

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • APRIL 2013

Liahona

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"The Light of Christ is that divine power or influence that emanates from God through Jesus Christ. It gives light and life to all things."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Peace of Conscience and Peace of Mind," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 15.



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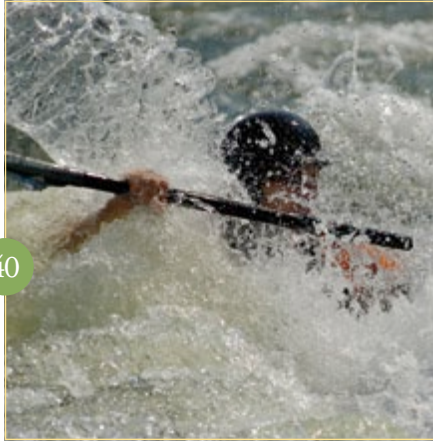
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Family Home Evening Ideas

This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are a few examples.



"The Mission and Ministry of Jesus Christ,"

page 18: Elder Russell M. Nelson shares five aspects of the life of Jesus Christ that we can emulate. Consider discussing these aspects and how to apply them. You may want to read a scripture story from the Savior's life or watch a Bible video (biblevideos.lds.org) that portrays one of those aspects. You might conclude by bearing testimony of His life and ministry and singing "More Holiness Give Me" (*Hymns*, no. 131).

"What Is a True Friend?" page 52: You may wish to begin by asking, what is a true friend? Read Elder Robert D. Hales's

definition and discuss what kind of friends we should be. Consider relating an experience of a time when someone acted as a true friend toward you, and talk about attributes that can help family members be better friends to others.

"Celebrating Temples!" page 62: With your family, look at the pictures of the different ways children have celebrated the temple. Consider showing a picture of the temple nearest you and talking about why temples are important. Emphasize that only in the temple can families be sealed. You may wish to end by singing "Families Can Be Together Forever" (page 65).

IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The *Liahona* and other Church materials are available in many languages at languages.lds.org.

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**By President
Henry B. Eyring**
First Counselor in
the First Presidency

He Is Risen

A testimony of the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a source of both hope and determination. And it can be so for any child of God. It was for me on a summer day in June 1969 when my mother died, it has been all the years since, and it will be until I see her again.

Sadness from the temporary separation was immediately replaced with happiness. It was more than a hope for a happy reunion. Because the Lord has revealed so much through His prophets and because the Holy Ghost has confirmed the truth of the Resurrection to me, I can see in my mind what it will be like to be reunited with our sanctified and resurrected loved ones:

“These are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just. . . .

“These are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all.

“These are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood” (D&C 76:65, 68–69).

Because Jesus Christ broke the bands of death, all of the children of Heavenly Father born into the world will be resurrected in a body that will never die. So my testimony and yours of that glorious truth can take away the sting of the loss of a beloved family member or friend and replace it with joyful anticipation and firm determination.

The Lord has given all of us the gift of resurrection, whereby our spirits are placed in bodies free of physical

imperfections (see Alma 11:42–44). My mother will appear young and radiant, the effects of age and years of physical suffering removed. That will come to her and to us as a gift.

But those of us who long to be with her forever must make choices to qualify for that association, to live where the Father and His Beloved resurrected Son dwell in glory. That is the only place where family life can continue eternally. A testimony of that truth has increased my determination to qualify myself and those I love for the highest degree of the celestial kingdom through the Atonement of Jesus Christ working in our lives (see D&C 76:70).

The Lord offers us a guide in this quest for eternal life in the sacramental prayers that help me and can help you.

We are invited to renew our baptismal covenants in every sacrament meeting.

We promise to always remember the Savior.

The emblems of His sacrifice help us appreciate the magnitude of the price He paid to break the bands of death, to offer us mercy, and to provide forgiveness of all our sins if we choose to repent.

We promise to keep His commandments. Reading

the scriptures and the words of the living prophets and listening to inspired speakers in our sacrament meetings remind us of our covenants to do so. The Holy Ghost brings to our minds and hearts the commandments we most need to keep that day.

In the sacramental prayers, God promises to send the Holy Ghost to be with us (see Moroni 4:3; 5:2; D&C 20:77, 79). I have found in that moment that God can give me what feels like a personal interview. He brings to my





TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

We should “liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning” (1 Nephi 19:23). Consider reading the sacrament prayers, found in Doctrine and Covenants 20:76–79. After reading President Eyring’s teachings about the sacrament prayers, you may want to invite those you are teaching to think of ways that these prayers can guide their lives and help them return to live again with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

attention what I have done that pleases Him, my need for repentance and forgiveness, and the names and faces of people He would have me serve for Him.

Over the years, that repeated experience has turned hope into feelings of charity

and brought an assurance that mercy was unlocked for me by the Savior’s Atonement and Resurrection.

I testify that Jesus is the risen Christ, our Savior, and our perfect example and guide to eternal life. ■

Your Personal Interview with God

President Eyring teaches that as we listen to the sacrament prayers, we can feel like we are having a personal interview with God. President Eyring thinks of the following three areas. Consider writing these questions in your journal and pondering them each Sunday this month. As you ponder and

receive impressions from the Holy Ghost, you can also write about those in your journal.

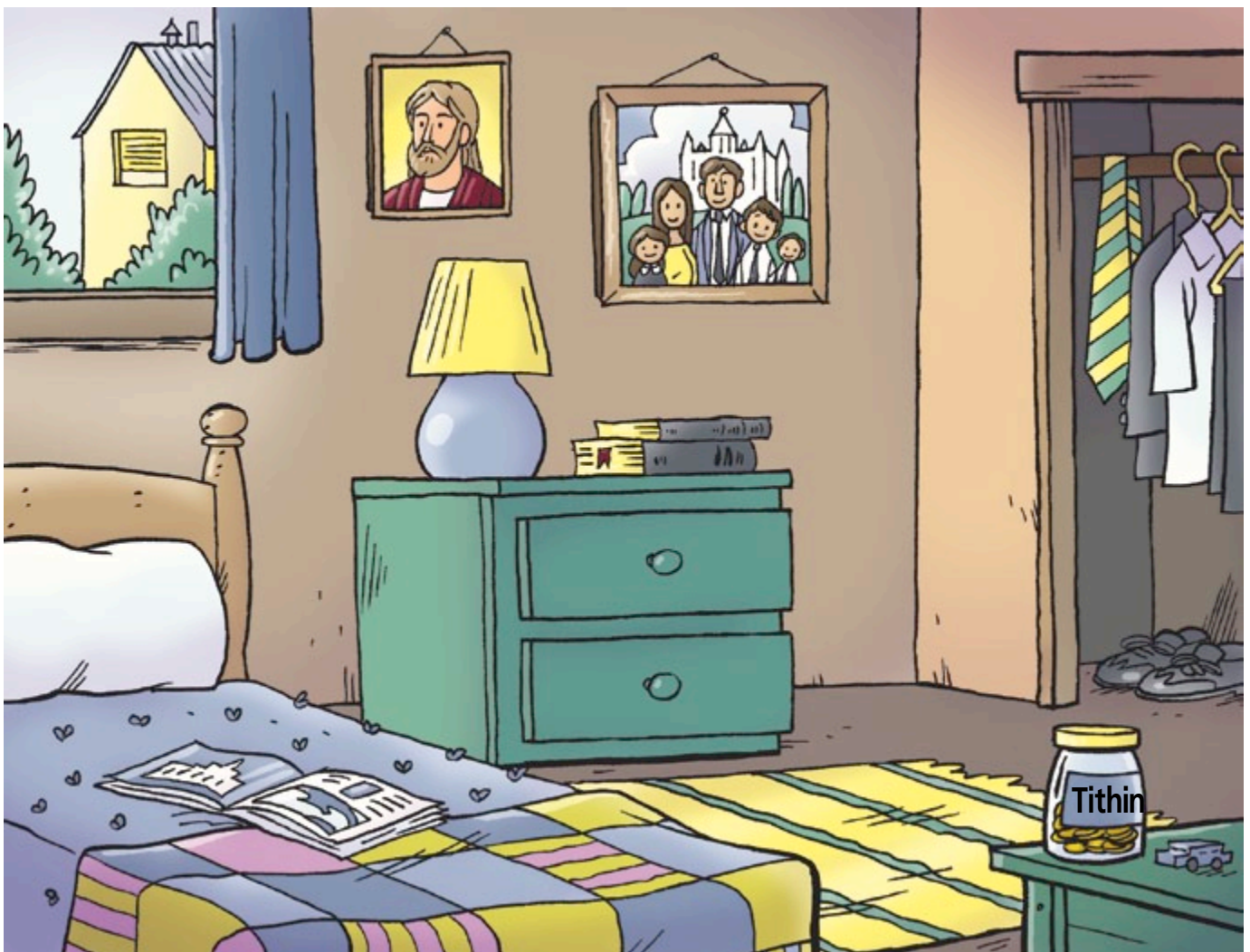
- What have I done that has pleased God?
- What do I need to repent of or ask forgiveness for?
- Whom would God like me to serve?

CHILDREN

Always Remember Jesus

Jacob is trying to “always remember” the Savior (D&C 20:77). Look around his bedroom.

What do you notice that might help him always remember Jesus?



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

Temple Covenants

The saving ordinances received in the temple that permit us to someday return to our Heavenly Father in an eternal family relationship and to be endowed with blessings and power from on high are worth every sacrifice and every effort,”¹ said President Thomas S. Monson. If you have not yet been to the temple, you can prepare to receive sacred temple ordinances by:

- Believing in Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.
- Cultivating a testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and the restored gospel.
- Sustaining and following the living prophet.
- Qualifying for a temple recommend by paying tithing, being morally clean, being honest, keeping the Word of Wisdom, and living in harmony with the teachings of the Church.
- Giving time, talents, and means to help build the Lord’s kingdom.
- Participating in family history work.²



President Monson further taught, “As we remember the covenants we make within [the temple], we will be more able to bear every trial and to overcome each temptation.”³

From the Scriptures

Doctrine and Covenants 14:7; 25:13; 109:22

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “The Holy Temple—a Beacon to the World,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2011, 92.
2. See *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 21.
3. Thomas S. Monson, *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2011, 93.
4. *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 29–30.
5. Sarah Rich, in *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 30.



Faith, Family, Relief

From Our History

“More than 5,000 Saints thronged the Nauvoo Temple after its dedication. . . .

