PC 103 University Skills
Gathering Agenda for Week 12
Growth through Experience

Gathering Purposes

- Discuss the importance of overcoming failure
- How a growth mindset encourages persistence
- Review scripture examples of overcoming failure

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 story and scriptures at the bottom of this document and cut them out for each group.
- For *virtual Gatherings,* email the story and scriptures 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 Cynthia Cebujano to see what she did to overcome the challenges she faced. 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 "Wounded Wife to Warrior" **Discussion Questions:** • List the obstacles that Cynthia encountered before she found the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints? How do you suppose Cynthia kept persisting? What did she do to keep from giving up? • How did Cynthia demonstrate that she had a growth mindset? • When Cynthia faced a cancer diagnosis while she was pregnant what did she do that helped her keep going? Why is it important for you to involve God in your life as an online student? Why not just suffer in silence? Why might reaching out like this be difficult for some? • Cynthia excelled in her classes even though she faced many trials and hardship. What does this teach you about not giving up?	
Student Skills Discussion			
20	Share	For one to two minutes, tell the class about one big thing you learned in this week's Student Skills.	Come prepared to share your 1-2 minute introduction.
	Read	Invite a class member to read the story and quote of John the runner, told by Pres. Thomas S. Monson, found below this outline.	Print the story so it is easy to access at the Gathering.
	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** ● How can you relate John's story to your time as an online student? **Discussion Questions** ● What does John's decision to keep running tell us about his character and persistence? ● Who makes up your cheering audience and how can they help you? ● The story mentions an understanding Scorekeeper? What did Pres. Monson mean by this? ● How can you overcome failure to "keep running?" This week you were asked to find a mentor. Briefly check	

		in with the group to address any questions or concerns about having a mentor. Consider discussing the following questions. ● How can having a mentor help you have endurance as an online student? ● What situations might come up that a mentor could help with?	
Student Skills Application			
15	Share	Tell the class that you are going to look at examples from the scriptures to illustrate the idea of overcoming failure.	Say in your own words.
	Scripture Group Activity	1. Split the class into 3 groups. 2. Give each group a section of scriptures to read and discuss. The scripture sections can be found below this outline. 3. Have the groups read the scriptures and answer the questions (also found below). 4. Give the groups 5-7 minutes to read and discuss. 5. Invite the class to come back together and share who they read about and how he overcame failure.	
	Discuss	If time allows ask the class if they can think of more examples from the scriptures of overcoming failure.	Be sure to leave 10 minutes for the Gateway discussion and closing.
	Testimony and Prayer	Bear a 30-90 second testimony of the importance of learning from our mistakes and being persistent. Invite the members of the class to think of something specific that they want to are working to overcome. Invite them to pray specifically for heavenly help to learn from their experience. End with a prayer by invitation.	

Wounded Wife to Warrior

How Cynthia Cebujano overcame unimaginable obstacles by pursuing education

Cynthia Cebujano was three weeks pregnant when she found out she had cervical cancer. After her biopsy in 2017, the doctors told her she needed an operation that would allow them to know what stage the cancer was at — an operation that could risk the health of her baby.

Cynthia had already lost twins and had a stillbirth before, but she decided in faith to go through with the operation. She said, “I offered my baby to God. I offered my life to God.” Both Cynthia and her baby, Chantelle, survived the operation and found that her cancer was at a manageable stage. Cynthia’s challenges didn’t stop there, but her vow to offer her life to God gave her the strength and determination to transform, as she said, from a “wounded wife to a warrior.”

Discovering New Empowerment

Shortly after finding out she had cancer, Cynthia lost her job. By her father’s invitation, Cynthia; her husband, Charles; and their 10-year-old son, Chazz, moved from Manila in the Philippines to Fiji. There her family built several photography and advertising businesses.

Although things seemed to be going better in Fiji, the recent trials had put an incredible amount of strain on her family. Cynthia started desperately looking for something that could give her the skills to contribute to the business and mend her breaking family.

That’s when she met full-time missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She enjoyed how they talked about how Jesus Christ helps individuals and families. After meeting with them regularly, Cynthia started to see a change in her family.

