

Make Christ the Center of Your World

- Readiness: PB Cup activity
How did you feel as you watched _____ struggle to pay for your PB Cup?
How is what _____ just did for us comparable to the atonement of Christ?
- Testify: Christ said of his suffering, **D&C 19: 16-19**.
I testify that Christ completed the atonement for YOU. Everything he did and everything he does is because he wants you to be happy. In the Book of Mormon we read that **2 Nephi 26: 24**. Christ suffered for each one of us saying, **Moses 1:39**. He is there for you. He will never forget you. He said, **1 Nephi 21: 15-16**. The atonement shows that Christ was willing to suffer all things for you because He loves you that much. He wants your happiness. He wants you to return to live with Him, and with our Heavenly Father. That is His goal. He has done his part.
- Apply: **Now, what is our part? What does He ask of us? What should our goal be?**
Christ said, **D&C 6: 36-37**. Our goal should be to look to Him in every thought, to ask ourselves in every aspect of our lives, "What would Jesus do?" Then do it. Let's make it our goal to **MAKE CHRIST THE CENTER OF OUR WORLD**.
- Readiness: I was looking for something to help me teach about making Christ the center of our lives when I saw *this* while walking one morning. It was perfect!
Show Pinwheel.
What is this? Why is it called a pinwheel?
What would happen if we took the pin out?
Let's liken this to our lives. Our life is like a pinwheel. What things make up the "wings" in our pinwheel of life?
-friends -school -church -family -hobbies -work
-health
Who or what should be the pin in our pinwheel of life?
What happens when we make Christ the center of our lives?
What if trials come our way, like a windstorm? (Helaman 5:12. That is what gives the pinwheel beauty. Trials make us become what we were meant to be)
Who or what does the world say should be the center of our lives? (Appearances, accomplishments, popularity)
What is the problem with that?
- Quote: President Hunter once said, "I am aware that life presents many challenges, but with the help of the Lord, we need not fear. If our lives and our faith are centered on Jesus Christ...nothing can ever go permanently wrong" (Ensign Feb. 2012, 14).

I want to share a quote with you that changed my life. I first heard this quote from a seminary teacher when I was a senior in high school. I remember vividly where I was and how I felt like an electric current shot through my body when I heard it. The Spirit told me instantly that what I'd heard was true. It's a quote by Pres. Benson and it says:

"We must put God in the forefront of everything else in our lives. He must come first... When we put God first all things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives."

Testify: I know that to be true. I tested it. I decided to make Christ the center of my life and put him first as I went to college, and I was blessed and prospered for doing so. One semester I was taking one of the hardest classes I'd ever take at BYU, a Spanish class for returned missionaries, and I was not a returned missionary. The class was so difficult that I worried I was going to get the first "C" or "D" of my life and ruin my GPA, but I remembered President Benson's promise. I decided to trust that if I put Christ first, everything would work out. I made a goal that each day before ever cracking a school book to study, I would first pray and study my scriptures. I did that all semester long and when I got my report card back I was shocked and so grateful to see that I'd gotten a B+ in my Spanish class! I know I was blessed for putting Christ first.

Commit: **What is your favorite subject in school?**
What are some ways we could put Christ first when it comes to school? (Maybe by not doing homework on Sunday like Pres. Eyring, or by recognizing our dependence on the Lord for learning)
Do you think HF will bless you for putting Christ first in this area of your life?
Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?

Directions: Now we are going to divide into groups and go to 6 different stations where we'll be taught by our wonderful YCL's and YW leaders about how we can make Christ the center of our lives in regard to our family, friends, church, work, health, and hobbies. At each station you'll be given one piece of a pinwheel. After we go to all 6, we'll meet back here and make pinwheels to remind us to make Christ the center of our world.

HEALTH (Exercise, Nutrition, Sports)

- Ask the girls: *What is your favorite healthy food or your favorite sport?*
- Share a story (your own or tell the one attached in your own words) about putting Christ first when it comes to our health.
- Ask the girls: *What are some ways we could put Christ first when it comes to our health (like exercise, nutrition, and sports)?*
- Share your testimony about this.
- Commit the girls to do this by asking them: *Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?* (As they commit to do it, give them their pinwheel piece.)
- Promise blessings.

