

Reflection and Synthesis Report

Name: Shane Artman

Week #: 3

# 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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Learning Goal Focus** | Review this week’s Introduction. Reflect on the Learning Goal Focus and material presented in the week introduction video. **Ponder and respond** to each of the following question in **less than 100 words**:   1. How did this week’s Personal Study Assignment help you better understand or achieve the learning goal for this week? |
| Response: (80 words)  We learned about the second article of faith that we are responsible for our own sins and no-one else’s. This is important to the goal for the week, “Becoming a covenant keeper”. Through our study, this week, we find that not tempting our natural man and remaining on the correct path of our Heavenly Father through keeping our covenants, we can help to prevent the pitfalls that will be the consequences of falling into sin with our envious brother, Lucifer. | |
| **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, focusing especially on restoration scriptures (Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, Pearl of Great Price). **In 200-300 words, write a response** that addresses the following questions about the key events and scriptures you have been studying:   1. What are the key truths associated with this Article of Faith that are unique to or significantly clarified by the restoration? 2. Write about the significance of any key events in establishing the truths of the restoration connected with this Article of Faith. Also write about key scriptural passages that clarify these truths.   ***List your word count at the top of your response*** |
| Response: (This is week 2: “Article of Faith #1” discussed) ( 280 words)  We learn of our Heavenly heritage in Moses 4. We are taught that in the premortal existence, men were shown the plan of our Heavenly Father and Jesus’ willingness to follow the Plan. Satan offered to bring everyone home but ignore their agency; further, he desired the honor over our Heavenly Father. We continued our growth by being sent to earth and learn of our Heavenly Father’s plan requiring only faith to return. We were taught of the transgression of Adam and Eve that decided, on their own, to transgress the law which instructed them to refrain from consuming the fruit from the Tree of Life. As a result, we see the consequences of the action. Because of this Fall, Adam and Eve, and thus all of us, were stricken from the presence of Heavenly Father and his Son. These, both, teach of our ability to choose for ourselves and the required consequences that follow our decisions.  We learn in D&C 29:39 about the reason of our separation from our Father, “And it must needs be that the [adevil](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/29.36-50?lang=eng#note39a) should [btempt](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/29.36-50?lang=eng#note39b) the children of men, or they could not be [cagents](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/29.36-50?lang=eng#note39c) unto themselves; for if they never should have [dbitter](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/29.36-50?lang=eng#note39d) they could not know the sweet”. Specifically speaking to the reason that Satan is permitted to tempt the chidren of our Heavenly Father, we must go through our mortal phase to truly build a testimony of our Father’s plan.  While we will not be held accountable to our “first parent’s transgression”, we will be accountable for our own sins. Continuing in D&C 29, we can find the promises that as many as will believe on the Savior will be redeemed. | |
| **Personal Relevance** | Focusing on the Truths to Ponder covered this week, in **100 to 200 words,** **write about** how the truths have been, or can be, an anchor for your own faith, testimony, and conversion.  *The purpose of this section is for you to focus on how you can/will apply the truths continued to guide you in continuing your conversion and deepening your discipleship.*  ***List your word count at the top of your response*** |
| Response: (123 Words)  To know the reason for our existence, can help us resolve to follow the commandments of our Heavenly Father. We learn that while we will all fail to meet the requirements to return with our Heavenly Father, we can have an opportunity to have these sins forgiven allowing our return. However, we are not promised that we will have a smooth ride to the “promised-land”. We are told that by living the gospel we can prevent the avoidable consequences; however, we will still need to have the experiences of good and evil to become refined. It is by these experiences that we truly grow in the gospel. If we did not have these bumps, we may not become truly converted to the gospel. | |
| **Synthesis and Application to the Real World** | Christ has asked us to be an influence for good in the world and to share what we know about the good news of the gospel with others (3rd Nephi 12: 16, Luke 22:32). There are many serious problems/issues people deal with on a daily basis that are consequences of living in a fallen world. These problems/issues negatively impact those affected: they lessen people's quality of life, their ability to feel God's love, or experience the joy that the restored gospel promises. 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.  Throughout the semester you will be reflecting on a particular issue and think deeply about what message of insight and hope the truths in the Articles of Faith can offer to those in the world that are experiencing the problem. You will **focus on only one issue**, so choose your issue carefully.  What world problem/issue do you want to explore? Here are a few you might consider but 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  homosexuality  international terrorism  materialism  natural disasters  pornography  unemployment | poverty  racial strife/hatred  religious intolerance/persecution; threats to religious liberty  same-gender marriage  suicide |   **Write** your chosen problem/issue below and **in 150-300 words, explain** why it is important to explore this particular issue through the lens of the restored gospel and Articles of Faith.  ***List your word count at the top of your response*** |
| Response (198 Words)  Chosen Problem: Intolerance / Persecution  Being a child of God guarantees us that we have an opportunity to return and continue our progression towards becoming as our Father. It does not guarantee that we will face no challenges along the way. Being persecuted is part of Satan’s war chest drawing us away from Heavenly Father. Satan does not have a body or the opportunity, and probably the desire, to return to our Father. As a result, he wants Heavenly Father and we to suffer. He has decided that by bringing us misery and woe will somehow make his existence better. We need to suffer persecution but be careful that we ourselves are not part of Satan’s plan. We should be careful to not foster intolerance for those that we do not agree with or those that are different. Instead of drawing them nearer to Christ and help them return to our Heavenly Parents, we can be the cause of their demise. Of all of the offences one could embark, causing another to | |