“The strength, power, and blessings of temple covenants [sustained] the Latter-day Saints during their journey [west], when they [suffered] cold, heat, hunger, poverty, sickness, accidents, and death.”⁴

Like many Relief Society sisters, Sarah Rich served as a temple worker. She spoke of her experience: “If it had not been for the faith and knowledge that was bestowed upon us in that temple by . . . the Spirit of the Lord, our journey would have been like one taking a leap in the dark. . . . But we had faith in our Heavenly Father, . . . feeling that we were His chosen people . . . , and instead of sorrow, we felt to rejoice that the day of our deliverance had come.”⁵

The exodus was not a “leap in the dark” for faithful Latter-day Saint women. They were sustained by their temple covenants.

What Can I Do?

1. Am I worshipping in the temple regularly?
2. Am I encouraging my sisters to receive temple blessings?

STUDYING CONFERENCE TALKS TOGETHER

Changing our way of reviewing conference greatly enhanced our gospel discussions as a family.

By Greg Batty

For years we have enjoyed reading through the conference issue as a family, one article at a time. When we began, we would simply gather around the table and in turn each read a paragraph out loud. But we found that we were reading it to get through it, without stopping to digest the messages.

To get more out of what we were reading, my wife and I purchased one copy of the conference issue for each family member and planned how many talks we would need to study each week so that we could read them all before the next general conference. Some weeks we would read one talk, and other weeks it would be two, but everyone was to study the talk and highlight portions they liked. Then for family home evening we would teach each other from our highlighted sections.

Often our children had questions that opened up our discussions, or my wife and I asked questions from our study. We treasured hearing our teenagers explain their answers to those questions, sharing things they learned in seminary, at church, or

in their personal study. This became a great way of hearing each other's informal testimonies on a regular basis in a very comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

Soon we found that our morning scripture study took on the same tone. Some days we would make it through only a few verses before the time would be gone quickly from discussion about those verses and how they applied to what was going on around us.

Our mornings are now filled with conversation, laughter, and unity before we each go out to our individual pursuits. We have strong testimonies of our prophet's counsel to study and pray together daily. Our family has been transformed into one that learns from and strengthens each other. All of this is a result of wanting to get a little more out of general conference. ■

Greg Batty lives in Utah, USA.



STUDY AND APPLY CONFERENCE MESSAGES

"Remember that the messages we have heard during this conference will be printed in the May issues of the *Ensign* and *Liahona* magazines. I urge you to study the messages, to ponder their teachings, and then to apply them in your life."

President Thomas S. Monson, "A Word at Closing," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2010, 113.



THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FRIENDS

Friends have a strong influence on our actions, especially in our youth. “They will influence how you think and act, and even help determine the person you will become.”¹ And when you choose good friends, “they will be a great strength and blessing to you. . . . They will help you be a better person and will make it easier for you to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.”²

On pages 52–53 of this issue, Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president, teaches the importance of seeking and being a good friend. “Seeking another person’s highest good is the essence of true friendship,” she says.

Building friendships on these principles will help youth form lasting relationships and social skills that go beyond merely becoming “friends” on social networking sites. As a parent you can help your children understand the importance of being a good friend and of choosing friends who will encourage them to live the gospel. The following suggestions may be helpful.

Suggestions for Teaching Youth

- As a family, search the scriptures for examples of good friends. Discuss what qualities made those friendships strong.

Consider David and Jonathan (see 1 Samuel 18–23), Ruth and Naomi (see Ruth 1–2), and Alma and the sons of Mosiah (see Mosiah 27–28; Alma 17–20).³

- Review the section on friends in *For the Strength of Youth*. Share with your teens how friendships influenced your life. Invite them to share how they have influenced and been influenced by their friends.
- Read Sister Dalton’s article in this issue. Talk about the goal her daughter, Emi, set to seek good friends. Help your children set goals about the type of friends they want to seek and be.
- Consider holding a family home evening to share ideas for building friendships, such as: “To have good friends, be a good friend. Show genuine interest in others; smile and let them know you care about them. Treat everyone with kindness and respect, and refrain from judging and criticizing those around you.”⁴

Suggestions for Teaching Children

- Being a friend includes helping others. Read “Standing Up



SCRIPTURES ON FRIENDSHIP

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

Matthew 25:34–40

Luke 22:32

Mosiah 18:8–9

for Caleb” in the March 2009 *Liahona* and talk with your children about ways they can be kind to everyone they meet.

- In all situations, we have to decide what kind of friend we’ll be. Sing together “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus”⁵ and then talk with your children about how they can choose to be a good friend, like the Savior, in various settings. ■

NOTES

1. *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 16.
2. *For the Strength of Youth*, 16.
3. See Jeffrey R. Holland, “Real Friendship,” *New Era*, June 1998, 62–66.
4. *For the Strength of Youth*, 16.
5. “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus,” *Children’s Songbook*, 78–79.

THE HOLY GHOST COMFORTS, INSPIRES, AND TESTIFIES

The gift of the Holy Ghost is one of the greatest blessings we can receive in this life, for the Holy Ghost comforts, inspires, warns, purifies, and guides us. He can fill us “with hope and perfect love” (Moroni 8:26). He teaches “the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:5). We receive revelation and spiritual gifts from God through the Holy Ghost. Most important, we receive our testimonies of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ through the Holy Ghost.

Before you were baptized, you could feel the Holy Ghost from time to time. But only by receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost after your baptism could you enjoy the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost, provided

you are worthy. This gift was given by a Melchizedek Priesthood holder by the laying on of hands (see Acts 19:6; D&C 33:15). Each Sabbath day thereafter, you can renew your baptismal covenants as you take the sacrament and thus receive the Lord’s blessing that you may “always have his Spirit” to be with you (D&C 20:77).

The Holy Ghost, often referred to as the Spirit, is the third member of the Godhead. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us” (D&C 130:22).

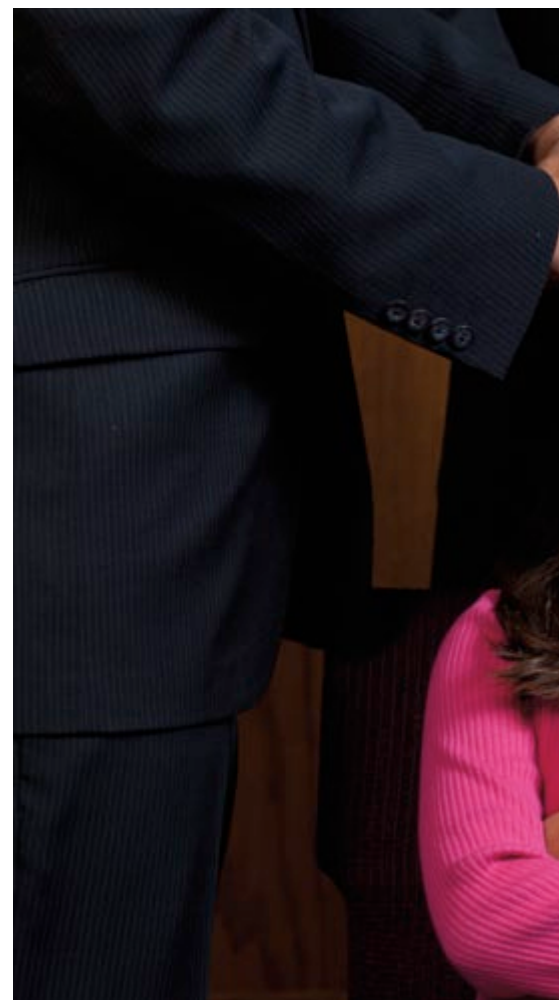
“Because the Spirit of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy temples” (Helaman 4:24), we must be worthy of His companionship. We do so by, among other things, having virtuous thoughts, living with integrity, and seeking to keep the commandments. ■

For more information, see 2 Nephi 31:13, 17; 32:5; 3 Nephi 27:20; Moroni 10:5–8; Joseph Smith—History 1:70.

WE MUST NOT TAKE THIS GIFT FOR GRANTED

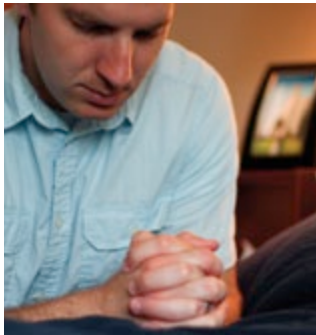
“As with all gifts, this gift must be received and accepted to be enjoyed. When priesthood hands were laid upon your head to confirm you a member of the Church, you heard the words, ‘Receive the Holy Ghost.’ This did not mean that the Holy Ghost unconditionally became your constant companion. Scriptures warn us that the Spirit of the Lord will ‘not always strive with man’ (Genesis 6:3). When we are confirmed, we are given the *right* to the companionship of the Holy Ghost, but it is a right that we must continue to earn through obedience and worthiness.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Unspeakable Gift,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2003, 28.



After receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, we can do many things to invite His influence into our lives:

Pray.



Study the scriptures.



Worthily partake of the sacrament.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTINA SMITH, EVE TUFT, CODY BELL, AND MATTHEW REIER



Worship in the temple.



View wholesome media, use clean language, and have virtuous thoughts.

Death AND Life

PIONEER PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESURRECTION

As early Church converts journeyed to the western United States to gather with the Saints, they encountered death but were bolstered by their new faith in the restored gospel. Following are excerpts from pioneer accounts that show the Saints' hope in the Resurrection, together with comforting teachings from the first five Church Presidents.

An account of an unnamed Scandinavian Latter-day Saint father whose young son died on the journey from New York to Utah in 1866:

“With the help of a friend the little grave was dug and the remains placed therein. The child dying from a contagious disease, there were no assembled mourners, no formal ceremony, no floral emblems, no spiritual song, no word of eulogy. But ere the bereaved father departed he uttered a brief dedicatory prayer in his native language (Danish) as follows: . . .

“Heavenly Father: Thou gavest me this little treasure—this darling boy, and now thou hast called him away. Wilt thou grant that his remains may lie here undisturbed until the resurrection morn. Thy will be done. Amen.’

“And rising from the ground his parting words were:

“‘Farewell, my dear little Hans—my beautiful boy.’ Then with drooping head and aching heart he stoutly bent his way to his camping ground.”¹

President Joseph Smith (1805–44):

“How consoling to the mourners when they are called to part with a husband, wife, father, mother, child, or dear relative, to know that, although the earthly tabernacle is laid down and dissolved, they shall rise again to dwell in everlasting burnings in immortal glory, not to sorrow, suffer, or die any more, but they shall be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.”²





Joseph Watson Young (1828–73), nephew of Brigham Young, traveled from England to the United States in 1853:

“It was a mournful scene to consign a fellow creature to the silent deep at the dead hour of the night with only a few lonely witnesses. . . . He had no relative on board or anyone in particular to mourn him except a fellow servant. These are the fondest hopes of human nature blasted in a moment. This young man had forsaken all to go into Zion, and his heart burned with lively anticipations of the future, little thinking that he was to consign his earthly body to the hungry wave. However, he died not as those who have no hope, for his peace was made with his God, and he had the full assurance of a glorious resurrection in the morning of the just.”³



Right: President Brigham Young. Above: Joseph Watson Young.

