

258.1: Arrival in Utah (D&C Gospel Doctrine Lesson 36, Updated)

[“The Desert Shall Rejoice, and Blossom as the Rose”](#)

Manual Goal: To help class members understand how they have been blessed by the sacrifices of the early Saints in the Salt Lake Valley and to encourage them to follow the example of these faithful members.

EGD goal: To help class members appreciate the sacrifices of those who have gone before, and to embrace the journey of life and enact faith that makes visions a reality.

Productive Sunday School

The journey of life: both arrival and beginning (so enjoy the journey, sunrises over the plain, flowers, the walk, process not outcome)

Faith is what bridges the distance between vision and reality.

Talk about “this is the place” experiences in our lives... sometimes we can get confirmation that a path is right, and then wonder what on earth God is thinking! We need to make our effort and wait for events to unfold so that it is the right place. And even then, it is a complex situation with blessings and challenges. Because that is life.

New Resources

[Lesson 36: “The Desert Shall Rejoice, and Blossom as the Rose”](#)

[“Ministry of Brigham Young: The Master Builder”](#): This two-minute video introduces some key building and colonization projects led by Brigham Young. Example of laying the cornerstones of the Salt Lake Temple, what it took to make it real. Apply this to our lives. Faith, vision.

[Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database](#): This database allows people to search for individual pioneers and find out more about them. *Would be good to find ancestors or other individuals you are interested in.*

Full episode (which was just a discussion led by Devery)

The discussion covers the following points:

1. When the saints entered the valley, it was a new beginning. They had built cities before, but never in isolation. They were starting over not only by arriving in the valley, but now having to create a community.—talk of the psychological and spiritual effects of establishing Zion in the valley.

2. People need to understand that the saints benefited from others who paved the way. The Donner-Reed party had actually created the trail from Fort Bridger to the Salt Lake Valley. John C. Fremont had explored the valley in 1843. His official reports and maps, published by Congress, were studied by Mormon leaders.
3. Brigham Young and the Twelve were rebaptized as a gesture of renewing their covenants. By the end of their stay in the valley, 288 had been rebaptized. It was a practice that had commenced in Nauvoo. What was its purpose, why important?
4. A Theocratic system of government established. The stake presidency, high council led temporal affairs. The city was divided into 5 wards. Bishops, with their counselors, formed lower courts of justice.
5. The “miracle” of the crickets. Why do we get attached to legends? Or, do we really understand this event in retrospect better than when it happened?