“Every Sunday, Chazz would dress up and wear his white shirt,” Cynthia said. “He started ironing his shirt. My son and my husband don’t really read, but they started reading the scriptures. They started studying.”

One evening the missionaries invited Cynthia to a presentation about BYU-Pathway Worldwide . They talked about how she could earn a quality degree online. Cynthia saw this as an answer to her prayers and set her sights on the social media marketing certificate.

“PathwayConnect gave me a way to learn and focus, and instead of me waiting to be financed by the family business, now I can afford to finance myself while taking care of my kids,” she said.

Shortly after starting BYU-Pathway, Cynthia and her family decided to be baptized.

“It was really special because we were getting baptized as a family. It was a conscious decision. It was a family decision. The Church brought us together,” said Cynthia.

Becoming a Warrior

Now a member of the Church and pursuing a bachelor’s degree, Cynthia’s life is on track and moving at full speed — and her cancer has since subsided.

In her social media certificate courses, Cynthia has learned to manage advertising and marketing efforts, create engaging content, and analyze campaign effectiveness, which has helped her run and expand their family business. Not only have her courses helped her develop marketable skills, but Cynthia now feels more confident and empowered and in control of her life.

Now, Cynthia looks for opportunities to share her story of giving her life to God and, in return, receiving new life. To anyone who asks, she says, “Continue to ask God for the strength to go on. It’s going to be challenging. At the end of the day, it will all be worth it, because you will grow and you will improve your life spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and, later on, financially. Keep going.”

See the Story of John Helander and Scriptures Below

Story of John Helander (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, President Thomas S. Monson, Apr. 1987)

At a youth conference in Kungsbacka, Sweden, John took part in a 1500-meter running race. He had no chance to win. Rather, his was the opportunity to be humiliated, mocked, derided, scorned. Perhaps John remembered another who lived long ago and far away. Wasn't He mocked? Wasn't He derided? Wasn't He scorned? But He prevailed. He won His race. Maybe John could win his.

What a race it was! Struggling, surging, pressing, the runners bolted far beyond John. There was wonderment among the spectators. Who is this runner who lags so far behind? The participants on their second lap of this two-lap race passed John while he was but halfway through the first lap. Tension mounted as the runners pressed toward the tape. Who would win? Who would place second? Then came the final burst of speed; the tape was broken. The crowd cheered; the winner was proclaimed.

The race was over—or was it? Who is this contestant who continues to run when the race is ended? He crosses the finish line on but his first lap. Doesn't the foolish lad know he has lost? Ever onward he struggles, the only participant now on the track. This is his race. This must be his victory. No one among the vast throng of spectators leaves. Every eye is on this valiant runner. He makes the final turn and moves toward the finish line. There is awe; there is admiration. Every spectator sees himself running his own race of life. As John approaches the finish line, the audience, as one, rises to its feet. There is a loud applause of acclaim. Stumbling, falling, exhausted but victorious, John Helander breaks the newly tightened tape. (Officials are human beings, too.) The cheering echoes for miles. And just maybe, if the ear is carefully attuned, that Great Scorekeeper—even the Lord—can be heard to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

"Each of us is a runner in the race of life. Comforting is the fact that there are many runners. Reassuring is the knowledge that our Scorekeeper is understanding. Challenging is the truth that each must run. But you and I do not run alone. That vast audience of family, friends, and leaders will cheer our courage, will applaud our determination as we rise from our stumblings and pursue our goal. The race of life is not for sprinters running on a level track. The course is marked by pitfalls and checkered with obstacles."

Scripture Group Activity

1. Saul of Taursus: Acts 9:1-22
    a. What was his failure?

b. How did he overcome his failure?
c. What can you learn from this story?

2. Simon Peter: Luke 22:31-34 and 54-62
    a. What was his failure?
    b. How did he overcome his failure?
    c. What can you learn from this story?

3. Alma the Younger: Alma 36:6-24
    a. What was his failure?
    b. How did he overcome his failure?
    c. What can you learn from this story?