President Brigham Young (1801–77):

“What a dark valley and a shadow it is that we call death! To pass from this state of existence as far as the mortal body is concerned, into a state of inanition [emptiness], how strange it is! How dark this valley is! How mysterious is this road, and we have got to travel it alone. I would like to say to you, my friends and brethren, if we could see things as they are, and as we shall see and understand them, this dark shadow and valley is so trifling that we shall turn round and look about upon it and think, when we have crossed it, why this is the greatest advantage of my whole existence, for I have passed from a state of sorrow, grief, mourning, woe, misery, pain, anguish and disappointment into a state of existence, where I can enjoy life to the fullest extent as far as that can be done without a body.”⁴



INSETS: BRIGHAM YOUNG, BY JOHN WILLARD CLAWSON; PHOTOGRAPH OF JOSEPH WATSON YOUNG, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY LIBRARY; PHOTOGRAPH OF DAN JONES © IRI; JOHN TAYLOR, BY A. WESTWOOD, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM



Dan Jones (1811–62), Welsh convert who, with Mrs. Williams and other Church members, sailed to the United States in 1849:

“Mrs. Williams, of Ynysybont near Tregaron [Wales], is worsening fast, and signs are that she will not live long. . . . She said that the greatest honor she had ever received was to be able to become a member of the true church of the Son of God, that there was no fear in her breast concerning the other life and that her religion now proved its strength more than ever before. . . . She solemnly counseled her sons to continue faithful until death so that they would obtain with her a better resurrection. . . . She continued lucid through the night, and at a



Right:
President John Taylor. **Above:**
Dan Jones.

quarter past four the next morning her spirit departed in peace, leaving a smile on her lips.”⁵

President John Taylor (1808–87):



“How consoling it is to those who are called upon to mourn the loss of dear friends in death, to know that we will again be associated with them! How encouraging to all who live according to the revealed principles of truth, perhaps more especially to those whose lives are pretty well spent, who have borne the heat and burden of the day, to know that ere long we shall burst the barriers of the tomb, and come forth living and immortal souls, to enjoy the society of our tried and trusted friends, no more to be afflicted with the seeds of death, and to finish the work the Father has given us to do!”⁶

Andrew Jenson (1850–1941), Danish immigrant who traveled in the Andrew H. Scott wagon company from Nebraska, USA, to Utah in 1866:

“When we witnessed their [our fellow travelers’] earthly remains deposited in mother earth, in the wilderness, we all wept, or felt like weeping; for the thought of burying dear ones in this manner, when friends and relatives must immediately hasten away, without hopes of ever visiting the resting places of their dead again, was sad and trying indeed. . . . But their graves will be found when Gabriel sounds his trump in the morning of the first resurrection. These departed ones thus laid down their bodies as they were marching towards Zion. The Lord called them home before they reached their destination; they were not permitted to see Zion in the flesh; but they shall receive glory

and rejoice hereafter; they died while endeavoring to obey God and keep his commandments, and blessed are they who die in the [Lord].”⁷

President Wilford Woodruff (1807–98):

“Without the gospel of Christ the separation by death is one of the most gloomy subjects it is possible to contemplate; but just as soon as we obtain the gospel and learn the principle of the resurrection the gloom, sorrow and suffering occasioned by death are, in a great measure, taken away. . . . The resurrection of the dead presents itself before the enlightened mind of man, and he has a foundation for his spirit to rest upon. That is the position of the Latter-day Saints today. We do know for ourselves, we are not in the dark with regard to this matter; God has revealed it to us and we do understand the principle of the resurrection of the dead, and that the gospel brings life and immortality to light.”⁸



Right: President Wilford Woodruff.
Above: Andrew Jenson.



For readability, some spelling, punctuation, and capitalization have been standardized.

NOTES

1. Robert Aveson, “Leaves from the Journal of a

Boy Emigrant,” *Deseret News*, Mar. 12, 1921, 4:7; available at lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch.

2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 52.

3. Joseph W. Young, *Journal*, Mar. 6, 1853, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah; available at mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu.

4. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 273.



William Driver (1837–1920), pioneer who traveled from England to New York, USA, in 1866:

“Willie, my dearest child, was very ill all night until 7:30 a.m., when he was released from his sufferings. God bless his dear soul. How he suffered. He came to his death through Mr. Poulter’s cart breaking on St. Ann’s Hill, Wandsworth, Surrey, England. Oh, how I mourn this great affliction. O Lord, help me by thy power to bear it as from thy hand and stimulate me to more nobly and faithfully serve Thee, and may I live to prepare to meet him in



Right: President Lorenzo Snow. Above: William Driver.



a happier and better world with his dear sister, Elizabeth Maryann, and at the resurrection of the just may I be there to meet them.”⁹

President Lorenzo Snow (1814–1901):

“In the next life we will have our bodies glorified and free from sickness and death. Nothing is so beautiful as a person in a resurrected and glorified condition. There is nothing more lovely than to be in this condition and have our wives and children and friends with us.”¹⁰ ■

5. “A Letter from Capt. D. Jones to the Editor of *Udgnorn Seion*,” in Ronald D. Dennis, *The Call of Zion: The Story of the First Welsh Mormon Emigration*, vol. 2 (1987), 164–65; available at mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu.

6. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor* (2001), 50–51.

7. Andrew Jenson, Journal, Aug. 20, 1866, in *Journal History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Oct. 8, 1866, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, 6; available at lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch.

8. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church:*

Wilford Woodruff (2004), 82–83.

9. Frank Driver Reeve, ed., *London to Salt Lake City in 1866: The Diary of William Driver* (1942), 42; available at mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu.

10. Lorenzo Snow, in Conference Report, Oct. 1900, 63.



**By Elder
Russell M. Nelson**
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

The Mission and Ministry of **JESUS CHRIST**

*The best evidence of our adoration
of Jesus is our emulation of Him.*

As one among the “special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world” (D&C 107:23), I believe I serve best if I teach and testify of Him. First, I might ask the same questions He once posed to the Pharisees: “What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?” (Matthew 22:42).

These questions often come to mind as I meet with leaders of governments and various religious denominations. Some acknowledge that “Jesus was a great teacher.” Others say, “He was a prophet.” Others simply do not know Him at all. We should not be totally surprised. After all, relatively few people have the restored gospel truths we have. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are but a small minority among those who claim to be Christians.

Our circumstance today was foreseen centuries ago by Nephi:

“And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few . . . ; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small. . . .

“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory” (1 Nephi 14:12, 14).

That righteousness, that power, and that glory—indeed, all of our many blessings—stem from our knowledge of, obedience to, and gratitude and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.



During His relatively brief sojourn in mortality, the Savior accomplished two overarching objectives. One was His “work and [His] glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). The other He stated simply: “I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done” (John 13:15).

His first objective we know as the Atonement. This was His magnificent mission in mortality. To the people of ancient America, the resurrected Lord gave His mission statement:

“I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me.

“And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me” (3 Nephi 27:13–14).

In continuing His sermon, He revealed His second objective—to be our exemplar: “Ye know the things that ye must do . . . ; for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do” (3 Nephi 27:21).

His first objective I have defined as His *mission*. His second objective I would like to identify as His *ministry*. Let us review these two components of His life—His mission and His ministry.

The Mission of Jesus Christ—the Atonement

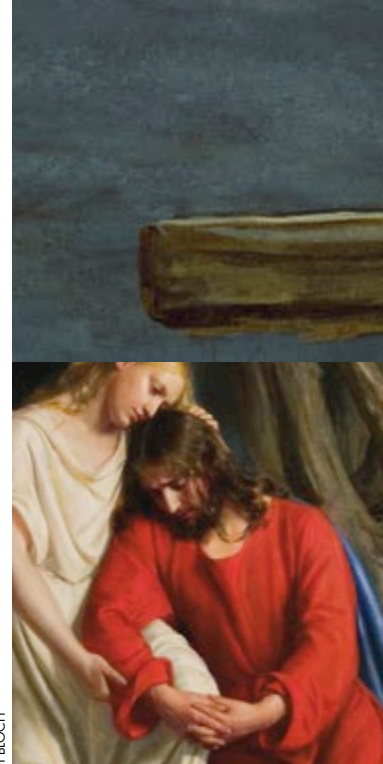
His mission was the Atonement. That mission was uniquely His. Born of a mortal mother and an immortal Father, He was the only one who could voluntarily lay down His life and take it up again (see John 10:14–18). The glorious consequences of His Atonement were infinite and eternal. He took the sting

out of death and made temporary the grief of the grave (see 1 Corinthians 15:54–55). His responsibility for the Atonement was known even before the Creation and the Fall. Not only was it to provide for the resurrection and immortality of all humankind, but it was also to enable us to be forgiven of our sins—upon conditions established by Him. Thus His Atonement opened the way by which we could be united with Him and with our families eternally. This prospect we esteem as eternal life—the greatest gift of God to man (see D&C 14:7).

No one else could effect the Atonement. No other person, even with the greatest wealth and power, could ever save one soul—not even his own (see Matthew 19:24–26). And no other individual will be required or permitted to shed blood for the eternal salvation of another human being. Jesus did it “once for all” (Hebrews 10:10).

Though the Atonement was consummated during the time of the New Testament, events of Old Testament times frequently foretold its importance. Adam and Eve were commanded to offer sacrifices as “a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father” (Moses 5:7). How? By the shedding of blood. From their own experience they confirmed the scripture that “the life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11).

Physicians know that whenever blood ceases to flow to an organ, trouble begins. If blood flow to a leg is interrupted, gangrene may follow. If flow to the brain is stopped, a stroke may result. If blood fails to flow normally through a coronary artery, a heart attack may develop. And if hemorrhage is uncontrolled, death ensues.



WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON (STABAT MATER), BY JAMES TISSOT © BROOKLYN MUSEUM, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK; INSET: DETAIL FROM IN THE GARDEN OF GETHESEMENE, BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH

The Savior began shedding His blood for all mankind not on the cross, where the agony of the Atonement was completed, but in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Adam, Eve, and generations to follow learned that whenever they shed blood from an animal, its life was terminated. For their sacrificial rite, not just *any* animal would do. It was to be a firstling of the flock and one without blemish (see, for example, Exodus 12:5). These requisites were also symbolic of the eventual sacrifice of the spotless Lamb of God.

Adam and Eve were given a commandment: “Wherefore, thou shalt do all that thou doest in the name of the Son, and thou shalt repent and call upon God in the name of the Son forevermore” (Moses 5:8). From that day to the meridian of time, animal sacrifice continued to be a type and shadow of the eventual Atonement of the Son of God.

