PC 103 University Skills
Gathering Agenda for Week 13
Endurance

Gathering Purposes

- Discuss ways to endure adversity through joy, gratitude, and faith

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 case studies at the bottom of this document and cut them out for each group.
- For *virtual Gatherings,* email all of the case studies 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 Carolina Galvis to see what she did to overcome the challenges she faced as she 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 "Everything My Heart Desired" **Discussion Questions:** • What did Carolina do when she finally hit rock bottom? What happened? • How likely is it that Heavenly Father is willing and wanting to answer your prayers about education? • Carolina has a message for the world: "I am a new person. I am so much happier. I feel I have a future. I am moving forward. I am a new me — a better me. I want this message to be loud and clear: BYU-Pathway is a huge blessing. BYU-Pathway means hope. BYU-Pathway means dreams do come true." Why do you think Carolina feels so strongly about this? • Answer if you would like: As you read through Carolina's story, what did the Holy Ghost teach you that you didn't read? What did her story teach you about Endurance?	
Student Skills Discussion			
15	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.
	Watch	As a group watch this Mormon Message: https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2014-06-1360-he-is-building-a-palace?lang=eng&_r=1 If you cannot access the video, have class member read this quote by C.S. Lewis: "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."	
	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.	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>Writing prompt
● How does the video you just watched or quote that was read apply to you as an online student?

Discussion Questions
● What did you write about? Why?
● Can you think of experiences along your educational journey that have “hurt abominably” as mentioned in the video? What did you learn from them?
● How do you stay focused and motivated when adversity comes your way?</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Student Skills Application</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">15</td><td>Share</td><td colspan="2">We will review some examples of adversity and identify how they were endured. Then we will relate this to our situation as online students and apply what we learned.</td><td>Read or say in your own words.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Case Study Activity (15 min.)</td><td colspan="2">1. Read or invite a student to read the case study. (Find the case studies below the Gathering outline.)
2. Discuss the following questions:
a. How did the person in this story endure their trial?
b. How can we relate this to our situation as online students?</td><td>Consider printing and cutting out the case studies if you want members of the class to read them.

Be sure to leave 5 minutes for the personal reflection.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Personal Reflection (5 min.)</td><td colspan="2">1. Ask each student to take out a sheet of paper and create 2 columns on the paper. Title the columns “Adversity” and “How Can I Endure?”
<table><tr><td>Adversity</td><td>How Can I Endure?</td></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>1.</td></tr></table>
2. Give the students 1 minute to write down some of the trials or obstacles they are facing right now in the adversity column.
3. Have the students identify ways that they can endure each obstacle through joy, gratitude or faith.</td><td>Consider modeling the chart on the board if you feel it is needed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Testimony and Prayer</td><td colspan="2">Bear a 30-90 second testimony of the importance of enduring adversity that comes your way.

Invite the members of the class to find opportunities to reach out to their mentors,</td><td></td></tr>
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		End with a prayer by invitation.	

Everything My Heart Desired

Carolina thought all hope of education was lost — until she found PathwayConnect

A young girl leaves her parents in Venezuela and travels 3,000 miles (4,800 km) in search of a new life. She moves to the United States without money, educational prospects, or a permanent home.

How does she secure financial security in a new country? How does a recent immigrant afford to attend college? How does she rise above her poor circumstances? This is the story of Carolina Galvis, a young woman who discovered a way to fulfill her dreams in an unfamiliar place.

Through the assistance of BYU-Pathway Worldwide, she went on to become the first university student and graduate in her family and pursue her ambition of helping fellow immigrants in need.

Trials and Tears

Carolina had a rough childhood. When she was young, she transitioned between vastly different countries, cultures, and families. She grew up facing constant uncertainty over what many people take for granted: having a home to call her own, being able to attend school, and living near family members.

“I am an immigrant from Venezuela,” Carolina said. “I came to the U.S. when I was 11. I haven’t lived with my parents since. I’ve been with other families and living by myself. I started working as a nanny part-time and rented rooms from people I really didn’t know.”

Carolina tried to make the best of her situation, always working hard to succeed. But, like many others, she struggled to find a stable job. She was burdened by constant worry that she would never have a chance to change her life. “I tried to enroll in schools, but financially it was impossible,” she recounted.

From a young age, Carolina wanted to attend law school. She had a goal to help other immigrants transition to their new home, but without money to attend a university, this dream seemed unattainable.

Caught in a seemingly endless cycle of low wages and closed opportunities, Carolina gave up hope of improving her situation and abandoned her dream of earning a degree. Adding to this stress were her long hours as a full-time nanny, making her feel lonely, overworked, and forgotten.

“I thought I was never going to be able to get out of it. When you feel you are alone, and you think Heavenly Father has forgotten you, you just hit rock bottom,” shared Carolina. “Not moving forward with anything in my life was extremely frustrating. Everything that could have gone wrong happened. It was hard! I was emotionally exhausted and spiritually starving.”

Carolina did her best to press onward, but the full weight of her hopeless situation eventually got the best of her. Paralyzed by pain, financial burdens, loneliness, and the prospect of never attending university, Carolina decided she couldn't go on.

