

IN THIS ISSUE OF PERSPECTIVE

Getting my work done or seeking after the one. When teaching, these two goals, at times, seem to conflict and make it difficult to find a proper balance. For instance, I can remember times when I felt pressed for a deadline and needed to get some work done, so I closed the door so I wouldn't get distracted. Then I got what seemed to be the inevitable knock on my door from a student who wanted to talk about his grade or to go over things that he struggled with in my class. At this point, I had several thoughts that went through my head: "Am I ever going to get my work done?" "Doesn't the student know my office hours?" Despite these thoughts, I invited the student in and gave him some of my time.

I admit that I am not the best at finding the perfect balance. However, I have discovered that when I focus on seeking after the one, it helps put all of my other teaching in perspective. For instance, I teach the introductory statistics class in the math department. I meet with my TAs for the class once a week. One of the primary issues we discuss is the struggling students in the class. We discuss what we can do to help them, and then follow up the next week. When personally working with those struggling students, I find that I gain insights in teaching certain aspects of statistics more effectively. More importantly, I find greater purpose in teaching all of my students. In 1 Nephi 10:19, we read, "For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost..." By seeking after the one, I believe that the Lord blesses us through the Holy Ghost in ways that we can improve our teaching for all of our students.

I may sound like a math geek, but just imagine that each faculty member (campus and online) strives to seek after a student, once a week, with prayerful help from the Holy Ghost. There are about 13 weeks in a semester and about 1,000 faculty

members. Ignoring repeats, that would be close to 13,000 students every semester being affected by faculty seeking after the one through the Holy Ghost. This is a simplistic calculation, but shows if we regularly seek after the one, we would greatly impact the entire university. Every faculty and student can feel the "Spirit of Ricks." This reminds me of how the Savior fed the five thousand: "And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude" (Matthew 14:19).

In this issue of *Perspective*, we will be exploring ways to seek after the one. There will be several principles and practices taught. We invite you to read and ponder the articles and then consider how you can apply them to your own teaching.



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