

## **Topic:** Character – Endurance (Lesson 403)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

### **Elementary:**

Verse: “Behold, we call those who endured blessed...” (James 5:11a).

Focus: To have endurance is to be able to continue doing something for a long period of time.

Practical Application: When we are doing a certain task, we need to have endurance (provide examples such as doing our chores, putting away our toys, making our beds, etc.). We should not stop half way and ask others to finish it for us simply because we do not want to do it anymore. We need to learn to finish the task.

### **Intermediate:**

Verse: “And let endurance have its perfect work that you may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing” (James 1:4).

Focus: To have endurance is to be able to continue doing something for a long period of time without quitting or giving up. It means working hard at your task and giving it your all for as long as it takes.

Practical Application: Bring in pictures of a few man-made wonders in the U.S. (Mount Rushmore, Golden Gate Bridge, Empire State Building, Hoover Dam). Describe the working conditions, time and energy involved. Much endurance was needed by the workers to complete these projects. Imagine what these projects would be like if they were not completed. A bridge or a dam not completed is useless. Likewise, proper character means that we need to learn to endure and persevere at a task until it is completed. When we are doing our homework, we need to finish it before playing or watching television. When learning an instrument, we should keep practicing until we can play it well. To excel in a sport involves many hours of training. All of this requires us to work hard without quitting or giving up.

### **Advanced:**

Verse: “Rejoice in hope; endure in tribulation; persevere in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

Focus: A proper character is to be someone who has endurance. To have endurance is to have the ability to deal with suffering and hardships that continue for a long time.

Practical Application: We need endurance to complete a task, but sometimes there may be difficulties or hardships. Moses was a person who had endurance when faced with hardships and sufferings. He had to deal with Pharaoh’s repeated rejection as well as the children of Israel’s criticism and complaining (Exodus 5-13). Jacob had to endure Laban’s treatment and serve him for 14 years (Genesis 29). Sometimes we may experience hardships such as getting a bad grade in a certain subject even though we put in our best effort. When this happens, we should not be discouraged or give up. Instead, we need to endure by continually studying until we are able to get a good grade.