

317.1 Come, Follow Me Review (Plus Lesson 1)

Productive Sunday School

1. Overview for the year
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Podcast plan
2. Overview of Come, Follow Me
 - a. Sunday School (Cover the whole NT, but ONLY if we read at home)
 - b. Individuals and Families
3. Lesson 1: We are responsible for our own learning
 - a. Responsibility and incentives (how to get yourself to do things)
 - b. Gospel/life learning
 - c. Scripture Study
 - d. Introducing the New Testament
 - e. Recommended resources
 - f. Conclusion:

Productive Sunday School

Overview for the year

Schedule

I like that Easter and Christmas are included as their own weeks

January	Matthew 1-3; Mark 1; Luke 1-3; John 1
February	Matthew 4-5; Luke 4-6; John 2-4
March	Matthew 6-15; Mark 2-5, 8?; Luke 7; John 5-6
April	Matthew 16-18; Mark 9; Luke 9-10; Easter
May	Matthew 19-23; Mark 10-11; Luke 12-20; John 7-10
June	Matthew 25-28; JST-Matthew 1; Mark 12-16; Luke 21-24; John 13-21
July	Acts 1-21
August	Acts 22-28; Romans 1-16; 1 Corinthians 1-7
September	1 Corinthians 8-16; 2 Corinthians 1-13; Galatians
October	Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; 1-2 Thessalonians
November	1-2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon; Hebrews 1-13; James
December	1-2 Peter; 1-3 John; Jude; Revelation 1-22; Christmas

<https://www.lds.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-helps-sunday-school/adapting?lang=eng>

(Recommended Schedule. Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sundays except for Conference)

Jan 6; 20

Feb 3; 17

March 3; 17 (5th Sunday “under Bishop’s direction”)

April 21

May 5; 19

June 2; 16

July 7; 21

August 4; 18

September 1; 15

October 20

Nov 3; 17

Dec 1; 15

That’s 22 Sundays with Sunday School during the block.

Podcast plan

Update: Cover the Come Follow me curriculum, including recommendations for how to incorporate the off Sundays and encourage everyone to read/learn at home, which is where the focus is.

Update will incorporate both Sunday School and Individual/Families

Posts will link pertinent previous episodes (but I won’t be reissuing them into the feed)

I want to make the podcast more devotional, life application, meaningful, powerful. Not just lesson or discussion, which lines up well with the new ministry focus.

At the current level of support I’ll keep up with this. I’m open to doing more at listener requests. (I’m open to adding in discussions again, possibly switching off

Prayer:

Follow up: (to encourage the “home centered learning”)

Nugget: (Something deeper and interesting relating to the reading)

Devotional:

Lesson:

Participation (invite to teach and engage)

Challenge:

Preview next week

Overview of Come, Follow Me

Sunday School (Cover the whole NT, but ONLY if we read at home)

I like that the lessons are organized by date, which establishes consistency across all classes (previously wards would fluctuate about three weeks)

Liturgical year! :) (Want to make suggestions around devotional and ritual approaches, dig really deep)

(Talk about commentaries and how much there is to dig into in each chapter) Perhaps we will actually do the reading this way :)

The entire NT is assigned! That is really great.

“You are a Teacher in the Church of Jesus Christ”

I agree the Holy Ghost inspires us and I also believe the more information and resources we have, the more specifically and powerfully God can work through us (we provide the ingredients for revelation)

“The essential purpose of gospel learning is to change lives” (YES! Devotional, pastoral, ministerial, practical emphasis. Absolutely agree with this. Scholarship isn’t the most important “Invite those you teach to participate actively in their own learning of the principles and doctrine of Jesus Christ and act on what they learn” (PRACTICE, doing, becoming

“Pure doctrine--eternal, unchanging truth taught by God and His servants--invites the Spirit and has the power to change lives” (I believe in this, but don’t think we have much access to it)

“Normal to feel overwhelmed at times”

Using Come, Follow Me--For Sunday School

“The home should be the center of Gospel learning”