When the Atonement was accomplished, that great and last sacrifice fulfilled the law of Moses (see Alma 34:13–14) and terminated the practice of animal sacrifice, which had taught that “the life of the flesh [was] in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11). Jesus explained how the elements of ancient sacrifice were subsumed by the Atonement and commemorated symbolically by the sacrament. Note again references to the life, the flesh, and the blood:

“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:53–54).

Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all mankind—even as many as will—will be redeemed. The Savior began shedding His blood for all mankind not on the cross but in the Garden of Gethsemane. There He took upon Himself the weight of the sins of all who would ever live. Under that heavy load, He bled at every pore (see D&C 19:18). The agony of the Atonement was completed on the cross at Calvary.

The importance of the Atonement was summarized by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He said, “The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was

buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.”¹

With that authority and with profound gratitude, I so teach and testify of Him.

The Ministry of Jesus Christ—the Exemplar

The Lord’s second far-reaching objective in mortality was to serve as an example for us. His exemplary life constituted His mortal ministry. It included His teachings, parables, and sermons. It encompassed His miracles, loving-kindness, and long-suffering toward the children of men (see 1 Nephi 19:9). It embraced His compassionate use of priesthood authority. It included His righteous indignation when He condemned sin (see Romans 8:3) and when He overthrew the tables of the money changers (see Matthew 21:12). It also included His heartaches. He was mocked, scourged, and disowned by His own people (see Mosiah 15:5)—even betrayed by one disciple and denied by another (see John 18:2–3, 25–27).

Wonderful as His ministerial acts were, they were not and are still not unique to Him. There is no limit to the number of people who may follow the example of Jesus. Similar acts have been done by His prophets and apostles and others among His authorized servants. Many have endured persecution for His sake (see Matthew 5:10; 3 Nephi 12:10). In our own time, you know brothers and sisters who have earnestly striven—even at a terrible price—to emulate the Lord’s example.

That is as it should be. That is His hope for us. The Lord asked us to follow His example. His appeals are crystal clear:

- “What manner of men ought ye to be? . . . Even as I am” (3 Nephi 27:27; see also 3 Nephi 12:48).
- “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).
- “I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done” (John 13:15; see also John 14:6).

These and other similar scriptures were not written as suggestions. They are divine imperatives! We are to follow His example!

To facilitate our desire to follow Him, perhaps we could consider five aspects of His life that we can emulate.

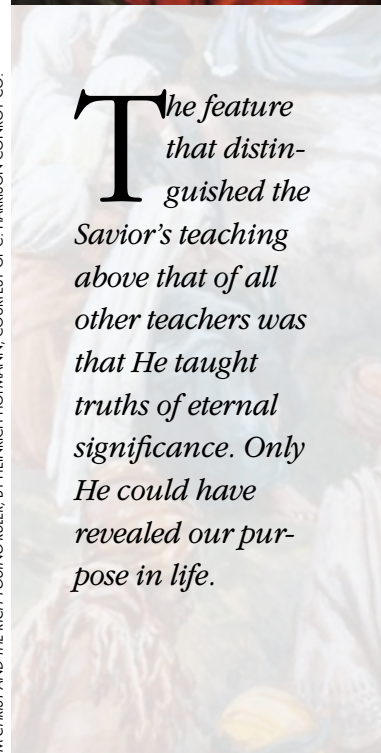
Love

If I were to ask which characteristic of His life you would identify first, I think you might name His attribute of love. That would include His compassion, kindness, charity, devotion, forgiveness, mercy, justice, and more. Jesus loved His Father and His mother (see John 19:25–27). He loved His family and the Saints (see John 13:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:16). He loved the sinner without excusing the sin (see Matthew 9:2; D&C 24:2). And He taught us how we can show our love for Him. He said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Then, to underscore that His love was not *unconditional*, He added, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love” (John 15:10; see also D&C 95:12; 124:87).

Another expression of our Savior’s love was His service. He served His Father, and He served the people with whom He lived and labored. In both ways we are to follow His example. We are to serve God, “to walk



The feature that distinguished the Savior’s teaching above that of all other teachers was that He taught truths of eternal significance. Only He could have revealed our purpose in life.



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, BY JAMES TISSOT; INSET: DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER, BY HEINRICH HOFMANN, COURTESY OF C. HARRISON CONROY CO.



in all his ways, and to love him” (Deuteronomy 10:12; see also 11:13; Joshua 22:5; D&C 20:31; 59:5). And we are to love our neighbors by serving them (see Galatians 5:13; Mosiah 4:15–16). We start with our families. The deep love that binds parents to their children is forged by service to them through their period of total dependence. Later in life dutiful children may have the opportunity to reciprocate that love when they serve their aging parents.

Ordinances

A second aspect of the Savior’s exemplary life was His emphasis on sacred ordinances. During His mortal ministry He demonstrated the importance of the ordinances of salvation. He was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Even John asked, “Why?”

Jesus explained, “For thus it becometh *us* to fulfil all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15; emphasis added). Not only was the ordinance essential, but the example set by Jesus and John was also essential.

Later the Lord instituted the ordinance of the sacrament. He explained the symbolism of the sacrament and administered its sacred emblems to His disciples (see Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 24:30).

Our Heavenly Father also gave instruction regarding ordinances. He said: “Ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye might be sanctified from all sin, and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come, even immortal glory” (Moses 6:59).

During the Lord’s postmortal ministry, the higher ordinances of exaltation were revealed (D&C 124:40–42). He has provided for these ordinances in His holy temples. In our day, washings, anointings, and endowments are granted to individuals who are properly prepared (see D&C 105:12, 18, 33; 110:9; 124:39). In the temple, an individual may be sealed to husband or wife, to progenitors, and to posterity (see D&C 132:19). Our Master is a God of law and order (see D&C 132:18). His focus on ordinances is a powerful part of His example to us.

Prayer

A third aspect of the Lord's exemplary ministry is prayer. Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven and also taught us how to pray. We are to pray to God the Eternal Father in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Ghost (see Matthew 6:9–13; 3 Nephi 13:9–13; Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 6:9–15). I love the great Intercessory Prayer offered by the Lord recorded in John, chapter 17. In it the Son communicates freely with His Father on behalf of His disciples, whom He loves. It is a model of effective and compassionate prayer.

Knowledge

A fourth aspect of the Lord's example is the use of His divine knowledge. As mentioned earlier, many non-Christians acknowledge that Jesus was a great teacher. Indeed, He was. But what truly distinguished His teaching? Was He a skilled instructor of engineering, mathematics, or science? As Creator of this and other worlds (see Moses 1:33), He surely could have been. Or, as the Author of scripture, He could have taught literary composition very well.

The feature that distinguished His teaching above that of all other teachers was that He taught truths of *eternal* significance. Only He could have revealed our purpose in life. Only through Him could we learn of our *premortals* existence and of our *postmortals* potential.

On one occasion the Master Teacher told His skeptical listeners that they had three witnesses of Him:

- John the Baptist.
- The deeds that Jesus had accomplished.
- The word of God the Eternal Father (see John 5:33–37).

He then proffered a fourth witness: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

The word *think* in that phrase may at first seem to be out of place. But it is vital to the meaning Jesus was trying to convey. He knew that many of His listeners did actually *think* that eternal life was in the scriptures. But they were wrong. The scriptures alone *cannot* bestow eternal life. Of course

there is power in scripture, but that power comes from Jesus Himself. He *is* the Word: *Logos*. The power of eternal life is in Him, who "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1; see also 2 Nephi 31:20; 32:3). Then, because of the stubborn stance of His skeptics, Jesus went on to rebuke them: "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have [eternal] life" (John 5:40).

The Master could overwhelm us with His supernal knowledge, but He does not. He honors our agency. He allows us the joy of discovery. He encourages us to repent of our own mistakes. He permits us to experience the freedom that comes from our willing obedience to His divine law. Yes, the way He uses His knowledge provides a great example for us.

Endurance

A fifth aspect of the Lord's ministry is His commitment to endure to the end. Never did He withdraw from His assignment. Though He experienced suffering beyond our comprehension, He was not a quitter. Through deepening trials He endured to the end of His assignment: to atone for the sins of all humankind. His final words as He hung from the cross were, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

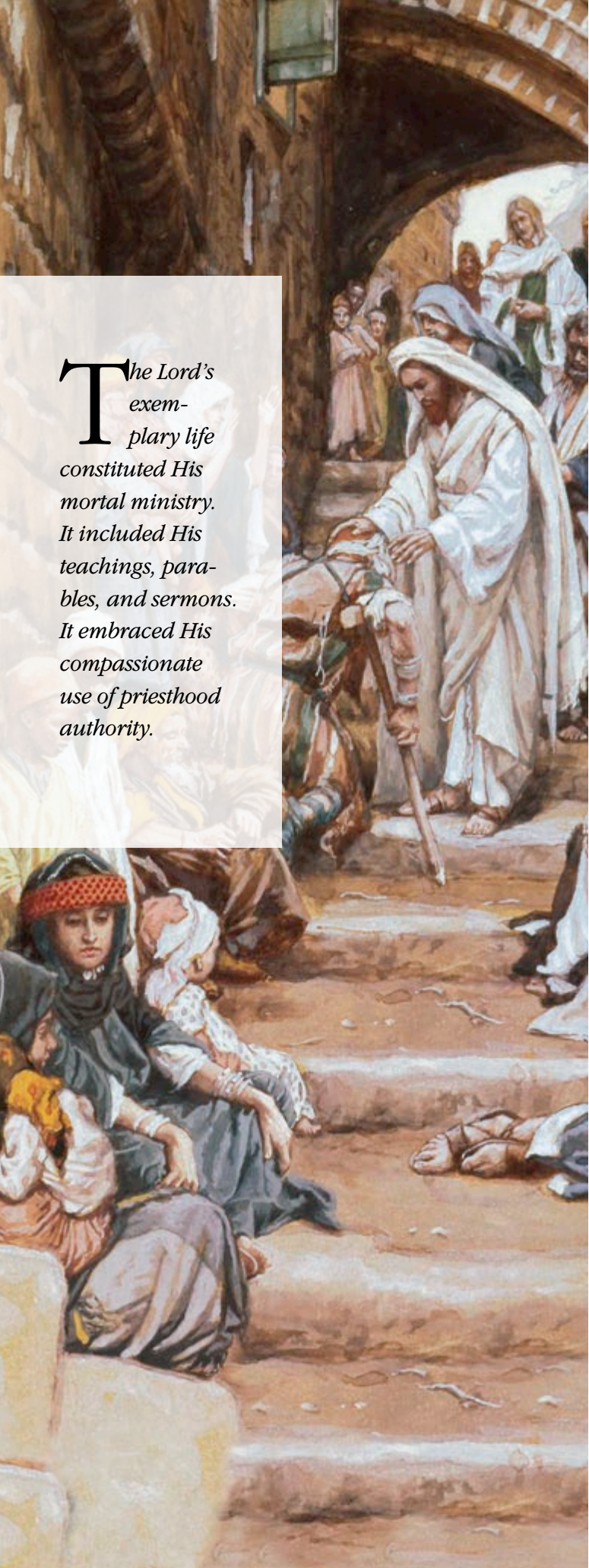
Application to Our Lives

These five aspects of His ministry can be applied in our own lives. Surely the best evidence of our adoration of Jesus is our emulation of Him.

