

W12-Gathering Agenda

PC 103 University Skills Gathering Agenda for Week 12 Growth through Experience			
Gathering Purposes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the importance of overcoming failure • How a growth mindset encourages persistence • Review scripture examples of overcoming failure 			
Preparation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <i>face-to-face Gatherings</i>, arrive early to setup the room, prepare any visual aids, and greet students as they arrive. • For <i>virtual Gatherings</i>, start the meeting early, share your screen with a message welcoming them to the gathering and letting them know you will start soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ When the Gathering Agenda asks that students meet in small groups, use Breakout Rooms. ◦ When the Gathering Agenda asks you to display things on “the board,” you can use the whiteboard. 			
Document Preparation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <i>face-to-face Gatherings</i>, print the story and scriptures at the bottom of this document and cut them out for each group. • For <i>virtual Gatherings</i>, email the story and scriptures to students prior to the gathering. 			
Min.	Activities		Teaching Tips
Welcome and Devotional			
10	Welcome	Welcome, announcements, and housekeeping	
	Hymn or Thought, Prayer	Please sing one or two verses of a hymn. If you meet with a virtual gathering, the lead student or another student should be invited to share a brief spiritual thought. A volunteer will then give an opening prayer	
	BYU-Pathway Worldwide Devotional	Students were asked to watch the BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional this week, as contained in the course. They should have done this prior to the gathering. As a class discuss the devotional using the discussion questions provided in the course	Look up the questions in advance so you are ready.
Student Success Discussion			
15	Next Steps Reminder	Remind students to be working on the Next Steps portion of the course. Encourage students to continue working to complete their application and engage with Degree Planner.	
	Read and Discuss	Read about Sandra Jarvis to see what she did to overcome the challenges she faced as she worked to complete a degree. Then discuss the questions that follow. Click here to share/read the article. If that doesn't work, you can share the text below called “Fourth Time’s the Charm.”	

		<p>Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the three obstacles that Sandra encountered before she finally enrolled in PathwayConnect on her fourth try. How do you suppose Sandra kept persisting? What did she do to keep from giving up? How did Sandra demonstrate that she had a growth mindset? Sandra mentioned one thing that she did while she was a PathwayConnect student that helped her succeed in her classes. What was it? Why is it important for you to reach out like this as an online student? Why not just suffer in silence? Why might reaching out like this be difficult for some? Sandra excelled in her classes even though she had little confidence. If she was able to excel, why did she have little confidence in herself? What does this teach you about yourself and your own attitude towards your own abilities? 	
Student Skills Discussion			
20	Share	For one to two minutes, tell the class about one big thing you learned in this week's Student Skills.	Come prepared to share your 1-2 minute introduction.
	Read	Invite a class member to read the story and quote of John the runner, told by Pres. Thomas S. Monson, found below this outline.	Print the story so it is easy to access at the Gathering.
	Write and Discuss	<p>Invite the class to write their answers to the writing prompt below. Write for 60-90 seconds. Then discuss the questions that follow.</p> <p>Writing prompt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you relate John's story to your time as an online student? <p>Discussion Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does John's decision to keep running tell us about his character and persistence? Who makes up your cheering audience and how can they help you? The story mentions an understanding Scorekeeper? What did Pres. Monson mean by this? How can you overcome failure to "keep running?" <p>This week you were asked to find a mentor. Briefly check in with the group to address any questions or concerns</p>	

		<p>about having a mentor. Consider discussing the following questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can having a mentor help you have endurance as an online student? • What situations might come up that a mentor could help with? 	
Student Skills Application			
15	Share	Tell the class that you are going to look at examples from the scriptures to illustrate the idea of overcoming failure.	Say in your own words.
	Scripture Group Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Split the class into 3 groups. 2. Give each group a section of scriptures to read and discuss. The scripture sections can be found below this outline. 3. Have the groups read the scriptures and answer the questions (also found below). 4. Give the groups 5-7 minutes to read and discuss. 5. Invite the class to come back together and share who they read about and how he overcame failure. 	
	Discuss	If time allows ask the class if they can think of more examples from the scriptures of overcoming failure.	Be sure to leave 10 minutes for the Gateway discussion and closing.
	Testimony and Prayer	<p>Bear a 30-90 second testimony of the importance of learning from our mistakes and being persistent.</p> <p>Invite the members of the class to think of something specific that they want to are working to overcome. Invite them to pray specifically for heavenly help to learn from their experience.</p> <p>End with a prayer by invitation.</p>	

Fourth Time's the Charm

After four attempts and trials along the way, including cancer and a devastating injury, Sandra Jarvis finally completed PathwayConnect.

Many students find as they apply for PathwayConnect that obstacles can get in the way. Sandra Jarvis from Mesa, Arizona, was one of those students. She had always wanted to finish her education, but because of university costs and other commitments in her life, it just hadn't been possible until she learned about PathwayConnect.

But even enrolling in PathwayConnect had its difficulties. Sandra applied for the program four different times before she was finally able to enroll.