“Start by having your own experiences in the scriptures”

“Remember to be sensitive to class members whose family circumstances may not support regular scripture study”

(as you prepare be thinking about the needs of the class)

Manual to “spark your own inspiration” (which makes the podcast even more helpful, flexibility)

Invite members to teach part of the lesson (great idea)

Make study meaningful

Invite class members to share how they have acted on promptings (follow up section)

A pattern for teaching

Invite Sharing

Teach the Doctrine

Encourage Learning at Home (preview next week)

Individuals and Families

Come, Follow me for Individuals and Families

Conversion is the goal: New versions of ourselves, not just new information

Scripture Study: Learn about Jesus; Inspiring words and phrases (nuggets); Gospel truths; listen to the Spirit; Apply scriptures to life; Ask questions; Use scripture helps; Record thoughts and feelings (scripture journal and regular journal); study teachings of Church leaders; Share insights; Live what you learn

Family Scripture Study: Share meaningful scriptures; use your own words; apply to life; ask questions; display scripture; make scripture list to discuss; memorize; object lessons; pick a topic; draw a picture; act out a story. This can also be done with other art and literature (I also recommend cultivating a bedtime story routine for as long as the kids will go for it)

Additional Resources

Teaching young children: Listen to/act out stories; use media; have them read; have them create (draw etc); object lessons; role play; repeat
Manual looks accessible. I'll refer to both when preparing.

Lesson 1: We are responsible for our own learning

(Yes that is true, and we also need to empower and facilitate and help people learn on their own!)

Discussion:

(bring up academia vs. ministry, teacher vs. FACILITATOR, bring out and nurture and catalyze the person's own processes and growth. THIS is the target we need)

Teacher's Role: Prepare, Share, facilitate learner's process

Learner's Role: prepare, engage

Knowing the truth ourselves

Meaningful scripture study (Engage, "challenge and be challenged by")

Next week: Matthew/Luke 1 have you ever been asked to do something you feel is impossible?

Responsibility and incentives (how to get yourself to do things)

Be honest about what you actually want to do

I think in general we are as productive as we are incentivized to be (Claudia's comment about college being "buying our own time"... we live in a world where we can learn most anything for free, but we don't)

How many members of the Sunday School class

(comment on the listeners who stop supporting the podcast, and probably stop listening to it, once they stop teaching. It isn't even enough to have Sunday School scheduled; the only ones really doing the reading are those that are supposed to teach it!

Comment on why the Engaging Gospel Doctrine group is so constructive... it is focused around a task, not around the members or their concerns or a particular point on the faith spectrum.

Gospel/life learning

Doing over learning. Practice. Insight, internalization, practice. Doing the work.

Honestly, courage, diligence.

Scripture Study

Understand what scripture is (inspired human writings)

Understand what is most important (living well and your own relationship with God. Scripture is inspiration, not a manual)

Introducing the New Testament

1. No author knew they were writing the New Testament (composed decades after Jesus, for over a hundred years, then compiled over centuries)

2. We aren't sure who wrote the New Testament (more on that in just a bit)
3. The New Testament was written in another language (Greek), another time (first century), another culture (ancient Mediterranean). It is impressive it speaks to us as well as it does! So we need help.

If you are interested, here's an overview of NT authorship.

Genuine. Actually written by who it says it was. (Interesting to know, not the most urgent. Most urgent is how scripture impacts us)

Anonymous. Makes no authorial claims; attribution comes later.

Forged. Claims but be written by someone famous but it probably isn't so.

Homonymous. Has the same name as someone famous. So written by who it claims to be, but not who we think it is.

Matthew: Anonymous, Jewish Christian, almost certainly not Matthew though perhaps Matthew wrote a source used by the evangelist.

Mark: Anonymous, but likely written by someone named Mark because later Christians tried to link it to Peter. If people didn't already know Mark wrote it, they would have succeeded.

