



**By President
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First Counselor in
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Sharing the Gospel Heart to Heart

God will put prepared people in the way of His prepared servants who want to share the gospel. You have had that happen in your own life. How often it happens depends on the preparation of your mind and your heart.

I have a friend who prays every day to meet someone who is prepared to receive the gospel. He carries with him a copy of the Book of Mormon. The night before a short trip, he decided not to take a copy with him but instead to carry a pass-along card. But as he got ready to leave, a spiritual impression came to him: “Take a Book of Mormon with you.” He put one in his bag.

When a woman he knew sat next to him on the trip, he wondered, “Is this the one?” She rode with him again on the return trip. He thought, “How should I bring up the gospel?”

Instead, she said to him, “You pay tithing to your church, don’t you?” He said he did. She said she was supposed to pay tithing to her church but didn’t. Then she asked, “What can you tell me about the Book of Mormon?”

He explained that the book is scripture, another witness of Jesus Christ, translated by the Prophet Joseph Smith. She seemed interested, so he reached into his bag and said, “I was impressed to bring this book with me. I think it is for you.”

She began to read it. As they parted, she said, “You

and I are going to have more conversations about this.”

What my friend could not know—but what God *did* know—was that she was looking for a church. God knew she had watched my friend and wondered why his church made him so happy. God knew she would ask about the Book of Mormon and that she would be willing to be taught by the missionaries. She was prepared. So was my friend. You and I can also be prepared.

The preparation we need is in our mind and our heart. The woman had heard and remembered words about the Book of Mormon, the Lord’s restored Church, and the commandment to pay tithes to God. And she had felt the beginning of the witness of truth in her heart.

The Lord has said He will reveal truth to our mind and our heart by the Holy Ghost (see D&C 8:2). Most of the people you will meet have had the beginning of that preparation. They have heard or read of God and His word. If their hearts are soft enough, they have felt, however faintly, a confirmation of truth.

The woman was prepared. So was my friend, the Latter-day Saint who had studied the Book of Mormon. He had felt a witness that it is true, and he recognized the direction from the Spirit to take a copy with him. He was prepared in his mind and his heart.

God is preparing people to receive your testimony of restored truth. He requires your faith and then your

action to share fearlessly what has become so precious to you and to those you love.

Prepare to share by filling your mind every day with the truths of the gospel. As you keep the commandments and honor your covenants, you will feel the testimony of the Spirit and more of the Savior's love for you and for those you meet.

If you do your part, you will increasingly have the sweet experience of meeting people who are prepared to hear your testimony of the truth—offered from heart to heart, yours to theirs.

TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

Consider reading the message with the family and discussing the next-to-last paragraph, where President Eyring discusses ways to strengthen one's testimony. Discuss with the family the importance of bearing testimony when sharing the gospel. Children in the family may find it helpful to role-play how to bear testimony to friends.

YOUTH

Knowing What to Say

If you feel like you don't know enough about the gospel to share it with others, take comfort in these promises from the scriptures:

"Lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men;

"For it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say" (D&C 100:5–6).

"The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

These are great promises, but to obtain them, we have to do our part. In this message, President Eyring taught us how: "Prepare to share [the gospel] by filling your mind every day with the truths of the gospel." What can you do to fill your mind with the truths of the gospel?

CHILDREN

Prepare to Share

President Eyring says that an important way to prepare to share the gospel is to fill our minds with gospel truths. What are some things you could do to prepare to share?

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Faith, Family, Relief

Special Needs and Service Rendered

Prayerfully study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life.

The needs of others are ever present,” said President Thomas S. Monson, “and each of us can do something to help someone. . . . Unless we lose ourselves in service to others, there is little purpose to our own lives.”¹

As visiting teachers we can sincerely come to know and love each sister we visit. Service to those we visit will flow naturally out of our love for them (see John 13:34–35).

How can we know the spiritual and temporal needs of our sisters so we can render service when it is needed? As visiting teachers, we are entitled to receive inspiration when we pray about those we visit.

Maintaining regular contact with our sisters is also important. Personal visits, telephone calls, a note of encouragement, e-mails, sitting with her, a sincere compliment, reaching out to her at church, helping her in time of illness or need, and other acts of service all help us watch over and strengthen each other.²

Visiting teachers are asked to report the well-being, any special needs of sisters, and the service rendered to them. These kinds of reports and our service to our sisters help us demonstrate our discipleship.³

From the Scriptures

John 10:14–16; 3 Nephi 17:7, 9; Moroni 6:3–4

From Our History

Serving one another has always been at the heart of visiting teaching. Through ongoing service we bring kindness and friendship that go beyond monthly visits. It is our caring that counts.

“My desire is to plead with our sisters to stop worrying about a phone call or a quarterly or monthly visit,” said Mary Ellen Smoot, the 13th Relief Society general president. She asked us to “concentrate instead on nurturing tender souls.”⁴

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) taught, “It is vital that we serve each other in the

kingdom.” Yet he recognized that not all service need be heroic. “So often, our acts of service consist of simple encouragement or of giving . . . help with mundane tasks,” he said, “but what glorious consequences can flow . . . from small but deliberate deeds!”⁵

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “What Have I Done for Someone Today?” *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 85.
2. See *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 9.5.1.
3. See *Handbook 2*, 9.5.4.
4. Mary Ellen Smoot, in *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 117.
5. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball* (2006), 82.

What Can I Do?

1. Am I seeking personal inspiration to know how to respond to the spiritual and temporal needs of each sister I’m assigned to watch over?
2. How do the sisters I watch over know that I care about them and their families?

For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.