Study Guide 21

UNIT 11 Day 2

11.3, 11.4, 11.5

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Instructions:  The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

***11.3 GT: Plural Marriage in Kirtland and Nauvoo***

1. In the ***Beginnings of Plural Marriage in the Church*** section, it gives some reasons Joseph didn’t publically talk about Polygamy until a few years after receiving the commandment. With the article in mind, what are some reasons you think Joseph hesitated to publically teach it?
   1. He probably was hesitant because it’s such a controversial topic. He knew people would misinterpret the reason for it and think it was his idea as opposed to a commandment of God and he was scared of receiving backlash.
2. In ***Plural Marriage and Eternal Marriage*** it reminds us that while Plural Marriage is discussed in D&C 132, the most significant doctrinal revelation found is that of eternal marriage, where husbands and wives can be sealed for eternity rather than “to death do us part.” Why does this doctrine, that there is a plan and opportunity for us to be sealed forever with our families, bring joy/hope/happiness to your personal life?
   1. It brings a lot of Joy to me because I know that even when family members pass away I can be confident that I will get to continue my relationship with them into the eternities.
3. By the 1830’s, while the majority of couples were still having prearranged marriages for money and stability, some couples were beginning to marry for love. In ***Plural Marriage in Nauvoo*** itbriefly mentions a bit of trivia regarding Joseph and Emma. Respond to the following:  
    1) What did Joseph and Emma do?

* They eloped against Emma’s parents wishes.

2) Did you know about this before?

- Yes

3) How do you think it affected their relationships with his in-laws?

- I’m sure it created some tension and distrust in there relationship with the in-laws.

1. Fill in the blank: “Latter-day Saints’ motives for plural marriage were often more religious than economic or romantic.” What do you think this means, and do you think that still happens today in some communities?
   1. It means they were marrying multiple wives in order to follow God as opposed to being genuinely attracted to the person.
   2. I believe this could still happen today. I imagine some latter day saints might still marry for more religious reasons than romantic because marriage is a commandment for the celestial kingdom.
2. What happened when it was discovered that some men were abusing the revelation on Plural marriage to perform unauthorized “spiritual wifery” ceremonies?
   1. These men were excommunicated and those practicing plural marriage issued denials that condemned the practice of plural marriage outside of God’s commands.
3. Specifically under the “Joseph Smith and Plural Marriage” section, what is something new you learned that is different/wasn’t mentioned in the previous content we’ve covered? Or, what is something that stood out to you personally as significant?
   1. The idea of sealings for time versus time and eternity stood out to me as significant. If Joseph Smith only instituted polygamy for the sake of his own sexual opportunities then it wouldn’t really make any sense for him to engage in eternity only sealings.
4. Similarly, share something that struck a chord with you while reading the **Joseph and Emma** section.

**11.4 Historical Perspective on the Legal Age of Marriage**

***Now for a quick break from the dense readings!***

1. Looking at the first two pages about legal marital ages throughout the years, what thoughts come to mind? Is it hard to switch your perspective historically to see what the world was like back then?
2. Looking at the charts on the final page about age differences in marriage, share something you found interesting that you hadn’t known before.

**11.5 Excerpt from Valerie Hudson Cassler’s book, “Women in Eternity, Women of Zion”**

***Now back to dense-ish readings!***

1. In the **Marriage as an Eternal Principle** section, what does it list as the two scriptural purposes of marriage here in mortality?
2. All of our articles have established that the “law of marriage” is monogamy and that the “lawful exception” is only to be practiced when commanded by the Lord. We have also learned that the “lawful exception” of plural marriage was one of those things the Lord wanted Joseph Smith to *restore*. According to this article under the **Doctrine and Covenants 132** section, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, how can this “lawful exception” be *restored*, but not currently practiced?
3. After the Lord discusses the restoration of Eternal Marriage in D&C 132, He discusses two stories of Abraham before going into the topic of Polygamy. How are these two stories analogous/related to eachother, and what insights to they give about the Practice of Polygamy, both Anciently and in modern times?
4. An “Abrahamic Sacrifice” is different than a traditional “Sacrifice.” Previous readings have told us how hard Plural marriage was to live, both for the men and women involved. What insights does this article give you on the difficulty and Abrahamic sacrifice of Polygamy? Would it have been an “Abrahamic Sacrifice” at all if it wasn’t extremely difficult and contrary to reason?
5. Most importantly, does God condemn Abraham, Joseph, the early Saints, or any of us today when we find Polygamy a difficult sacrifice to bear? Explain your answer.
6. Explain in your own words, the significance of the **Ram in the Thicket** section when it comes to Doctrine regarding the “Sealing” ordinances of our Temples.
7. To close, what is the most useful thing you feel you learned from this week’s readings? (For example, with this final article, you could discuss how learning about the “Abrahamic Sacrifice of Polygamy” has enhanced your perspective on this difficult topic.)