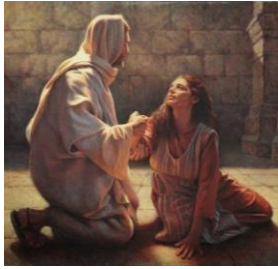


The Divine Gift of Forgiveness (Religion 290-F24 / F30)



FALL SEMESTER 2024

[T/TH 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.]

[Tue 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.]

Instructor:

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Course Objective

Help learners understand and seek the blessings and promises associated with the doctrine of forgiveness as disciples of Jesus Christ. The course will focus on Elder Neal L. Andersen's book *The Divine Gift of Forgiveness* along with the scriptures to unlock this powerful, beautiful and essential doctrine of Jesus Christ



Obtaining and Maintaining Parking

In order to park near the Institute you must have a parking permit. Parking is enforced by the college.

Graduating from Institute

- Earn a Total of 14 course credits (most classes are 2 credits)
- 8 credits must come from "Cornerstone Courses" (Foundations of the Restoration Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel, The Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon, and The Eternal Family)
- 6 credits from other courses
- Receive an Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Receiving Credit for this Course

Students who prefer to "opt-in" to receive credit for participation in this course, need to complete the following:

1. Attend 75% of the time
2. Complete 100% of the class readings
3. Complete an Elevate Learning assignment (click on the [ELEVATE LEARNING](#) link to learn more)

Accessing the Readings

You can access the readings multiple ways:

1. On-line @ myinstitute.churchofjesuschrist.org*
2. The LDS app [Seminaries and Institute](#)* (iOS/ Android)
3. They are listed on the back of this syllabus

*To access any of the Class Readings, select the hyperlinked title (i.e.; "Readings") or select the set of numbers



Week	Topic and Class Focus	Readings
Aug 20 – 22	Introduction – My Divine and Mortal Identities The Introduction / Chapter 1 – The Joy of Becoming Clean	Most Readings will come from The Divine Gift of Forgiveness chapters 1-25
Aug 26 – 29	Chapter 2 – Experiences to Strengthen Our Righteous Desires Chapter 3 – Repentance: An Idea Now Out of Style	
Sept 2 – 5	Chapter 4 – A Powerful Scriptural Example Chapter 5 – Awakening Unto God	
Sept 9 – 12	Chapter 6 – Far From Our Heavenly Home Chapter 7 – Joy or Remorse of Conscience	
Sept 16 – 19	Chapter 8 – The Gift of His Precious Son Chapter 9 – Faith Leads, Repentance Follows	
Sept 23 – 26	Chapter 10 – Only Through the Father and the Son Chapter 11 – The Devils Throat	
Sep 30 – Oct 3	Chapter 12 – Twin Bullies Wanting to Prevent Our Repentance Chapter 13 – Detours on the Road to Forgiveness	
Oct 7 – 10	Chapter 14 – The Roadway Prepared for Repentance and Forgiveness Chapter 15 – 3 Beloved Friends we Meet Early on the Journey to Forgiveness	
Oct 14 – 16	Tuesday Class Only – FALL BREAK	
Oct 21 – 24	Chapter 16 – The Prodigal Son [Luke 15:11-32] Chapter 17 – Repentance, Angels, and Family Ties	
Oct 28 – 31	Chapter 18 – Uncompromising Honesty Chapter 19 – Willingly Confessing and Purposefully Forsaking Sin	
Nov 4 – 8	Understanding the Atonement of Jesus Christ	
Nov 11 – 14	Chapter 20 – Generous Restitution Chapter 21 – Forgiveness Through Forgiving	
Nov 18 - 21	Chapter 22 – The Sacred Role of the Priesthood Chapter 23 – The Holy Ghost – A Messenger of Forgiveness	
Nov 25 – 26	Understanding the Grace of Jesus Christ on the Covenant Path	
Dec 2 – 5	Chapter 24 – The Sacrament, the Temple, and Continual Repentance Chapter 25 – The Divine Gift of Forgiveness	

