

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Autumn 2007, Stanford Institute

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Texts: Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, ed. Joseph Fielding Smith, Deseret Book (ISBN: 087579243X). Also, Lectures on Faith (ISBN: 1577346378). A few other reading materials will be provided. The standard works, particularly the Doctrine and Covenants, are also essential because we will discuss the contents of TPJS within their doctrinal framework.

Goals: We will discuss the prophet's quasi-canonical teachings as contained in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith (TPJS) and Lectures on Faith, along with the historical setting of these teachings. It is hoped that students will gain a greater familiarity, understanding, and appreciation of the prophet's teachings. Finally, it is hoped that they will strengthen their testimonies that Joseph Smith, as an imperfect mortal, was called of God to reveal divine truth.

Website: www.stanford.edu/~jsdaniel/TPJS/ – everything I have electronically will be posted – TPJS, Nauvoo

Class Format and Expectations:

This class will be taught in discussion format. Therefore, it is important that each student review the assigned reading every week – typically about 15 pages. I expect that this can easily be incorporated into your gospel study routine.

Each week a different student will be in charge of leading the opening discussion of the week's reading. Highlight the passages that you feel are the most interesting and important. Why are they important? What do they teach us? How did they apply in the historical context and how do they apply today? Are there relevant passages in the standard works?

The general format of each week's class will be as follows, depending on exact content:

- 15-25 minutes – student-led discussion of text and related doctrines
- 15-25 minutes – continued discussion of text and related doctrines
- 5-10 minutes – overview of historical background for next class

Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>	<u>Supplementary Material</u>
26-Sep	pages 3-4		
03-Oct	JS-H, handouts	1805 - 1830	accounts of First Vision
10-Oct	pages 7-22	1830 - Apr 1833	D&C 42, D&C 43, D&C 88
17-Oct	pages 22-43	May 1833 - Dec 1833	D&C 97, D&C 101
24-Oct	pages 47-68	Jan 1834	
31-Oct	Happy Halloween		
07-Nov	pages 68-74, LoF 1	Feb 1834 - Feb 1835	D&C 102, D&C 105
14-Nov	LoF 2-3		
21-Nov	Happy Thanksgiving! (tomorrow)		
28-Nov	LoF 4-5		
05-Dec	LoF 6-7		
12-Dec	pages 74-92	Mar 1835 - Dec 1835	D&C 107