Lesson 10
Doctrine and Covenants 25

Verse 1: Christ is speaking here, rather than the Father. Why is it important for us to become his son or daughter rather than to be his brother or sister?

He tells us that we become sons and daughters by receiving his gospel. How do we that? (Compare Mosiah 5:7.)

Verse 2: What were Emma Smith’s circumstances at this time and later? What meaning might the promise that her life would be preserved have had for her when she received this revelation? What meaning might it have had later in her life?

When we speak of someone being faithful in a nongospel context, what do we mean? Do we mean the same thing when we are speaking of faithfulness to God? Does faithful in this context mean the same as “endure to the end”? How so, or why not?

What does the word Zion mean as it is used here? What does it mean to have an inheritance in Zion?

Verse 3: What does it mean to be elect? Webster’s 1828 dictionary says that the principle meaning is “one chosen or set apart.” What does that tell us about what the Lord is telling Emma?

Verse 4: Why might Emma have murmured? What things had Emma not seen?
**Verses 5–11:** What specific things is Emma told to do? Make a list. What might those tell us about the roles of other women? Where they seem to be the same as our cultural expectations, how do we understand that sameness? Are there any differences from those expectations? What do we make of those differences?

It appears that Emma is being prepared to take Oliver Cowdery’s place (though she did not). What do we make of that?

**Verse 5:** What would it have meant for Emma to be a comfort to her husband? Webster’s 1828 dictionary gives these meanings for the word: “to strengthen; to invigorate; to cheer or enliven,” “to strengthen the mind when depressed or enfeebled; to console,” and “in law, to relieve, assist, or encourage.” Contemporary dictionaries tell us that “console” is the first meaning rather than “to strengthen,” so there has been a shift in meaning since the time of this revelation. How does thinking about that shift in meaning help you understand better what the Lord is admonishing Emma to do for Joseph?

When the Lord tells Emma that she should comfort him “in the spirit of meekness” what is he telling her? Looking at how the scriptures use the word *meekness* should help answer that question. (See for example Colossians 3:12.)

**Verse 6:** Why was Emma commanded to travel with Joseph? She had already served as a scribe for Joseph sometimes. What is the point of this commandment to do so?

**Verse 7:** What did *ordained* mean at the time of this revelation? You may find interesting what President John Taylor said about Emma’s ordination and the ordination of the
other members of the Relief Society presidency (see *Journal of Discourses*, 21:367–68).

**Verse 8:** What do you make of this promise that Emma would receive the Holy Ghost? She had already been baptized. What does this verse suggest about her confirmation? Had she put off confirmation, and if so, why?

Why do you think she was told that her time would be “given to writing, and to learning much”?

**Verse 9:** What fears might the Lord be calming here? What particular fears might Emma have had? How is this an answer to those fears?

**Verse 10:** The commandment of this verse is a common thread in the revelations that we have in the Doctrine and Covenants. Why do you think the Lord felt it necessary to repeat some form of that commandment so often? What circumstances in the early Church warranted that repetition?

**Verse 11:** The word *hymn* originally meant “a song of praise to God.” Some of our hymns today may not fit that description exactly, but most can be construed as praising God. Why is praise of him so important to our spiritual life? What does this suggest about refraining from singing in church?

**Verse 12:** What is “the song of the heart”? Is it the same as or different from “hymn”?

In what sense is a song of the heart a prayer? Why would a prayer that is always the same, as is a hymn, be important to the Lord? How might it be important to us?

What blessing or blessings do we receive from singing hymns?
Verse 13: The Lord seems to be saying, “For these reasons, lift up your heart and rejoice.” What reasons has he given her for doing so in this revelation?

What does it mean to cleave to a covenant?

Verse 14: How does this reference to meekness help us understand what the Lord said in verse 5?

The Old Testament term most often translated as “glory” originally referred to weightiness or importance. Because those who were important dressed in splendor, it came also to refer to shining, as in Exodus 24:17. D&C 133:49 speaks of glory in similar terms. But D&C 132:19 speaks of glory as “a fullness and continuation of the seeds forever and ever.” In a gospel context, what is glory? Is there more than one meaning or are these meanings closely related? Do the meanings of the word glory help us understand anything about the promises that God makes to the faithful?

Is the commandment to delight in the glory of another person, particularly in a spouse, something that applies only to Emma or only to women? What do the scriptures say about seeking glory for ourselves? (See John 8:50.) In practical terms, what does it mean to delight in the glory of one’s spouse?

Verse 15: How do we keep the commandments continually? What does crown mean here? What is the Lord promising Emma?

Verse 16: Does this mean that the revelation we have here is a revelation not only for Emma, but also for every other member of the Church? If so, how might that change our understanding of its parts?