

Diligence in Missionary Work

Preparing to Become a Diligent Missionary

Prepare to study by listening to a hymn or song and saying a prayer. Create a note for this lesson in your seminary notebook. As you study, write any questions you have and look for answers.

Jesus Christ is tireless in His efforts to save Heavenly Father’s children. He finishes what He starts and works with all His heart. We should strive to emulate the Savior’s example of diligence as we serve others. This lesson can help you seek the Lord’s help to become more diligent in your lives and your preparation to serve as His missionaries.

Study the Doctrine

Read the [statement from the talk “Fourth Floor, Last Door”](#) by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, then Second Counselor in the First Presidency, sharing the following experience of missionaries in Europe who felt impressed to share the gospel with residents of a four-story apartment building.

One day they had the feeling to approach the residents of a well-kept four-story apartment building. They started on the first floor and knocked on each door, presenting their saving message of Jesus Christ and the Restoration of His Church.

No one on the first floor would listen to them.

How easy it would have been to say, “We tried. Let’s stop right here. Let’s go and try another building.”

But these two missionaries had faith and they were willing to work, and so they knocked on every door on the second floor.

Again, no one would listen.

The third floor was the same. And so was the fourth—that is, until they knocked on the last door of the fourth floor.

When that door opened, a young girl smiled at them and asked them to wait while she spoke with her mother.

Her mother was only 36 years old, had recently lost her husband, and was in no mood to talk with Mormon missionaries. So she told her daughter to send them away.

But the daughter pleaded with her. These young men were so nice, she said. And it would take only a few minutes.

So, reluctantly, the mother agreed. The missionaries delivered their message and handed a book to the mother to read—the Book of Mormon.

After they left, the mother decided she would read at least a few pages.

She finished the entire book within a few days.

Not long after, this wonderful single-parent family entered the waters of baptism.

Ponder the following question:

- What Christlike attributes did these missionaries have?

Read [Doctrine and Covenants 4:2–6; 75:2–5, 29](#). Mark words and phrases the Lord used to describe those, including His missionaries, who desire to serve Him.

Respond to the following questions:

- What does the Savior expect of those who desire to serve Him as full-time missionaries? Why?

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- How might these attributes and actions help us in challenging circumstances we may face?
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The Lord expects His missionaries to work diligently in sharing His gospel. What is diligence? One possible definition is “consistent, earnest effort” (Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ [2023], 132).

Ponder the following question:

- What are some situations you or others your age might face that require diligence?

Reflect on how well each of the following statements describes you:

- I work hard until a job is completed successfully, even if it’s difficult.
- I work effectively, even when I’m not under close supervision.
- People can rely on me and my effort to accomplish a task.
- I find joy in putting forth my best effort.

Complete the following activities.

Jesus Christ is an example of diligence

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of all godly attributes, including diligence. Study the following accounts from the Savior’s life, looking for examples of Him being diligent in doing the Father’s will. Record these examples in your study journal.

Read [Doctrine and Covenants 19:16–19](#) and [Luke 22:39–44](#).

Watch the video “[The Savior Suffers in Gethsemane](#)” (8:47) and imagine what the Savior was experiencing and feeling.

Examples of diligence

If available, watch one or more of the following videos, or read the statement from the talk. Look for how the people you learned about were diligent in following the Lord’s gospel.

1. Read the [statement from the talk “Confide in God Unwaveringly”](#) by Elder Ulisses Soares of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles who shared how a missionary remained diligent in missionary work even after learning his sister had passed away.
2. Elizabeth McCune’s diligence contributed to the First Presidency’s decision on March 11, 1898, to call sister missionaries. “[This Grand Opportunity: Elizabeth McCune and the First Sister Missionaries](#)” (8:29).
3. Read the [statement from the talk “Lift Up Your Head and Rejoice.”](#) By Brother M. Joseph Brough, who served in the Young Men General Presidency, who shared what his daughter learned about diligence and hard things.

Think of another example of when someone, either yourself or someone else, was diligent. Compare that experience with the one you studied to look for ways you can be diligent in the future, Record your studies below.
