**Study Guide 3**

**Unit 2: The Restoration of the Prophets and Revelation – Joseph Smith’s Vision**

**Articles 2.3, 2.4**

**Name: Ryan George**

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.

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

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

* 1. **"Approaching Mormon Doctrine" LDS Newsroom Statement**

1. What are five factors that often lead to misunderstandings of Mormon doctrine by the media and others?
   1. Not every statement made by a Church leader, past or present, necessarily constitutes doctrine
   2. Some doctrines are more important than others and might be considered core doctrines.
   3. Because different times present different challenges, [modern-day prophets](http://www.lds.org/portal/site/LDSOrg/menuitem.b12f9d18fae655bb69095bd3e44916a0/?vgnextoid=2354fccf2b7db010VgnVCM1000004d82620aRCRD&locale=0&sourceId=99abe2270ed6c010VgnVCM1000004d82620a____&hideNav=1) receive [revelation](http://newsroom.lds.org/article/divine-revelation-modern-times) relevant to the circumstances of their day
   4. The doctrinal tenets of any religion are best understood within a broad context, and thoughtful analysis is required to understand them. News reporters pressed by daily deadlines often find that problematic.
   5. Those writing or commenting on Latter-day Saint doctrine also need to understand that certain words in the [Mormon vocabulary](http://newsroom.lds.org/topic) have slightly different meanings and connotations than those same words have in other religions.
2. Who in the church has the right to state and clarify doctrinal deviations?
   1. The Prophet
3. Where can an acquiring person find the tenets of Mormon doctrine **(List at least 4)?**
   1. The Book of Mormon
   2. The Doctrine and Covenants
   3. The Pearl of Great Price
   4. The Bible
   5. General Conference
4. As discussed in class, it is important as members studying Mormon doctrine to study intellectually. However, because of the abundance of information, it is also necessary to couple our exploration with a **gospel principle** to add to our study. Remember the two wings of an airplane principle-**what Gospel principle is necessary when studying doctrine intellectually?** 
   1. Faith

**2.4 The First Vision: Key to Truth –Elder Richard J Maynes**

1. True or False: The Restoration of the Gospel in these Latter-days was an unforeseen and unexpected event by Prophets of Old?
   1. False
2. Now that you are familiar with all 9 accounts because of your readings, do you agree with Elder Maynes that “It is a blessing to have these records. … they work together to paint a more complete picture” ? Why do you agree or disagree?
   1. Yes I agree. The first vision account that is in our standard works is good, but there are so many other details that the other first visions add that we would never know if we only read the standard works.

**There are over 20 truths listed in this article of things we can learn from young Joseph’s incredible First Vision experience. For #’s 7-10, select the top four that are important to you and explain in at least two sentences why this is impactful to your life.**

1. Lesson/Truth: That the scriptures are true
   1. Explanation: In today’s world not very many people believe in the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ. Joseph’s vision confirms that Jesus really did rise again and that we can have hope for life after death.
2. Lesson/Truth: God answers prayers
   1. Explanation: Sometimes it can be discouraging when you pray for something but don’t feel like God is answering. The first vision gives hope that God will answer and that he does so in his own way and time.
3. Lesson/Truth: God and Jesus are separate beings.
   1. Explanation: This is important knowledge because it confirms that God is a personal God who really created us in his image and he’s not an abstract essence who is everywhere and no where.
4. Lesson/Truth: God still speaks and calls prophets
   1. Explanation: The Bible alone is great but it only goes so far. There are many principles that can be applied to todays world, but on the other hand there are new evils and issues today that weren’t around back then. The first vision confirms that God loves us enough to give continued guidance in an ever changing world.
5. Share your favorite thing that you learned/were reminded of from this week’s assignments!
   1. The main thing this week’s assignment reminded me of was God’s love. Not only did God love us so much that he sent his only son to die for us, but he continues to show his love by answering prayers, calling prophets, and giving us new scripture for guidance.