When we begin to realize who Jesus is and what He has done for us, we can understand, to some degree, the logic of the first and great commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30). In other words, all that we think and do and say should be steeped in our love for Him and His Father.

Ask yourself, "Is there anyone whom I love more than the Lord?" Then compare your answer to these standards set by the Lord:

- "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."



The Lord's exemplary life constituted His mortal ministry. It included His teachings, parables, and sermons. It embraced His compassionate use of priesthood authority.

- “He that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:37).

Love for family and friends, great as it may be, is much more profound when anchored in the love of Jesus Christ. Parental love for children has more meaning here and hereafter because of Him. All loving relationships are elevated in Him. Love of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ provides the illumination, inspiration, and motivation to love others in a loftier way.

Ordinances provide a focus for service of eternal worth. Parents should consider which ordinance is needed next by each child. Home teachers should think of an appropriate ordinance needed next in each family they serve.

The Savior's example of *prayer* reminds us that personal prayer, family prayer, and prayerful pursuit of our assignments in the Church should become part of our lives. To know and to do the will of the Father provides great spiritual strength and confidence (see D&C 121:45). On the Lord's side is where we want to be.

Knowledge “of things as they really are, and of things as they really will be” (Jacob 4:13) allows us to act upon true principles and doctrine. That knowledge will lift our level of behavior. Acts that otherwise might be driven by appetite and emotion will be superseded by deeds shaped by reason and right.

A commitment to *endure to the end* means that we will not ask for a release from a call to serve. It means that we will persevere in pursuit of a worthy goal. It means that we will never give up on a loved one who has strayed. And it means that we will always cherish our eternal family relationships, even through difficult days of disease, disability, or death.

With all my heart I pray that the transforming influence of the Lord may make a profound difference in your life. His mission and His ministry can bless each of us now and forevermore. ■

From a devotional address given on August 18, 1998, at Brigham Young University. For the full text in English, go to speeches.byu.edu.

NOTE

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 49.

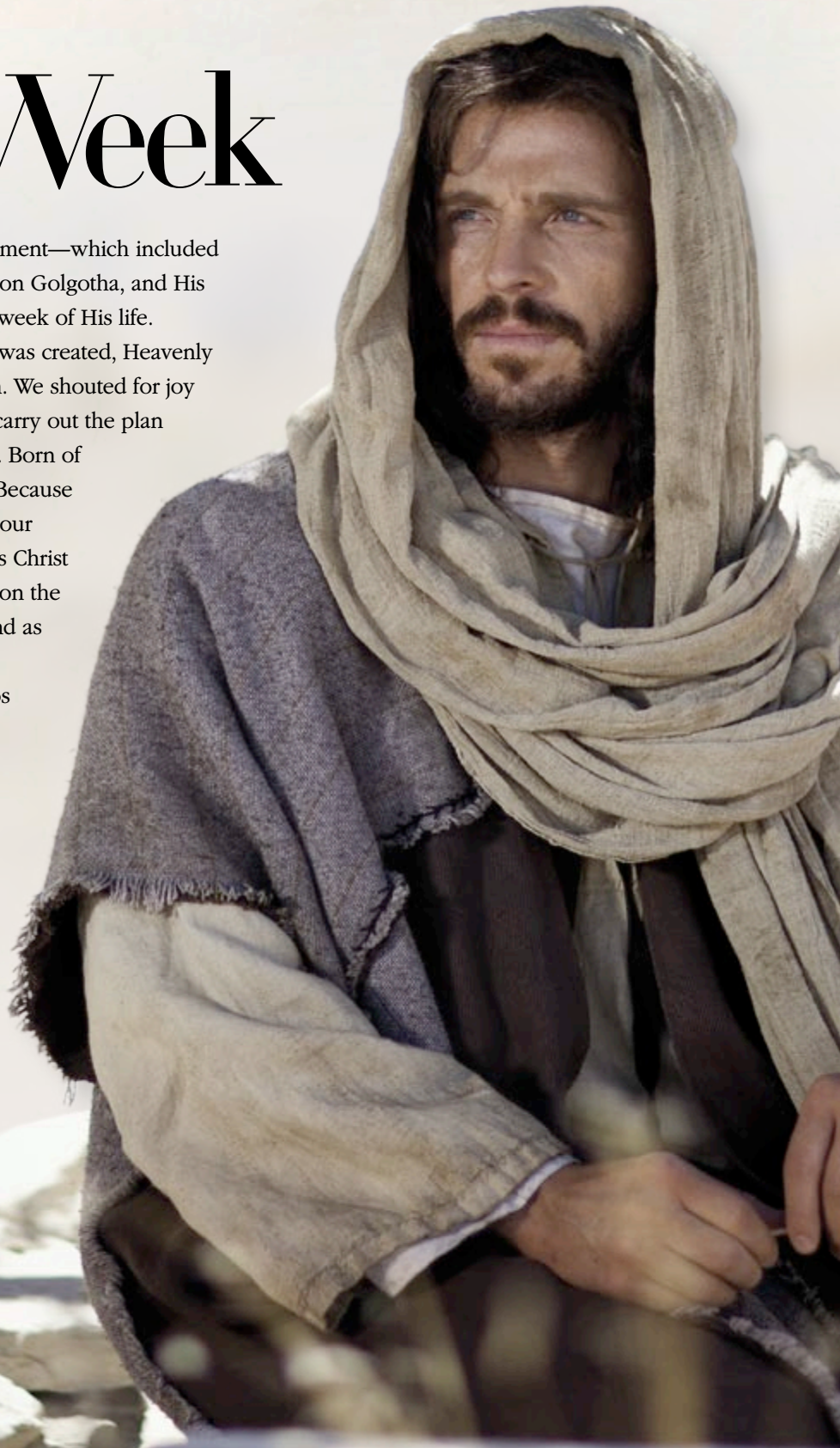
Easter Week

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, fulfilled the Atonement—which included His suffering in Gethsemane, His Crucifixion on Golgotha, and His Resurrection from the tomb—during the last week of His life.

In the Council in Heaven before the earth was created, Heavenly Father presented His plan for us, His children. We shouted for joy when Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to carry out the plan of salvation (see Job 38:7 and Abraham 3:27). Born of Mary at Bethlehem, Jesus lived a sinless life. Because of His Atonement, we can return to live with our Heavenly Father and receive eternal life. Jesus Christ will come again in power and glory to dwell on the earth during the Millennium, and He will stand as Judge of all people at the last day.

Following are images from the Bible videos that portray the last week of the Savior's life. Consider reading the scripture verses listed for each image. For a full chronology of events, refer to the harmony of the four Gospels in the Bible Dictionary or the Guide to the Scriptures. The Bible videos are available at biblevideos.lds.org.

IMAGES © IRI



On the fifth day before Passover, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey as was prophesied. People recognized Him as their King, shouted "Hosanna," and placed their garments and palm fronds on the ground in front of the donkey. (See Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Zechariah 9:9.)



For the second time during His mortal ministry, Jesus cleansed the courts of the temple. "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves," He told the money changers (Matthew 21:13). Then many of the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw His miracles, they became angry and sought for a way to destroy Him. (See Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19.)

Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of the Father, condescended to come to earth to redeem all people from the Fall. (See 1 Nephi 11:16-22, 26-33; Alma 7:10-13.)

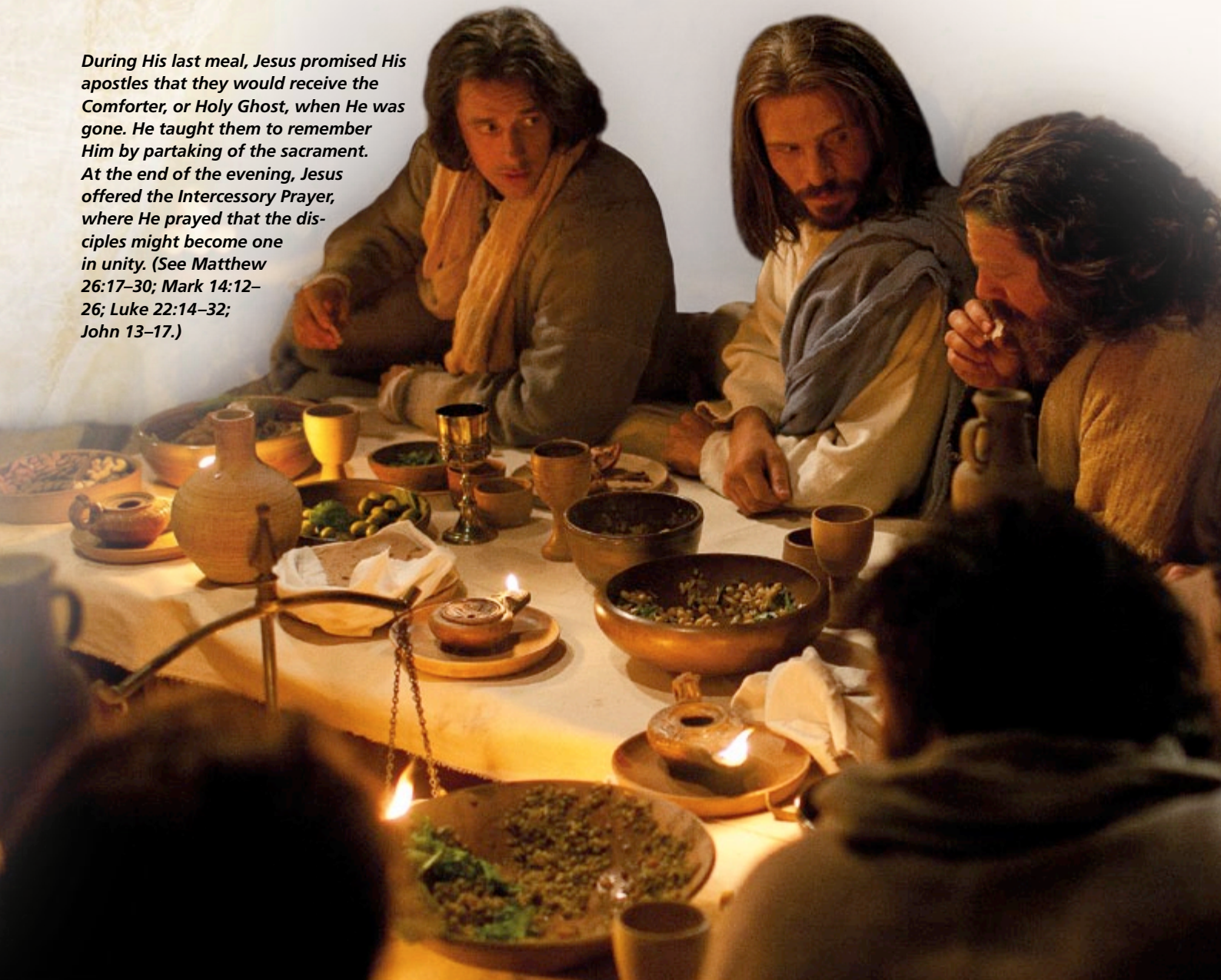


In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Savior knelt and prayed, His agony for the sins of the world causing Him "to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit" (D&C 19:18). Soon Judas Iscariot and a multitude of armed men arrested Jesus, and all the disciples forsook the Lord and fled. (See Matthew 26:36–56; Mark 14:32–50; Luke 22:39–53.)