Story:

Our daughter Mary was a standout soccer player growing up. One year her team made it to the championships and, wouldn't you know it, that game was to be played on a Sunday. As a young teen, Mary had had years of teaching that the Sabbath was a day of rest and spiritual regeneration, not recreation. But she still felt pressure from her coaches and teammates to play, as well as a desire not to let her team down.

She asked us what she should do. My wife and I could easily have made this decision for her. However, we decided after prayerful consideration that in this case our daughter was ready to take spiritual responsibility for her own decision. We read some scriptures with her and encouraged Mary to pray and think about it.

After a few days she announced her decision. She would play the game on Sunday. Now what were we to do? After further discussion and receiving reassurance from the Spirit, we did as we had promised and permitted her to carry out her choice to play. After the game ended, Mary slowly walked over to her waiting mother. "Oh, Mom," she said, "that felt *awful*. I never want to feel like that again. I'm never playing another game on the Sabbath day." And she never did.

--Elder Larry Y. Wilson, April GC 2012

HOBBIES

- Ask the girls: *What is one of your hobbies?*
- Share a story (your own or tell the one attached in your own words) about putting Christ first before our hobbies.
- Ask the girls: *What are some ways we could put Christ first when it comes to our hobbies?*
- Share your testimony about this.
- Commit the girls to do this by asking them: *Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?* (As they commit to do it, give them their pinwheel piece.)
- Promise blessings.

A story written by Karen Nolen, which appeared in the *New Era* in 1974, tells of a Benjamin Landart who, in 1888, was 15 years old and an accomplished violinist. Living on a farm in northern Utah with his mother and seven brothers and sisters was sometimes a challenge to Benjamin, as he had less time than he would have liked to play his violin. Occasionally his mother would lock up the violin until he had his farm chores done, so great was the temptation for Benjamin to play it.

In late 1892 Benjamin was asked to travel to Salt Lake to audition for a place with the territorial orchestra. For him, this was a dream come true. After several weeks of practicing and prayers, he went to Salt Lake in March of 1893 for the much anticipated audition. When he heard Benjamin play, the conductor, a Mr. Dean, told Benjamin he was the most accomplished violinist he had heard west of Denver. He was told to report to Denver for rehearsals in the fall and learned that he would be earning enough to keep himself, with some left over to send home.

A week after Benjamin received the good news, however, his bishop called him into his office and asked if he couldn't put off playing with the orchestra for a couple of years. He told Benjamin that before he started earning money there was something he owed the Lord. He then asked Benjamin to accept a mission call.

Benjamin felt that giving up his chance to play in the territorial orchestra would be almost more than he could bear, but he also knew what his decision should be. He promised the bishop that if there were any way to raise the money for him to serve, he would accept the call.

When Benjamin told his mother about the call, she was overjoyed. She told him that his father had always wanted to serve a mission but had been killed before that opportunity had come to him. However, when they discussed the financing of the mission, her face clouded over. Benjamin told her he would not allow her to sell any more of their land. She studied his face for a moment and then said, "Ben, there is a way we can raise the money. This family [has] one

thing that is of great enough value to send you on your mission. You will have to sell your violin.”

Ten days later, on March 23, 1893, Benjamin wrote in his journal: “I awoke this morning and took my violin from its case. All day long I played the music I love. In the evening when the light grew dim and I could see to play no longer, I placed the instrument in its case. It will be enough. Tomorrow I leave [for my mission].”

Forty-five years later, on June 23, 1938, Benjamin wrote in his journal: “The greatest decision I ever made in my life was to give up something I dearly loved to the God I loved even more. He has never forgotten me for it.”²

FRIENDS

- Ask the girls: *What do you like to do with your friends?*
- Share a story (your own or tell the one attached in your own words) about putting Christ first before your friends.
- Ask the girls: *What are some ways we could put Christ first when it comes to our friends?*
- Share your testimony about this.
- Commit the girls to do this by asking them: *Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?* (As they commit to do it, give them their pinwheel piece.)
- Promise blessings.