“They say the third time’s the charm, right?” laughed Sandra. “But not in my case. Try the fourth time.”

Try, Try Again

Sandra first heard about PathwayConnect from a friend in 2011 and thought it was an answer to her prayers to one day finish her education.

After attending a PathwayConnect open house, she excitedly signed up to begin the program in 2012. Unfortunately, this excitement was short-lived. Right before the new term began, Sandra was diagnosed with cancer, forcing her to postpone her enrollment to instead undergo treatment.

Despite the challenges she faced, Sandra was determined to reach her academic goals. In the fall of 2013, she signed up for PathwayConnect again.

However, when the time came for classes to begin, there was a “major upheaval” in her family. “I didn’t feel like it was the right time to focus on school,” Sandra said. Again, her education was put on the back burner.

In 2014, Sandra enrolled in PathwayConnect for the third time, but because of a vehicle accident that crushed her arm and nearly severed her hand, she was forced to postpone PathwayConnect once again.

The Road to Recovery

Because of the severity of her injury, she felt as if she had lost the ability to care for herself and her family. She was forced to resign from her job and was released from all Church callings.

“That accident changed my life forever,” Sandra said. “The cancer was difficult, and the treatments were hard, but at least I had been able to take care of myself and function somewhat normally.”

Unable to use her dominant hand, Sandra had to learn how to do everything with her other hand. Writing, eating, brushing her hair and teeth, putting on makeup, and other basic, daily tasks became difficult obstacles for her.

To date, Sandra has undergone 12 surgeries and multiple other procedures to save her hand and arm. She said that in many ways, her arm injury has been the most difficult thing she’s endured. But it has also brought some of the greatest blessings of her life, including PathwayConnect.

The Long-awaited Moment

After much persistence, Sandra finally began her PathwayConnect journey in January 2015, after applying to the program for the fourth and final time.

Over the course of her time in PathwayConnect, Sandra underwent four surgeries on her hand and arm.

“It wasn’t easy going to school while healing from surgery and dealing with the effects of pain medication,” Sandra said. “But my teachers were wonderful in working with me to make sure I was still able to succeed in my classes.”

Despite the trials Sandra has endured in the years since first applying for PathwayConnect, she says the program has been very fulfilling for her. “I didn’t have a lot of confidence in myself going into this program, but I have excelled in all of my classes. I’m proud of this accomplishment,” Sandra said. Sandra completed PathwayConnect in December 2015. She is pursuing a degree in business management through BYU-Idaho’s Online Degree Program.

See the Story of John Helander and Scriptures Below

Story of John Helander ([The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, President Thomas S. Monson, Apr. 1987](#))

At a youth conference in Kungsbacka, Sweden, John took part in a 1500-meter running race. He had no chance to win. Rather, his was the opportunity to be humiliated, mocked, derided, scorned. Perhaps John remembered another who lived long ago and far away. Wasn't He mocked? Wasn't He derided? Wasn't He scorned? But He prevailed. He won His race. Maybe John could win his.

What a race it was! Struggling, surging, pressing, the runners bolted far beyond John. There was wonderment among the spectators. Who is this runner who lags so far behind? The participants on their second lap of this two-lap race passed John while he was but halfway through the first lap. Tension mounted as the runners pressed toward the tape. Who would win? Who would place second? Then came the final burst of speed; the tape was broken. The crowd cheered; the winner was proclaimed.

The race was over—or was it? Who is this contestant who continues to run when the race is ended? He crosses the finish line on but his first lap. Doesn't the foolish lad know he has lost? Ever onward he struggles, the only participant now on the track. This is his race. This must be his victory. No one among the vast throng of spectators leaves. Every eye is on this valiant runner. He makes the final turn and moves toward the finish line. There is awe; there is admiration. Every spectator sees himself running his own race of life. As John approaches the finish line, the audience, as one, rises to its feet. There is a loud applause of acclaim. Stumbling, falling, exhausted but victorious, John Helander breaks the newly tightened tape. (Officials are human beings, too.) The cheering echoes for miles. And just maybe, if the ear is carefully attuned, that Great Scorekeeper—even the Lord—can be heard to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

"Each of us is a runner in the race of life. Comforting is the fact that there are many runners. Reassuring is the knowledge that our Scorekeeper is understanding. Challenging is the truth that each must run. But you and I do not run alone. That vast audience of family, friends, and leaders will cheer our courage, will applaud our determination as we rise from our stumblings and pursue our goal. The race of life is not for sprinters running on a level track. The course is marked by pitfalls and checkered with obstacles."

Scripture Group Activity

1. Saul of Tarsus: Acts 9:1-22
 - a. What was his failure?

- b. How did he overcome his failure?
 - c. What can you learn from this story?

- 2. Simon Peter: Luke 22:31-34 and 54-62
 - a. What was his failure?
 - b. How did he overcome his failure?
 - c. What can you learn from this story?

- 3. Alma the Younger: Alma 36:6-24
 - a. What was his failure?
 - b. How did he overcome his failure?
 - c. What can you learn from this story?