would come home, gather my friends around, and start sharing [what I was learning] with them," he said.

This led to discussions about the PathwayConnect program, and Leone encouraged his friends to apply. He said, "[I want them to] learn what I have learned and experienced in PathwayConnect — these good things."

Leone believes anybody can complete PathwayConnect if they are willing to work hard. "I left school about 15–16 years ago," he said, "and [coming back] really challenged me."

He completed the program last semester and is now working toward a bachelor's degree online through BYU-Idaho. He and his wife plan to move to the United States so he can attend on campus.

To current or future BYU-Pathway students, Leone says, "Don't you ever lose hope. Just hold on and have faith in yourself. You can do it; you can finish it. You never know what's really inside of you."

Leone's life has been blessed and his faith has increased through his educational experiences. "BYU-Pathway is a place where you can find peace and happiness," he promised. "You'll find yourself happy like you've never been happy before."

See Below For Scripture and Apostle Experiences

Scripture

Ether 12:6: “And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.”

Faith Activity (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint, *Ensign*, Aug. 2013)

Experience #1

Walk to the Edge of the Light

President Boyd K. Packer
“Shortly after I was called as a General Authority, I went to Elder Harold B. Lee for counsel. He listened very carefully to my problem and suggested that I see President David O. McKay. President McKay counseled me as to the direction I should go. I was very willing to be obedient but saw no way possible for me to do as he counseled me to do.

“I returned to Elder Lee and told him that I saw no way to move in the direction I was counseled to go. He said, ‘The trouble with you is you want to see the end from the beginning.’ I replied that I would like to see at least a step or two ahead. Then came the lesson of a lifetime: ‘You must learn to walk to the edge of the light, and then a few steps into the darkness; then the light will appear and show the way before you.’ Then he quoted these 18 words from the Book of Mormon:

“‘Dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith’” (Ether 12:6).

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Edge of the Light,” BYU Magazine, Mar. 1991, magazine.byu.edu.

Experience #2
Proceed with Trust

Elder Richard G. Scott
“What do you do when you have prepared carefully, have prayed fervently, waited a reasonable time for a response, and still do not feel an answer? You may want to express thanks when that occurs, for it is an evidence of [Heavenly Father’s] trust. When you are living worthily and your choice is consistent with the Savior’s teachings and you need to act, proceed with trust. As you are sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit, one of two things will certainly occur at the appropriate time: either the stupor of thought will come, indicating an improper choice, or the peace or the burning in the bosom will be felt, confirming that your choice was correct. When you are living righteously and are acting with trust, God will not let you proceed too far without a warning impression if you have made the wrong decision.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer,” Ensign, May 2007, 10.

Experience #3

Don’t Take Counsel from Your Fears

President James E. Faust
“Let us not take counsel from our fears. May we remember always to be of good cheer, put our faith in God, and live worthy for Him to direct us. We are each entitled to receive personal inspiration to guide us through our mortal probation. May we so live that our hearts are open at all times to the whisperings and comfort of the Spirit.”

President James E. Faust (1920–2007), Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Be Not Afraid,” Ensign, Oct. 2002, 6.

Experience #4

Wait Patiently for Revelation

Elder David A. Bednar
“The gradual increase of light radiating from the rising sun is like receiving a message from God ‘line upon line, precept upon precept’ (2 Nephi 28:30). Most frequently, revelation comes in small increments over time and is granted according to our desire, worthiness, and preparation. Such communications from Heavenly Father gradually and gently ‘distil upon [our souls] as the

dews from heaven' (D&C 121:45)."

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Spirit of Revelation," Ensign, May 2011, 88.

Experience #5

Know That God Will Provide

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf
"During [a] busy season of my life, Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin extended a call to me to serve as stake president.

"During my interview with him, many thoughts raced through my mind, not the least of which was the unsettling worry that I might not have the time this calling would require. Although I felt humbled and honored by the call, I briefly wondered if I could accept it. But it was only a fleeting thought because I knew that Elder Wirthlin was called of God and that he was doing the Lord's work. What could I do but accept?

"There are times when we have to step into the darkness in faith, confident that God will place solid ground beneath our feet once we do. And so I accepted gladly, knowing that God would provide."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Why of Priesthood Service," Ensign, May 2012, 59.