Some years ago I spoke to a Mia Maid adviser who told me of an experience she had with one of the young women in her class. This young woman had been tempted time and time again to leave the pathway of truth and follow the detour of sin. Through the constant persuasion of some of her friends at school, she had finally agreed to follow such a detour. The plan was set: she would tell her parents she was going to her activity night for Young Women. She planned, however, to be there only long enough for her girlfriends and their dates to pick her up. They would then attend a party where alcoholic beverages would be consumed and where the behavior would be in complete violation of what this young woman knew was right.

The teacher had prayed for inspiration in helping all her girls but especially this particular young woman, who seemed so uncertain about her commitment to the gospel. The teacher had received inspiration that night to abandon what she had previously planned and to speak to the girls about remaining morally clean. As she began sharing her thoughts and feelings, the young woman in question checked her watch often to make sure she didn't miss her rendezvous with her friends. However, as the discussion progressed, her heart was touched, her conscience awakened, and her determination renewed. When it came, she ignored the repeated sound of the automobile horn summoning her. She remained throughout the evening with her teacher and the other girls in the class. The temptation to detour from God's approved way had been averted. Satan had been frustrated. The young woman remained after the others had left in order to thank her teacher for the lesson and to let her know how it had helped her avoid what might have been a tragic outcome. A teacher's prayer had been answered.

I subsequently learned that because she had made her decision not to go with her friends that night—some of the most popular girls and boys at school—the young woman was shunned by them and for many months had no friends at school. They couldn't accept that she was unwilling to do the things they did. It was an extremely difficult and lonely period for her, but she remained steadfast and eventually gained friends who shared her standards. Now, several years later, she has a temple marriage and four beautiful children. How different her life could have been. Our decisions determine our destiny. --President Monson, April YW GC, 2012

CHURCH

- Ask the girls: *What calling do you think would be fun to have, or who is your favorite seminary teacher and why?*
- Share a story (your own or tell the one attached in your own words) about making Christ the center of our Church experience.
- Ask the girls:
 1. *How can we make Christ the center of our church experience?*
 2. *What is the difference between being active in the church and truly being converted to Christ?*
 3. *What can we do to truly become converted to Christ instead of just going through the motions of being a member of the church?*
- Share your testimony about this.
- Commit the girls to do this by asking them: *Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?* (As they commit to do it, give them their pinwheel piece.)
- Promise blessings.

Explanation:

Some have come to think of activity in the Church as the ultimate goal. Therein lies a danger. It is possible to be active in the Church and less active in the gospel. Let me stress: activity in the Church is a highly desirable goal; however, it is insufficient. Activity in the Church is an outward indication of our spiritual desire. If we attend our meetings, hold and fulfill Church responsibilities, and serve others, it is publicly observed.

By contrast, the things of the gospel are usually less visible and more difficult to measure, but they are of greater eternal importance. For example, how much faith do we really have? How repentant are we? How meaningful are the ordinances in our lives? How focused are we on our covenants?

I repeat: we need the gospel *and* the Church. In fact, the purpose of the Church is to help us live the gospel. We often wonder: How can someone be fully active in the Church as a youth and then not be when they are older? How can an adult who has regularly attended and served stop coming? How can a person who was disappointed by a leader or another member allow that to end their Church participation? Perhaps the reason is they were not sufficiently converted to [Christ or] the gospel—the things of eternity.

--Elder Donald L. Hallstrom April 2012 GC

Story: (This is the profile of a Mormon guy named Spencer found on Mormon.org)

Hi, I'm Spencer

I was raised in America and Europe and am a Mormon.

Why I am a Mormon

I was raised as a Mormon, however, it took me some time until I became serious about really living the gospel and not just going through the motions. In all simplicity, what my conversion came down to was learning about Christ and His gospel, and then living it. As time went on I could really tell a difference was being made in how I felt, acted, and thought about myself, others, and God. It was like eating fruit that tasted more delicious than anything I had ever experienced. Some key things that helped me to get where I am were...

