

Reflection and Synthesis Report

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Week #: 14

# Instructions

In the table provided below, you will complete your reflection and synthesis responses for this week. Be sure to complete each Response section. When referencing scripture or other materials, only include a brief or abbreviated summary along with the citation as these cannot be included in the required word count. When you have completed the document, save it to your computer and follow the instructions in your course to submit the assignment to your instructor.

1. **Did you complete all the assigned reading for the week? [Yes ⃝ or No ⃝]**

| 1. **Article of Faith** | Please identify the Article of Faith studied this week |
| --- | --- |
| Response: 13 | |
| 1. **Explanation of Key Events and Scriptures** | Demonstrate your comprehension of fundamental truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, and your ability to use the scriptures to teach them. Be sure to include specific scripture references from the assigned readings.  Scenario: Imagine you have been asked by a family member or friend to share what you believe about the truths and events you studied this week. Share in your own words several insights as though you are really trying to teach someone. Include at least three scripture references to support the truths you teach (you may reference them, but there is no need to quote them). Share your testimony as you would when teaching someone.  Your response will be evaluated by the following criteria:   1. **200–300 words in length** (please include your word count at the bottom of the section). 2. **Include at least 3 scripture references from the assigned readings**. |
| Response: We aren’t just checking off boxes when it comes to our spiritual welfare. We don’t just go to church so that when we go to heaven, the angel at the gate asks if we went to church. We need to be active in our worship. Peter said, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;” (2 Peter 1:5) We cannot grow to be perfect if all we do is what we’re supposed to. God has given us commandments to have faith. We need to give all diligence, and then we get faith, and then we get virtue, and then we get knowledge. It’s almost a cascading effect of our faithful worship of God. The 13th article of faith says to seek after goodness. We live in a world caked in sin, and everywhere you go you hear and see it as plain as day. That’s why God gave us another commandment, to “...let all things be done in cleanliness before me.” (D&C 42:41) We need to seek after clean things now, more than ever. The world is a mess, and we can get swept up really easily. “My people must be tried in all things, that they may be prepared to receive the glory that I have for them, even the glory of Zion; and he that will not bear chastisement is not worthy of my kingdom.” (D&C 136:31) We need to be willing to accept the correcting voice of God. We all make mistakes, and need to be willing to take the direction of where we need to go.    **Word Count: 267** | |
| 1. **Synthesis: Personal Relevance and Application to the Real World** | There are many serious challenges people encounter on a daily basis that are consequences of living in a fallen world. The gospel truths taught in the Articles of Faith have tremendous power to help people find answers, rise above problems, or simply feel God's love and concern for them again.  Each week you will choose an issue (below) and think deeply about how the truths in that week’s Article of Faith can offer hope to those who are experiencing the problem. If you have another issue that particularly interests you, then choose your own:  abortion  abuse/bullying  addiction  depression  divorce  domestic violence  energy/environmental issues  violence  gambling  genocide  international terrorism  materialism  natural disasters  pornography  unemployment  poverty  racial strife/hatred  religious intolerance/persecution  threats to religious liberty  same-sex marriage  suicide  Scenario: Imagine you are speaking to someone who has experienced or has concerns about the issue you have chosen. What would you share from the doctrine and fundamental truths that you have studied this past week to help that person? Include why you think these truths and doctrine are helpful and what they have meant to you. Be encouraging with the truths you know.  **Write a response in at least 300-450 words** **and list your word count at the end of your response.** |
| 1. **The world problem/issue I chose this week is:** Religious Persecution   Response: I have lots and lots of friends who have left the church, and all of them are very critical of our practices. I spent a lot of time in high school agreeing with a lot of their thoughts. I wanted to do what they did. They seemed to really be enjoying the lifestyle they live. I was not seeking after good. I was seeking after easy. This pulled me into a direction that I regret going down. I still went to church, and I still said prayers, but it took a little bit for me to come back around in my faith. Then, covid hit, and I decided to give my faith an honest try. From there, I went on a mission, and changed my life fully. I came home, a newly committed disciple of Jesus Christ, and these same friends continued their talk. I stayed friends with them, but I’ve seen many of their lives fall apart. They asked if I would go see movies and play games that were filled with nasty. Before my mission, I would totally join them, but now I’m much more wary. These friends love to tease too. “Oh you innocent child” and all that. And it’s not religious persecution, but sometimes I think about the things I’m gonna miss out on when they talk about that kind of stuff. And then I think about the joys these friends are missing from leaving more clean. Although, I have watched some of these movies, and I’ve felt the loss of the spirit. This feels like the chastisement I mentioned earlier, and I’ve committed to not watching these ever again, or anything like it. These images don’t fade, but as I reroute to a better path, I can be made whole. I’m way excited for the future where sin will die, and everything will fall into place when Jesus Christ returns. I know He lives, and I will follow Him to the end of the earth.  **Word Count: 330** | |