Chapter Breakdown – Teaching Emphasis for each class

Chapter	Potential teaching principles and ideas
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming Clean after recovering the dead body of a steer • The slow nature of the repentance process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mosiah 27:8-31 (Not dramatic like this but slow) • Repentance should be daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President Nelson’s talk • No Unclean thing can enter God’s Kingdom (Alma 5 & 11) • Isaiah 35 – Way of Holiness • Mormon 9 – Standing naked before God’s holiness •
2	<p>Lots of inspirational and motivational stories about the power to forgive and heal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 6 – Standing before God’s presence • Man breaks into ward members homes Bishop returns to tell him God loves him • Emails to priesthood leader – slowly Atonement removes the pain of sin • Marriage ruined by pornography – Forgives and cares for dying ex-husband • 84-year-old woman baptized who’d had an abortion years earlier • Girl in Ghana fleeing guerillas w/ younger brother watches them kill her brother • Troubled man wanders into church prays in primary room feels God’s love • Young boy still pack of gum from store – Mom has him return • First sincere prayer in years – Feels God’s acceptance and love • Boy stole comic book, restitution was sweeping the store – He was helped to repent • Prisoner meets the sister missionaries – Learns he can get a new heart and life • Woman writes Pres. Hinckley about husband’s pornographic addiction and tragic end • Two women neighbors finally forgive each other after years – Spirit heals them both
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern world is changing with technology at an alarming rate • Pew Research reveals “religious-nones” are growing rapidly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use slides from other lessons about religious stats • The language and understanding of “repentance” is being lost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “You do you / Live your own truth / Just who I am” • 9-11 stats with church attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ D&C 1:16-17 • Goodness vs. holiness – 2 Ne. 28:7-8 / Isa. 5:20 • Ridiculed for seeking righteousness – Isa 59:15
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We look to scriptural stories and hero’s that inspire us • Alma 22 story of being “converted to the Lord” and remaining true to the end • Spend most of class on Alma 22 – Abraham raising hand (Gen 14) / Covenant (Gen. 15)
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grand Plan’s amazing promises can awaken us – D&C 109:77 • 2 Nephi 9 – O how great... (focus on the greatness of the plan) • Proving Contraries could be discussed – Law / Love • Premortal council – Rev 12 / Alma 13 • Korihor and false philosophies – Tree of Life and the mists of darkness • Question: What do you think God is counting on you to do for Him?
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mortal life will be difficult ○ We would have a Redeemer • Divine law governs us – D&C 88:13-15, 34-38 • Premortal experience taught us we needed help beyond ourselves – Revelation 5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosiah 3:19 – Fallen natures (Moses 5:13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ President Oaks quote ◦ Elder Holland’s quote (p.69) • Your identity is defined by the righteousness of another <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Come boldly to the throne of grace (NT verse) • The Fall is emphasized here – 2 Nephi 2
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses 6:55-57 Sin conceives in each of our hearts • Hebrew word for sin – “off the mark” Prevents fulfilling measure of creation • 1 Timothy 4:2 – Conscience seared hot iron • Question: WHAT are some of the wages of sin? (Romans 6:23) • Remorse of conscience • Mormon 9 – See God’s holiness vs. your own nakedness • Sins of commission vs. omission (This could be a good discussion) • Stumbling block of repenting from a sin rather than from sinning • Spencer W. Kimball: “All-out surrender to the Lord”, “spreads into all areas of life” • Looking at sin with complete abhorrence – Alma 13:12 • Cannot do this alone – God must be involved and will carry us
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What shall I do then with Jesus, which is called Christ?” – All must answer this! • Elder Anderson’s apostolic witness of Christ’s living reality • Bookend comments of His life “Here am I send me” to “Into thy hands I commend..” • Deeply consider own sins and personal redemption deepens love for God • The Law of Justice (This could be discussed her possibly) • CS Lewis – Christ knows the full strength of temptation because he never gave in • Gethsemane – Isaiah 53 could really be used for this lesson & Alma 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Elder Haight’s quote “panoramic vision of the Savior’s ministry”
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story of friend in seminary who talked the talk but didn’t walk the walk • Story of Amulek and Alma – Amulek increasing his faith in Christ’s power • “faith unto repentance...” • Faith grows and strengthens as we...(pg. 101) – Could study Alma 32 • JST Heb 11:1 Evidences and assurances of faith • Enos believing in Christ never having seen or heard Him before • President Joseph Fielding Smith quote • Promises to strengthening one’s faith in Christ to access more power to change (104) • Promise that they can feel the forgiveness they seek (final two paragraphs) • Studying the Atonement and life of Christ increases desire to repent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Elder Maxwell quote “More I learn about Jesus the more...” ◦ Elder Scott quotes about learning about the Atonement
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repentance is about a relationship with God (“Walking with God”) • Pleading in prayer so God can see our true repentance, confessing in sadness our sins • Only through God and His Son can forgiveness come – Don’t seek in the wrong places • King Benjamin’s people, Alma the Younger, Adam/Eve – 3 examples of calling upon God • Approaching the throne of God “boldly” and all that it means • Vocal prayer • Praying to the Father for forgiveness (most important) and confessing to His representative • Neal A. Maxwell quote about laying our will on the altar
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Smith statement – “Nearer a person approaches God greater power by Satan...” • Deceptions of Satan (p.116) Hopelessness, despair, inability • Prodigal Son • Procrastination – Screw Tape Letters • Adversary’s power nothing to God’s