Luke: Anonymous. Same author as Acts. Not an eyewitness but used eyewitness sources. Likely not Luke, though has the highest chance of being correctly attributed, though that chance still remains low (besides Mark, but we don't know which Mark)

John: Anonymous. Almost certainly not written by John. Not written by the same person who wrote the letters of John or Revelation.

Acts. Anonymous, same author as the gospel of Luke.

Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon. All scholars agree Paul wrote these as they claim to be written.

Ephesians: Forged, claims to be by Paul. Dependent on Colossians.

Colossians: Forged, claims to be by Paul.

2 Thessalonians. Claims to be by Paul, most likely forged. (see 2 Thess. 3:17, designed to seem legitimate but demonstrably false)

1 Timothy, Titus. Forged in the name of Paul. Titus is dependent on 1 Tim.

2 Timothy. Probably forged, but either by someone close to Paul with some historical knowledge, or possibly written by Paul.

Hebrews. Anonymous, not written by Paul. Written by someone with better Greek, different beliefs, and a closer relationship to Jewish Christianity.

James. Most likely forged, possibly written by a James who was not Jesus' brother (he never claims to be)

1 Peter. Forged in the name of Peter.

2 Peter. Definitely forged in the name of Peter, our latest book of the NT composed around 130. Dependent on Jude.

1 John. Anonymous, written by someone in the same community as but different from the author of the fourth gospel.

2-3 John. Written by the “Presbyter”. Possibly the author of 1 John as well.

Jude. Mostly likely forged.

Revelation. Written by someone named John, but not the apostle.

As the manual emphasizes, what is most important is the impact the scriptures have on us. This is about OUR lives and how WE become holy, rather than the nature of scripture. It is about our relationship. With God, with ourselves, with scripture.

Example of devotional appreciation of NT books (In chronological order!)

Book	Theme to look for (just an example to get you thinking)
1 Thessalonians	Rejoice in love and goodness; behave properly
Galatians	There are no divisions; we are all one in Christ
Philemon	Forgive each other; receive former slaves as family
Philippians	We can do all things through God who strengthens us
1 Corinthians	The greatest of spiritual gifts is love (agapé)
2 Corinthians	Our strength is made perfect in weakness
Romans	Walk in newness of life
2 Timothy	“I have fought the good fight”, reflections on a life well lived
Mark	Human, vulnerable Jesus who is also bold and authoritative
1 Peter	We are God’s precious treasures
Matthew	God is with us in our religious community; avoid hypocrisy
Luke	Care for the marginalized, social gospel, don’t let religion hinder love
Acts	Acceptance beyond prejudices
Colossians	Putting the old self to death and clothing ourselves in our new Selves
Hebrews	Jesus as a “true high priest” acquainted with our sufferings
James	“Pure religion” caring for those in need
Revelation	“All things new”
Ephesians	Put on the armor of God
John	A new intimate relationship with God through Jesus; knowing God is Eternal Life
Jude	Keep yourselves in the love of God; have mercy
2 Thessalonians	Don’t sit around waiting for Jesus to fix things
1 Timothy	Be nourished by faith and sound teaching
Titus	Be gentle and courteous
1 John	God is love
2 John	Abide in the teaching of Christ
3 John	Joy in those who walk in truth; imitate what is good

2 Peter	Support faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.
---------	--

(Reference the Intro to the NT episode)

Recommended resources

Jesus Christ and the World of the New Testament

Thom Wayment's translation (HUGE accomplishment! Thrilled it exists and is supported by the Church/BYU/Deseret book) Calling it a "Study Bible" is a smart move. From my initial perusal the introductory notes look both responsible and faithful

ESV Study Bible (great resources, well-laid out, faithful perspective)

Introductory works such as Raymond Brown's Introduction to the New Testament, or Mark Powell's Introduction or his Fortress Introduction to the Gospels. I'll post links to resources I have found the most helpful.

Adam Miller (An Early Resurrection: Life in christ before you die; Grace is not God's back up plan: an urgent paraphrase of Romans)

Conclusion: Make this year your own! Develop a relationship with the New Testament, scripture, the gospel, yourself, family, and God.