Throughout the week, the Savior delivered some of His most memorable sermons, including His teachings about the widow's mite. (See Mark 12:41–44; Luke 21:1–4.)

During His last meal, Jesus promised His apostles that they would receive the Comforter, or Holy Ghost, when He was gone. He taught them to remember Him by partaking of the sacrament. At the end of the evening, Jesus offered the Intercessory Prayer, where He prayed that the disciples might become one in unity. (See Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–26; Luke 22:14–32; John 13–17.)





After an illegal trial and cruel scourging, Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be crucified, completing the "great and last sacrifice" that made salvation possible for all the children of God (see Alma 34:14–15). Before nightfall, Jesus's followers removed His body from the cross, dressed Him in linen and spices, and laid Him in a tomb. (See Matthew 27; Luke 23; Mark 15; John 19.)



Sunday morning dawned, and Mary Magdalene and other faithful women arrived at the tomb to further anoint Jesus's body. They found the stone of the tomb rolled away and two angels who declared joyous tidings: "He is not here: for he is risen" (Matthew 28:6). The resurrected Savior had conquered physical death and made it possible for each of us to live again: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). (See Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20). ■

Helping Children

PREPARE FOR BAPTISM

By Jessica Larsen and Marissa Widdison

Church Magazines

Childhood is a season of joyful firsts. The first time riding a bicycle, attending school, or trying a new food are a few of the exciting adventures that shape a child's life. As adults we have the opportunity to help children along that path of discovery. As adults in the Church, we also have the opportunity to help them grow in the gospel (see D&C 68:25). What can we do to make sure a child's baptism—the first covenant a person makes with our loving Heavenly Father—is a beautiful and meaningful event?

"It is the basic purpose of this Church to teach the youth: first in the home and then in church," taught President Boyd K. Packer.¹

In the following examples, parents share how they have prepared their children for the sacred ordinances and covenants of baptism and confirmation.

We Start Early

"The year each child turns seven is a time to celebrate," says Lori, a mother of four. She and her husband teach their children about baptism from the day they are born. However, when each child turns seven, their family begins more specific preparation. They hold a family home evening lesson each month about different topics related to baptism, such as covenants and Jesus's example.

Lori says the lessons during the month of the children's eighth birthdays are especially tender. She shows the children the clothes they wore when they received a name and a blessing, and she talks about the day that ordinance was performed.

"It is the perfect time to focus on the blessings of temple covenants," Lori points out. "We always make a point of teaching that the choice to be baptized is the first step in preparing for the blessings of the temple."



We Make It a Family Affair

Monica, a mother of four, recommends getting older children involved in helping younger siblings prepare whenever possible. "Hearing their teenage brother or sister testify and share his or her experience really adds power," she says. Lori adds that sometimes they ask the children preparing for baptism to teach what they have learned to younger siblings.



We Use It as a Missionary Tool

When Daniel's daughter turned eight, he knew she would want to share her baptism day with friends who were not members of the Church. So their family decided to extend invitations for Allison's baptism to friends from school and the neighborhood. These friends were asked to bring favorite Bible verses to the baptism. After the baptism, Allison underlined the verses in her new set of scriptures and wrote her friends' names in the margins.

"Of course, as her family, we were very involved in that day. But we also let her just be with friends a while afterward and talk to them about what she felt," Daniel said. "It was a really tender moment to see our child set an example."

We Practice the Bishop's Interview

Kimberly, a mother of children approaching baptism age, remembers walking into the bishop's office for her baptismal interview when she was eight years old. "I was so nervous!" Kimberly says.

Now she tries to ensure that her children don't face feelings of panic. She and her husband talk to their children about bishop interviews and ask them questions about baptism in an interview-like setting. These interviews do more than familiarize children with the interview process—they also encourage the children to think deeply about what the covenant of baptism means to them.

We Have a Wonderful Opportunity

These parents are quick to point out that they haven't done anything excessive in preparing their children for baptism and confirmation, but many of them did use words like "thorough" and "consistent" to describe the lessons they have taught over the years. "We made sure our kids understood that this was an important step in their lives, and that it was a big deal," Kimberly says. "We always made sure we were the ones preparing them, and not just hoping their Primary teachers were teaching them."

What a wonderful opportunity we have been given to help prepare the children we love for baptism and confirmation! As we prayerfully do so, the Lord will be with us to shape this first covenant-making experience into a powerful foundation for future spiritual growth. ■

The next two pages answer some questions children have about baptism and confirmation.

NOTE

1. Boyd K. Packer, "Teach the Children," *Liahona*, May 2000, 16; *Ensign*, Feb. 2000, 10.

Understanding Baptism

By Marissa Widdison
Church Magazines



Who will baptize me?

Whoever baptizes you needs to hold the priesthood—the power to act in the name of God. When Jesus wanted to be baptized, He went to John the Baptist, who had the priesthood (see Matthew 3:13).

The person who baptizes you will get permission from your bishop or branch president.



Do I have to go under water to be baptized?

Jesus was baptized by immersion, which means He went completely under the water and quickly came back up again (see Matthew 3:16). This is how you will be baptized. Being baptized this way reminds us that we are leaving behind our old life and starting a new life dedicated to serving God and His children.

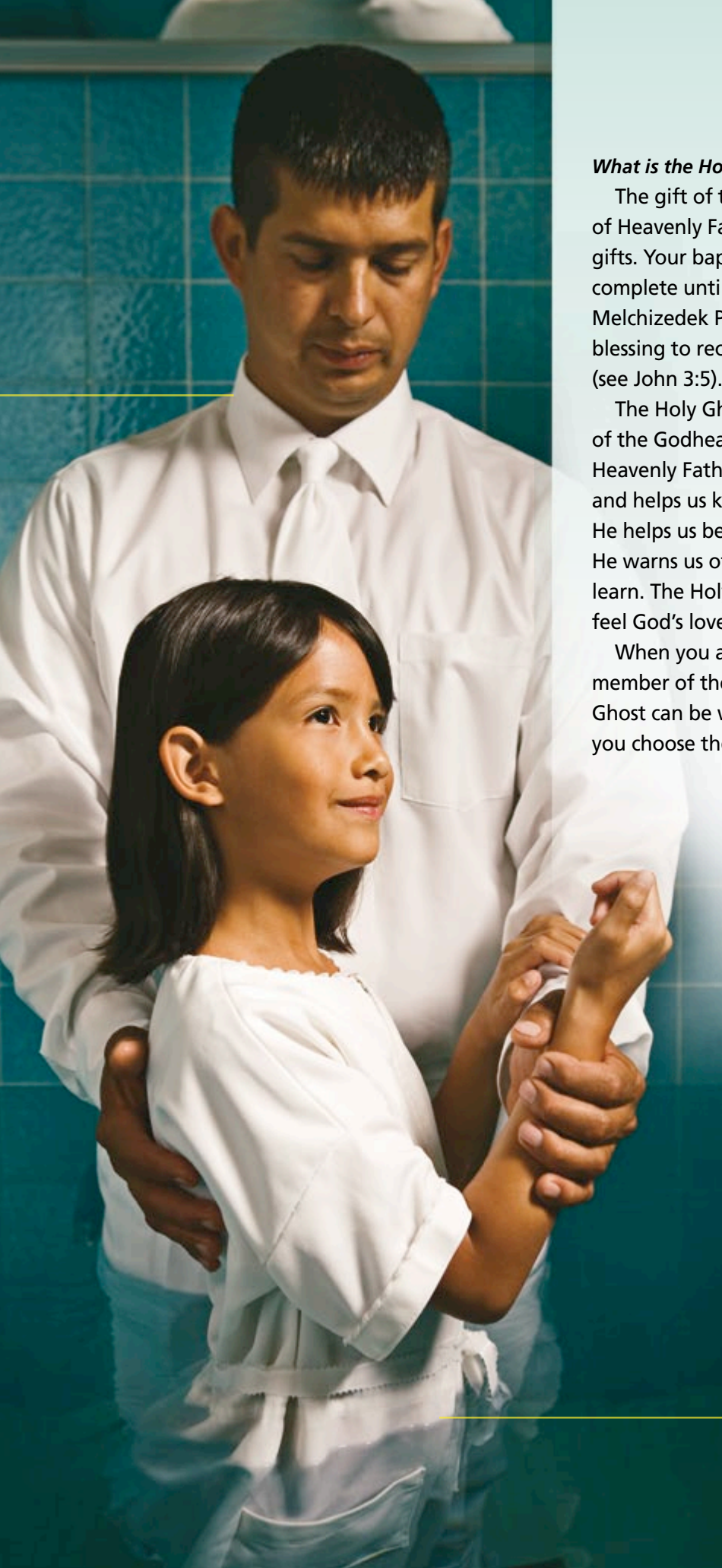


What promises do I make when I am baptized?

When you are baptized, you make a covenant, or two-way promise, with Heavenly Father. You promise Him that you will do certain things, and He promises to bless you. This covenant is described in the sacrament prayers that are said each Sunday (see D&C 20:77–79). You promise:

- To remember Jesus Christ.
- To keep His commandments.
- To take upon yourself the name of Christ, which means to put His work first in your life and do what He wants instead of what the world wants.

As you keep this promise, Heavenly Father promises that the Holy Ghost will be with you and that your sins will be forgiven.



What is the Holy Ghost?