"There was one day I got on my knees and told God, 'I can't do this anymore. Please stop. Help me, because I can't do it. I cannot physically do this anymore.'"

A Pathway to Hope

During this dark time, Carolina received a blessing from her bishop. In the blessing, Carolina was promised that "everything [her] heart desired would come soon." It wasn't long after that Carolina found PathwayConnect.

BYU-Pathway helped me heal. "When I heard about BYU-Pathway, I was filled with joy and gratitude," Carolina tearfully remembered. "It meant fulfilling my dreams and becoming the person I wanted to become.

Sometimes you think you have already had all the chances in the world, and then you get this amazing blessing out of nowhere. So to me, BYU-Pathway was just the biggest gift I could have ever received.

Before BYU-Pathway, I didn't see anything in my future."

For Carolina, PathwayConnect was a way to resolve the otherwise impossible challenges being a disadvantaged immigrant presented, so she enrolled in Hingham, Massachusetts.

As Carolina found success in her classes, she began to have hope again. She could see her vision of a successful future once again. "PathwayConnect was my road to success. It's that simple. BYU-Pathway helped me heal. It is a testimony that the Lord is taking care of each of His children; He knows our needs and dreams, and He wants us to succeed. BYU-Pathway has given me a future by enabling me to further my education."

After completing PathwayConnect in 2011, Carolina studied business management online through BYU-Idaho and received her bachelor's degree in July 2015, presented and coordinated through BYU-Pathway. Carolina now plans to attend law school so she can become an immigration attorney to help others overcome the challenges she herself once faced.

Optimistic Future

"Completing college is something I've always looked forward to, and at one point in my life seemed impossible," Carolina said. "But it is possible. I cannot say how grateful and blessed and loved I feel. This means I'm closer to my dream, to be able to serve people and be their advocate." As she moves into the future with renewed hope, Carolina will remain ever grateful to BYU-Pathway for helping her surmount her difficult challenges.

"I am a new person. I am so much happier. I feel I have a future. I am moving forward. I am a new me — a better me. I want this message to be loud and clear: BYU-Pathway is a huge blessing. BYUPathway means hope. BYU-Pathway means dreams do come true."

See the Case Studies Below

Adversity Case Studies

Case Study #1

I spoke recently to a young father who has lost his job in the recent economic crisis. His quiet confidence led me to ask him what he had done to become so confident that he would find a way to support his family. He said he had examined his life to be sure that he had done all he could to be worthy of the Lord's help. It was clear that his need and his faith in Jesus Christ were leading him to be obedient to God's commandments when it is hard to do. That young man with whom I spoke recently was one who had done more than put away food and a little savings for the misfortune which living prophets had warned would come. He had begun to prepare his heart to be worthy of the Lord's help which he knew he would in the near future need. When I asked his wife on the day he lost his job if she was worried, she said with cheerfulness in her voice, "No, we've just come from the bishop's office. We are full-tithe payers." Now, it is still too early to tell, but I felt assured as they seemed to be assured: "Things will work out." https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2009/04/adversity?lang=eng

Case Study #2

I remember loading up our children in a station wagon and driving to Los Angeles. There were at least nine of us in the car, and we would invariably get lost. Instead of getting angry, we laughed. Every time we made a wrong turn, we laughed harder. Getting lost was not an unusual occurrence for us. Once while heading south to Cedar City, Utah, we took a wrong turn and didn't realize it until two hours later when we saw the "Welcome to Nevada" signs. We didn't get angry. We laughed, and as a result, anger and resentment rarely resulted. Our laughter created cherished memories for us. https://www.lds.org/ensign/2008/11/come-what-may-and-love-it?lang=eng

Case Study #3

And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel did take me and bind me with cords, and they did treat me with much harshness; nevertheless, the Lord did suffer it that he might show forth his power, unto the fulfilling of his word which he had spoken concerning the wicked. And it came to pass that after they had bound me insomuch that I could not move, the compass, which had been prepared of the Lord, did cease to work. And it came to pass that we were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea. And after we had been driven back upon the waters for the space of four days, my brethren began to see that the judgments of God were upon them, and that they must perish save that they should repent of their iniquities; wherefore, they came unto me, and loosed the bands which were upon my wrists, and behold they had swollen exceedingly; and also mine ankles were much swollen, and great was the soreness thereof. Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions. (1 Ne. 18:11-12, 15-16)

Case Study #4

One of our daughters, after giving birth to a baby, became seriously ill. We prayed for her, administered to her, and supported her as best we could. We hoped she would receive a blessing of healing, but days turned into months, and months turned into years. At one point I told her that this affliction might be something she would have to struggle with the rest of her life. One morning I remember pulling out a small card and threading it through my typewriter. Among the words that I typed for her were these: “The simple secret is this: put your trust in the Lord, do your best, then leave the rest to Him.” She did put her trust in God. But her affliction did not disappear. For years she suffered, but in due course, the Lord blessed her, and eventually she returned to health. https://www.lds.org/ensign/2008/11/come-what-may-and-love-it?lang=eng