

Doctrinal Mastery: Moses 1:39

God's Work and Glory

After the Lord had shown Moses His vast creations, Moses asked the Lord to “tell me ... why these things are so” (Moses 1:30). This doctrinal mastery lesson addresses the Lord’s answer that His work and glory is “to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life” of Heavenly Father’s children (Moses 1:39). This scripture helps us understand the doctrine that men and women can become like God and that God is devoted to that work and purpose.

Possible Learning Activities

Know the doctrine

Think about your typical activities each day.

What are some of the most important tasks, projects, or purposes you have in your life?

What do you think is the most important work of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ?

Read Moses 1:39, looking for what the Lord told Moses was His most important work.

A truth we can learn from this verse is **God’s work and glory is to bring about the immortality and eternal life of man.**

How are immortality and eternal life different?

Immortality is to live forever as a resurrected being. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, everyone will receive this gift. Eternal life, or exaltation, is to inherit a place in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, where we will live in God’s presence and continue as families (see D&C 131:1–4). Like immortality, this gift is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. However, it requires our “obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel” (Articles of Faith 1:3) (*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* [2004], 52).

Read the following statements from Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

While we may look at the vast expanse of the universe and say, ‘What is man in comparison to the glory of creation?’ God Himself said we are the reason He created the universe! His work and glory—the purpose for this magnificent universe—is to save and exalt mankind. In other words, the vast expanse of eternity, the glories and mysteries of infinite space and time are all built for the benefit of ordinary mortals like you and me...that we might reach our potential as [Heavenly Father’s] sons and daughters (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “You Matter to Him,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 20).
Imagine that — the most powerful being in the universe — the being who formed stars, nebulae, and galaxies has your eternal happiness as His greatest priority. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, *Church News*, October 27, 2019)

The purpose behind all the work of your Father in Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ is to help you inherit eternal life. To obtain eternal life and become exalted means to become like Them.

What does this truth tell you about the way Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ feel about you?

What does this truth tell you about yourself?

What have our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ done to bring about your immortality and eternal life?

Brother Brian K. Ashton, former counselor in the Sunday School General Presidency, shared some examples of ways Heavenly Father helps us in our daily lives to progress toward eternal life:

It is Heavenly Father who gives us our daily bread, which includes both the food we eat and the strength we need to keep His commandments. The Father gives good gifts. He hears and answers our prayers. Heavenly Father delivers us from evil when we let Him. He weeps for us when we suffer. Ultimately, all of our blessings come from the Father.

Heavenly Father guides us and gives us the experiences we need based on our strengths, weaknesses, and choices so that we might bear good fruit. The Father chastens us when necessary because He loves us. He is a “Man of Counsel” [Moses 7:35], who will counsel with us if we ask.

It is Heavenly Father who sends both the influence and the gift of the Holy Ghost into our lives. Through the gift of the Holy Ghost, the glory—or intelligence, light, and power—of the Father can dwell in us. (Brian K. Ashton, “The Father,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2018, 94)

When have you noticed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ helping you in one or more of these ways?

How is your Heavenly Father currently helping you in these or other ways to reach your potential and become like Him?

What have you learned about Heavenly Father from His efforts to help you become more like Him?

Practice application

Isaac notices one of his friends, Jim, eating alone at lunch. As he sits down to join him, Jim seems deep in thought. He looks over at Isaac and says, “Hey, at church on Sunday my minister said that your church teaches that you can become like God. That sounds kind of arrogant to me. Do you really believe that?”

Isaac doesn’t know what to say at first.

Why would it be important to understand Jim’s beliefs about God before seeking to answer his question?

Act in Faith

Read paragraphs 5–7 in Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge section of the *Doctrinal Mastery Core Document*. Consider underlining words or phrases that would be helpful to apply in this scenario.

What words or phrases did you underline? How might they be applied in this scenario?

Examine concepts and questions with an eternal perspective:

Read paragraphs 8–10 in the Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge Section of the *Doctrinal Mastery Core Document*. Consider underlining words or phrases that would be helpful to apply in this scenario.

What words or phrases did you underline? How might they be applied in this scenario?

Seek further understanding through divinely appointed sources

Read paragraphs 11–12 in the Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge section of the *Doctrinal Mastery Core Document*. Consider underlining words or phrases that would be helpful to apply in this scenario.

What words or phrases did you underline? How might they be applied in this scenario?

Memorize the reference and key scripture phrase

Take a piece of paper and fold it in quarters. Unfold the paper to show the four sections. Using repetition to help you memorize, in each section write the following key scripture phrase and scripture reference: *Moses 1:39: “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”*

Then turn the paper over, and in each of the four sections write the scripture reference followed by just the first letters of the words in the key scripture phrase.

Finally, try restating the key scripture phrase to someone near you while looking at only the first letters of the words in the key scripture phrase.

Review the Passage

Supplemental Learning Activity

Video Presentation

Watch the video “[Earthly Father, Heavenly Father](#)” (3:59), from ChurchofJesusChrist.org, looking for similarities between what the father in this video does for his children and what God does to prepare us to become like Him and live the kind of life He lives.