The gift of the Holy Ghost is one of Heavenly Father's most precious gifts. Your baptism by water isn't complete until men holding the Melchizedek Priesthood give you a blessing to receive the Holy Ghost (see John 3:5).

The Holy Ghost is a member of the Godhead. He testifies of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and helps us know what is true. He helps us be spiritually strong. He warns us of danger. He helps us learn. The Holy Ghost can help us feel God's love.

When you are confirmed a member of the Church, the Holy Ghost can be with you always if you choose the right.



Why do I have to be at least eight years old to be baptized?

The Lord teaches that children shouldn't be baptized until they are old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong, which the scriptures say is eight years old (see Moroni 8:11–12; D&C 29:46–47; 68:27).



By Elder
Jairo Mazzagardi
Of the Seventy

Drawn to the Temple

For many good people, the temple inspires feelings that can instantly penetrate the heart.

Before I was called as a member of the Second Quorum of the Seventy, my wife and I spent several years serving in the Campinas and São Paulo Brazil Temples. In both temples, I was often amazed that people traveling by the temple would be so drawn to it that they would stop, enter, and inquire about it.

When they entered, we informed them that they could go no further without proper preparation. We then explained the purpose of the temple, shared some basic doctrines of the gospel, and invited them to meet with the missionaries. For many good people, the temple itself is a tremendous missionary because it inspires feelings that can instantly penetrate the heart.

My wife, Elizabeth, and I know the power of such feelings firsthand. Nearly 40 years ago, a good friend and colleague, a member of the Church, started bringing up the gospel with us in casual conversation. On several occasions, he sent the missionaries to visit us. We liked the missionaries and agreed to take the discussions, but we were not truly interested in what they had to teach.



That changed in October 1978, when my colleague invited several friends, including us, to the São Paulo Brazil Temple open house. He rented several buses at his own expense so that his friends could join him at the temple, about 50 miles (80 km) away.

When Elizabeth entered the baptistry, she felt something she had never experienced before, something she later recognized as the Holy Ghost. The feeling was a great joy in her heart. She knew in that moment that the Church was true and that it was the Church she wanted to join.

A similar feeling came to me at the end of the open house, when we were escorted to the sealing room and taught the doctrine of eternal families. That doctrine touched me. I was successful in my profession, but I had long felt an emptiness in my soul. I did not know what could fill that void, but I sensed that it had something to do with family. There, in the sealing room, things started to fall into place in my mind and heart.

Within a few days, missionaries contacted us again. This time we were very interested in hearing their message.

The elders encouraged us to pray fervently about the truth. I decided this was the only way I *could* pray. I knew that I couldn't make a commitment to join the Church without having a real testimony. I was anxious about approaching Heavenly Father to ask for a confirmation from Him, but at the same time, I was sure He would answer me. I shared with Him the deep desires of my heart and asked Him to give me an answer that would assure me that joining the Church was the correct path.

The following week in Sunday School, our

friend who had invited us to the temple open house was sitting behind me. He leaned forward and began talking to me. The words he said answered exactly what I had prayed to know. I had no doubt that Heavenly Father was speaking to me through him. At the time, I was a stern, hardened man, but my heart melted and I began to weep. When my friend had finished, he invited my wife and me to be baptized. We accepted.

On October 31, 1978, less than a month after our experience at the São Paulo Temple, we were baptized and confirmed. The next day we participated in the second dedicatory session of the São Paulo Brazil Temple. A year later we returned to the temple with our two sons to be sealed as a family. All three occasions were beautiful, memorable experiences. We have continued to perpetuate those feelings with regular temple worship over the years.

Twenty-eight years to the day after our baptism, my wife and I again stood in the São Paulo Brazil Temple. I had just been called as temple president. It was a tender experience for us to walk the halls of the house of the Lord and to feel anew the tender feelings that had been the catalyst of our conversion.

The temple continues to bring my wife and me great happiness. When we see a young couple entering the temple to be sealed as an eternal family, we feel great hope.

Many people throughout the world are prepared to hear the message of the gospel. They feel a thirst similar to what I felt more than 30 years ago. The temple and its ordinances are powerful enough to quench that thirst and fill their voids. ■

SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH MY PLANE

One evening as I was taxiing my plane full of passengers to the runway, I had a feeling that something was wrong with the aircraft steering system. To confirm my spiritual impression, I pulled off the taxiway and did a few 360-degree turns. Nothing seemed out of order.

I wondered, “Should I take off and get the passengers to their destination on time, or should I return to the gate?” I knew returning would create a long delay. Taxiway runs are one way; I would have to wait for ground control to create a space for me to taxi against the traffic flow. Then we

would have to wait for the maintenance crew to check out the plane. The delays could cause problems for the airline and for the passengers who had people to meet and connections to make. I also wondered how the maintenance department would react to my report that the plane had a problem when I had nothing to go on except a strong feeling.

As captain of the aircraft, I was responsible for our safety, so I decided to follow my impression and return.

When we arrived at the gate, I told the mechanic that I felt something was wrong with the plane but that

I didn’t know what the trouble was. He did not believe there was a problem.

“It was probably just the wet taxiway,” he said. “You may have been slipping on the asphalt.” He agreed, nevertheless, to look at the steering gear on the nose wheel. After checking it, he asked me to off-load the passengers so he could take the plane for a test ride.

When he returned 30 minutes later, he was very concerned. During the test ride, he had heard an intermittent grinding sound. When he applied the brakes as he was turning around to return to the gate, he lost control of the plane and nearly ran off the taxiway.

A close inspection revealed that the brakes had undergone improper maintenance the previous evening. Had I landed the plane after our flight, the brakes would have failed, and I would have lost control of the plane.

I received another aircraft to pilot, and I safely delivered my passengers to their destination three hours late.

I am glad I listened to the whisperings of the Spirit. I know that the Spirit will direct us if we seek the Lord’s guidance and listen to the promptings that come. ■

Craig Willie, Utah, USA



I wondered how the maintenance department would react to my report that the plane had a problem when I had nothing to go on except a strong feeling.

FINDING JOY IN LIFE

On one occasion I was reading a general conference talk by Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Though I had heard and read this talk before, one phrase caught my attention and stayed in my thoughts.

A few hours later my son, who was living in an apartment with his friends, came by for a visit. He had served a full-time mission and had attended a few semesters of college. He was unsure what educational direction he should go and which career path he should pursue. Because he had been frustrated and felt that school, for now, was a waste of time and money, he put his studies on hold and began working full time.

He told me that one of his friends had suggested they go to an island in the Bahamas or the Caribbean, get jobs, and have fun for a few months. My son was excited about the prospect. I could easily see how enticing such a carefree experience could be to a young man.

Just then, Elder Scott's impressive message came to my mind. I picked up the *Ensign* and read the following to my son: "You are here on earth for a divine purpose. It is not to be endlessly entertained or to be constantly in full pursuit of pleasure. You are here to be tried, to prove yourself so that you can receive the additional blessings God has for you. The tempering effect of

patience is required" ("Finding Joy in Life," *Ensign*, May 1996, 25).

Without a word, my son took the magazine, walked away, and read the whole talk. Later all he said was that he would not be embarking on his island adventure.

In time he entered the police academy, a path that led him to meet his future wife. They married in the Mesa Arizona Temple and today are raising three wonderful children. In 2010 my son finished his bachelor's degree and is truly "finding joy in life."

My son's proposed adventure might have been a fine

experience; on the other hand, it might have been spiritually dangerous. Each time I reflect on this experience, the Spirit touches my heart.

I am thankful for the words of the prophets and that I was prompted to recall a talk that helped me provide guidance. I am also thankful that my son listened to a messenger of the Lord and allowed the Spirit to influence him. I know that many blessings and tender mercies come when we listen to and follow the teachings of the Savior and

His servants. ■

Karen Rockwood, Idaho, USA



When my son told me that one of his friends had suggested they go to the Bahamas or the Caribbean to have fun for a few months, Elder Scott's message came to my mind.

THE PHONE SWITCHED OFF

In March 1997, while living in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, my husband and I were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints.

As I studied the doctrines of the Church, many of my questions were answered. It was interesting to learn about the plan of salvation, including the practice of baptism for the dead. I was surprised to learn that we could be baptized for our deceased ancestors.

A year after our baptism, the mission

president invited us to prepare to go to the temple. As part of our preparation, we started doing family history research. One day as I was thinking about doing this work, the phone rang. It was my mother-in-law. I asked her if she would send me a list of the deceased ancestors on my husband's side of the family. She was amazed and told me that baptism for the dead was not Christ's doctrine but rather something the Mormons had made up. I wasn't sure how to answer her because

I wasn't familiar with scriptural references that supported the doctrine.

As I was thinking about how to respond, the phone switched off. I was unsure for a minute what had happened, but I hung up the phone and went to my bedroom. I took the New Testament into my hands, knelt to pray, and asked Heavenly Father to show me where I could find the answer.

At the end of my prayer, I opened the Bible. I felt as if someone had told me to read the 29th verse on the very page I had opened. I was in the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians, which talks about the doctrine of baptism for the dead.

I was touched and surprised that Heavenly Father had answered my prayer at that very moment. It was a wonderful feeling.

I was thinking deeply about this experience when suddenly the phone rang again. It was my mother-in-law, asking me why the phone had switched off. I told her I didn't know but then asked her to open her Bible and read 1 Corinthians 15:29.

A few days later a list of deceased relatives was on my table. My mother-in-law had read the scripture and now believed that the Savior, through the Apostle Paul, had taught the doctrine of baptism for the dead.

God has promised great blessings to those who do this redemptive work. I know this to be true. ■

Seda Meliksetyan, Armenia



My mother-in-law told me that baptism for the dead was not Christ's doctrine but rather something the Mormons had made up.

WHERE CAN I GET A MAGAZINE LIKE THIS?

While on a trip with my family from Nevada, USA, to Alaska, USA, I struck up a conversation with a tall, attractive, friendly lady across the aisle.

She asked me where I was going, and I told her we were heading to Juneau, Alaska, to visit our son and his family. She told me she was from Las Vegas. Then, becoming emotional, she added that she was going to Juneau to visit her in-laws to have a memorial service for her husband, to whom she had been married for 20 years. He had recently passed away from cancer.

I looked across the aisle and thought to myself how fortunate I was to know the plan of salvation and to be a temple worker in the Las Vegas Nevada Temple. I wondered what I could do for this woman to lift her spirits.

Suddenly, as clear as a bell, I remembered a quote by the Prophet Joseph Smith I had handed out in Relief Society. When he organized the Relief Society, he observed that the sisters “will fly to the relief of the stranger; they will pour in oil and wine to the wounded heart of the distressed; they will dry up the tears of the orphan and make the widow’s heart to rejoice” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 452).