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Savior temptation can become abhorrent to us (2 Ne. 4:31; Alma 13:12; Rom 12:9) • Apostolic promise the Savior's power can help them (Tanner Moore's fear and worry)
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two great enemies: FEAR & PRIDE • Fear and pride feed each other – Their relationship with each other • The repetition in scripture to not FEAR – Adam's first feeling after partaking of the fruit • PRIDE – lots that could be focused on here • Becoming like little children • Story of Philippe Moreau – Concert pianist who joined the Church early in his life and then left it, slowly returned, died in his late 20's from AIDS.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story of traveling in the Philippines, taking a detour and being delayed rather than ahead • Four detours on the road of repentance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repentance is the punishment for sin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sin causes the suffering not the repentance ▪ We don't suffer FOR our sins but BECAUSE of... ○ Repentance is a checklist ○ Repentance is merely stopping wrong behavior ○ Repentance alone saves us ○ This is a really rich solid chapter – Could maybe take to class periods.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Come unto me” connected to repentance in 3 Nephi heavily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does this mean to Come unto Him – What does that include? ○ Isaiah 55 Water, milk, wine and the cost • Repentance is turning to God not just behavior modification • Elder Maxwell – Placing the animal in us on the altar • Focusing on Elder Holland's quote p. 144 – What part of this statement might be most helpful to someone going through the repentance process? • Repeating repentance on the same sin - Elder Stephenson's statement p. 144 pp 3-4 • What has His approval felt like to you? P. 145 pp 1 • Focus on Luke 7 – Woman bathing feet in tears • “Being on my knees and realizing the sadness it brings Christ” p 146 last pp
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three beloved friends – What do you like about his definitions? How do his definitions help us understand the conditions of repentance? • “My Redeemer” statements from those repenting – Review them together • How much pain did you and will you cause the Savior to feel? • Promise of a new heart (Jeremiah and Ezekiel) • Story of missionary not confessing fully and understanding a broken heart/contrite spirit
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angels play a key role in calling us unto repentance • Sometimes they appear but most often we are unaware • Those connected to us beyond the veil are greatly interested in our spiritual well-being • “They are solicitous for our welfare, they love us no more than ever” • Story of wife at husbands' church council supported by three of her deceased ancestors • Righteousness passes into our posterity • Story of President Nelson given a message from two little girls not sealed to their parents
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening paragraph is a powerful beginning – READ this!!! • No repentance or forgiveness without complete honesty – WHY? • Kneel humbly before God and ask in the sincerity of my heart what needs changing • Letter he wrote to member of the church regarding pornography and hiding it • Luke 12:2-5 / D&C 1:3; 88:108
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two full pages (first section really) is worth reading almost in its entirety •
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Testament law required a generous restitution as part of repentance

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This law was not eliminated with the Savior's fulfilling the old law• Wanting to generously make restitution reveals our desire to repent• Restitution to all negatively affected may not be possible• When the injured is unwilling to forgive concern should be to generously restore and be patient allowing them time to heal and grant forgiveness• Restitution has its boundaries and limits, that shouldn't limit one from seeking generous restitution• Recognize that our sins of offense and hurt against others is also directly against Christ – Parable of the sheep and goats• Story of girl being hurt by her father and him not seeking to reconcile upon her email• Special love and mercy for those who have been abused or victims |
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