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.
   1. I thought it was neat that Emma kept a lock of Joseph’s hair in a locket after Joseph’s death. It just shows that even though Emma didn’t always agree with Plural marriage she ultimately still loved Joseph and didn’t hold any grudges towards him for it.

**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?
   1. My initial thought are that it is crazy to think I a lot of states in the 1880’s, people could get married as early as 10 years old.
   2. It is definitely hard to imagine living in such a time where some things that are unthinkable in today’s world were common place
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.
   1. I didn’t know that it was common to marry someone as many as 20 years younger than yourself. I knew stuff like that happened and still happens today, but I had no idea how normal it was. It makes some of Joseph Smith’s marriages not seem as weird.

**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?
   1. To raise up righteous seed to God
   2. to have a “continuation of the seeds forever and ever” as godly marriage partners in the hereafter
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?
   1. Joseph Smith restored the lawful exception of plural marriage when the Lord commanded him to practice it. Now that we don’t live plural marriage today, just knowing that the early church practiced it gives us everything we need to know about it.
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?
   1. In both of these stories God commanded Abraham to do something that would be a sin under normal circumstances.
   2. These stories teach us that sometimes God asks us to do things that don’t make sense, or that may be contrary to traditional commandments, but God knows all things and has provided for exceptions to rules to fulfill his purposes.
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?
   1. I already knew polygamy was a difficult ordeal, but this article helped me realize how big of a trial it actually was. When I think of it similarly to Abraham’s command to sacrifice Isaac then it causes me to respect and admire the saints who had faith sufficient enough to follow the Lord’s commands.
   2. No, it wouldn’t.
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.
   1. No.
   2. I don’t think the Lord condemns anyone for finding polygamy or any other commandment difficult to bear. It’s human nature to not always want to follow God’s ways. I think God only condemns those who don’t follow him, not those who think its hard. Actions are the main thing that matters.
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.
   1. Those who are sealed in the temple need not fear for their own exaltation if the person they are sealed to doesn’t live up to their covenants. The Lord is merciful and will judge us based on our own actions, not others. If our partners go astray, the Lord will provide for a new partner so long as we remain worthy.
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.)
   1. The most useful thing I learned from this weeks readings was the differences in cultures between today and Joseph Smith’s time. I have wondered about Joseph’s sealings to young girls who were 20 years younger than him and thought it to be inappropriate, but now I understand that such actions weren’t out of the ordinary for the time.