1. A desire to really know for myself
2. The Book Of Mormon
3. Sincere and rigorous study
4. Asking God for truth through prayer
5. Living what I knew

FAMILY

- Ask the girls: *What do you like to do as a family?*
- Share a story (your own or tell the one attached in your own words) about putting Christ first before your family. See also Matthew 10:37.
- Ask the girls: *What does it mean to put Christ first with our family? What are some ways we can do this?*
- Share your testimony about this.
- Commit the girls to do this by asking them: *Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?* (As they commit to do it, give them their pinwheel piece.)
- Promise blessings.

I met a naval officer from a distant nation, a brilliant young man who had been brought to the United States for advanced training. Some of his associates in the United States Navy, whose behavior had attracted him, shared with him at his request their religious beliefs. He was not a Christian, but he was interested. They told him of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, who gave his life for all mankind. They told him of the appearance of God, the Eternal Father, and the resurrected Lord to the boy Joseph Smith. They spoke of modern prophets. They taught him the gospel of the Master. The Spirit touched his heart, and he was baptized.

He was introduced to me just before he was to return to his native land. We spoke of these things, and then I said: "Your people are not Christians. What will happen when you return home a Christian, and, more particularly, a Mormon Christian?"

His face clouded, and he replied, "My family will be disappointed. They may cast me out and regard me as dead. As for my future and my career, all opportunity may be foreclosed against me."

I asked, "Are you willing to pay so great a price for the gospel?"

His dark eyes, moistened by tears, shone from his handsome brown face as he answered, "It's true, isn't it?"

Ashamed at having asked the question, I responded, "Yes, it's true."

To which he replied, "Then what else matters?"

These are questions I should like to leave with you: "It's true, isn't it? Then what else really matters?"

--President Hinckley, July 1993 Ensign

WORK

- Ask the girls: *What is your dream job?*
- Share a story (your own or tell the one attached in your own words) about putting Christ first before work.
- Ask the girls: *What are some ways we can put Christ first when it comes to work? How can we put Christ first in this area of our lives if we don't have a paying job?*
- Share your testimony about this.
- Commit the girls to do this by asking them: *Will you put Christ first in this area of your life?* (As they commit to do it, give them their pinwheel piece.)
- Promise blessings.

Story:

Elder Gene R. Cook of the First Quorum of the Seventy tells how he learned the value of keeping the Sabbath day holy when he was a young man working for a newspaper.

“One Saturday afternoon after finishing work, the manager told me that starting a week from the following day, on Sunday, it would be necessary for me to work every Sunday morning. ... He then attempted to entice me by telling me that my pay would be increased by 30 percent, thinking that this might change my mind about the principle of not working on Sunday.

“I remember how strongly those words fell upon my heart, but I also remember my response: ‘I am quite certain that I cannot work on Sunday.’

“‘Well,’ he said, ‘you will have to work on Sunday or I will find another assistant manager.’

“I left the office rather teary-eyed that day. I remember asking the Lord why I should lose my job as a result of the Church. I had been working hard to save enough money to support myself on a mission, and now I was going to lose my job unless I were willing to work on Sunday.

“I talked to my father to ask his counsel, and all he would tell me was, ‘I am sure you will do what is right, whatever that may be.’ ...

“The following Saturday I went in and announced to the manager that I would not work on Sunday. He informed me that since that was my choice, I would have one week and no longer as the assistant manager, and then I would be replaced by a young man who was ‘really willing to work.’

"I left work that day with a very heavy heart, realizing that in five or six days I would be without a job. In one more year I was to go on my mission, and I did not yet have sufficient funds to support myself. I prayed much that week.

"The following days at work seemed very long, and there were very few words spoken between my boss and me. I waited for the next Saturday, which was to be my last day.

"Friday finally arrived. As I was finishing work that evening, the manager approached me and said, somewhat emotionally, 'Gene, you are right in what you are doing, and I am wrong in asking you to work on Sunday. I have found a young man of another religion who is willing to work on Sunday, but I still want you to be my assistant manager. And by the way, that 30 percent increase will be given to you anyway, even though you will not be working the seventh day. You are a very good young man'" ("At Any Cost, Keep the Commandments," *New Era*, May 1977, p. 5).