I wondered what I could do to lift the spirits of this woman, whose husband had recently passed away.

I looked across the aisle once more. I saw a stranger in distress, a widow with a wounded heart. I remembered that I had read the July 2011 *Ensign* earlier that day. It contained some uplifting articles I thought might give her some encouragement and comfort.

I gathered my courage, opened the magazine to an article, and asked her to read it. I watched her closely and was surprised that she read every single line—intently. When she had finished, she read another article.

Evidently something she had read touched her heart. She hugged the

magazine tightly against her chest and then wiped a tear from her eye.

“Where can I get a magazine like this?” she asked me. I told her she could keep it. Then she read some more.

When we arrived in Juneau, she grabbed my hand, looked straight into my eyes, and said, “Thank you.”

I learned a great lesson from that experience. We are surrounded by strangers with wounded hearts who need a kind word of encouragement and who need to know what we as Latter-day Saints know. ■

Sharon Rather, Nevada, USA

*Sometimes you have to
give up something good
for something better.*

CHOOSING THE **Better** PART

By Matthew D. Flitton
Church Magazines

One day Zoltán Szücs of Szeged, Hungary, surprised his kayaking coach by telling him that he wouldn't be going to Germany for a competition.

"It was on the same day as my baptism, so I said no," Zoltán said.

At age 17, Zoltán had won many competitions in kayaking. It's a popular sport in Hungary, and Zoltán was good—good enough that becoming a professional was a real possibility. Beyond deciding to miss just one competition, Zoltán would soon give up kayaking entirely. He had something better to do.

Kayaking had been good for Zoltán. Over the years working with his coach, he had learned self-control, obedience, and hard work. Zoltán had also learned to avoid substances and habits that would hurt his performance. It wasn't an easy life; it was lonely, and going pro would take up more time. Pros practice 12 hours a day and have to compete on Sunday.

"Kayaking took most of my time," Zoltán says. "I was fanatical. Because

of that, I left a lot of things out of my life."

That's why Zoltán decided that he couldn't devote himself to both the gospel and kayaking. In 2004 he told his coach he wasn't going to kayak anymore.

Earlier that year the missionaries started teaching Zoltán's mom. He didn't take part in the lessons. He grudgingly accepted his mom's invitation to her baptism. But his heart was touched by what he felt once he entered the church building. Zoltán agreed to meet with the missionaries, partly because he could identify with them.

"Missionaries were interesting to me because they were normal people but lived a higher standard," he says.

Because of the higher standard that Zoltán was already living as a kayaker, he readily accepted the teachings of the gospel as valuable. He was baptized two months later.

At first he thought he could continue kayaking but not do competitions on Sundays. But because he's

the type of person who, once committed to an activity or course, wants to do well at it, he chose to give up kayaking entirely.

He tried once to kayak as a hobby after his baptism. When he did, his coach asked him to help teach others and organize trips since he wouldn't compete. But he didn't want to make commitments to kayaking—or any other activity—that could get in the way of his discipleship.

So Zoltán hung up his paddle and dedicated himself to Church service in a decision reminiscent of one President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95) made when he got married. President Hunter was an accomplished musician who played dozens of instruments. In the evenings he had been playing in an orchestra, but the lifestyles of those he associated with conflicted with gospel standards. So President Hunter put his instruments away and brought them out only occasionally for family sing-alongs.¹

Zoltán misses kayaking, but he realized that his love for kayaking



Zoltán Szücs, of Szeged, Hungary, gave up kayaking to have more time for the gospel.



was strong enough to compete with, and possibly overcome, his love for the Lord if he stayed too close to the sport.

The same principle can apply to any activity that takes us away from who God wants us to be. For each of us it may be better to go through life without certain things—even if they are good things—rather than risk our eternal life to have them.

“The Church became my life,” Zoltán says. “Knowing that kayaking couldn’t be a living if I wanted to be active and that it would be just a hobby, it became easy to give up. Instead, I wanted to make Heavenly Father my focus.”

Zoltán began to study the gospel with the same intensity he brings to any pursuit. He set a goal to serve a mission. He wanted to stay in his country and teach others.

He served in Hungary and now works as a high school English teacher. He continues to set his priorities on the gospel. “There are things we need to give up because they get in the way of God,” he says. “It’s easy to give up the bad once we know we should. Often we don’t realize when we should give up something good for something better. We think that because it’s not bad, we can hold onto it and still follow God’s plan.” But Zoltán knows that we must give up the good if it keeps us from following God’s plan for us. ■

NOTE

1. See Eleanor Knowles, *Howard W. Hunter* (1994), 81.

“How do I explain to my friend why breaking the law of chastity is a bad idea?”

Heavenly Father wants us to be happy and worthy of His Spirit, so He gives us commandments to help us keep our thoughts, words, and actions within appropriate boundaries. The law of chastity helps keep the power of procreation within the bounds of marriage. One reason He commands that the power of procreation be expressed only between husband and wife is that “children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony.”¹

You could share a copy of *For the Strength of Youth* with your friend. It gives several reasons why it’s good to keep the law of chastity: “When you are sexually pure, you prepare yourself to make and keep sacred covenants in the temple. You prepare yourself to build a strong marriage and to bring children into the world as part of an eternal and loving family. You protect yourself from the spiritual and emotional damage that come from sharing sexual intimacy outside of marriage. You also protect yourself from harmful diseases. Remaining sexually pure helps you to be confident and truly happy and improves your ability to make good decisions now and in the future.”²

The Temple



Our Heavenly Father has divine purpose for all of us, and that purpose can be fulfilled in the temple. We should be worthy to enter the temple so that our families can be sealed forever. We will live with our Heavenly Father again, and most importantly we will have a never-ending joy, which the unworthy cannot have.

Alofa M., age 18, Samoa

Marriage and Family



We are encouraged to be sexually pure so that we can be worthy to enter the temple and keep sacred covenants. If we

follow the law of chastity, we can build a strong marriage and family in the future. Satan is always there to tempt us, but through prayer, scriptures, and good friends, we can overcome it.

Resty M., age 16, Philippines

Negative Consequences

There are many negative consequences to breaking the law of chastity, but not all of them you learn about in health class. Breaking the law of chastity can drive the Spirit out of your life, hurt those close to you, and make you feel bad about yourself. I suggest watching a Mormon Messages video called “Chastity: What Are the Limits?” [at youth.lds.org in English, Portuguese, and Spanish].

Matthew T., age 17, Utah, USA

Purity and Respect

By following the law of chastity, we remain pure in the sight of God, we respect ourselves, and we help others respect us too. If we obey the law of chastity, we show that we are children of God and that we uphold high standards. We will avoid regrets. As we obey our Heavenly Father, especially regarding this law, our life will be happier here on earth and in the world to come.

Alyana G., age 19, Philippines

Responses are intended for help and perspective, not as official pronouncements of Church doctrine.

A Sacred Gift

If the gift of procreation is taken lightly, this precious gift from God would be treated like an ordinary thing. Giving a gift doesn't feel as rewarding if the person you gave it to doesn't think it is special. One must always treat procreation sacredly; for we are all temples of God and should stay as clean and pure as a temple.

Jaron Z., age 15, Idaho, USA

The Spirit with Us



When you stay clean from sin, you will be so much happier and you will be blessed. Our bodies are like temples, and Heavenly Father "doth not dwell in unholy temples" (Alma 7:21). So when we stay clean from sin, the Spirit can dwell with us.

Maryann P., age 14, Arkansas, USA

Important Questions

Answer your friend's question by asking some questions: "What if your future spouse was watching you now?" All the people I have heard about who have broken the law of chastity have regretted it. "What if your future child asks if you have broken the law of chastity?" Your friend needs to learn how important the law of chastity is now, before a son or daughter asks that question. You need to keep yourself clean and pure to lead a happy, healthy life without the guilt of the sacred law broken.

Robyn K., age 13, Utah, USA

Virtue and Chastity



The Lord delights in virtue and chastity, and everything should happen in its proper time.

The law of chastity is a commandment from the Lord. Prayer and the companionship of the Spirit are the perfect combination to know that being chaste is a blessing.

Selene R., age 18, Nicaragua

Within Marriage

I would explain to my friend that breaking the law of chastity is a bad idea because the power of procreation is made only for legally married couples. When we break the law of chastity, we lose the Holy Ghost in our lives.

Augustina A., age 15, Ghana

NOTES

1. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
2. *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 35.



BREAKING THE LAW OF CHASTITY CAUSES SERIOUS HARM

"Within the enduring covenant of marriage, the Lord permits husband and wife the expression of the sacred procreative powers in all their loveliness and beauty within the bounds He has set. . . .

"However, those intimate acts are forbidden by the Lord outside the enduring commitment of marriage because they undermine His purposes. Within the sacred covenant of marriage, such relationships are according to His plan. When experienced any other way, they are against His will. They cause serious emotional and spiritual harm. Even though participants do not realize that is happening now, they will later. Sexual immorality creates a barrier to the influence of the Holy Spirit."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Twelve Apostles, "Making the Right Choices," *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 38.

UPCOMING QUESTION

"What should I do when a topic is brought up at school that goes against gospel teachings, such as abortion?"

Send your answer by May 15 to liahona@ldschurch.org or to:

Liahona, Questions & Answers 5/13
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.

The following information and permission must be included in your e-mail or letter: (1) full name, (2) birth date, (3) ward or branch, (4) stake or district, (5) your written permission, and, if you are under age 18, your parent's written permission (email is acceptable) to publish your response and photograph.



By President
Thomas S. Monson

HOW TO SERVE IN PRIESTHOOD CALLINGS

Have you ever pondered the worth of a human soul? Have you ever wondered concerning the **potential** which lies within each of us?

I once attended a stake conference where my former stake president Paul C. Child turned to Doctrine and Covenants 18 and began to read: “Remember **the worth of souls** is great in the sight of God” (verse 10).

President Child then asked, “What is the worth of a human soul?” He avoided calling on a bishop, stake president, or high councilor for a response. Instead, he selected the president of an elders quorum.

The startled man remained silent for what seemed like an eternity and then declared, “The worth of a human soul is its **capacity to become as God.**”

All present pondered that reply. President Child proceeded with his

message, but I continued to reflect on that inspired response.

To reach, to teach, to touch the precious souls whom our Father has prepared for His message is a monumental task. Success is rarely simple. Generally it is preceded by **tears, trials, trust, and testimony.**

Servants of God take comfort from the Master’s assurance: “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). This magnificent promise sustains you brethren of the Aaronic Priesthood who are called to positions of leadership in the quorums of deacons, teachers, and priests. It encourages you in your preparations to serve in the mission field. It comforts you during those moments of discouragement, which come to all.

“Wherefore, **be not weary in well-doing,**” says the Lord, “for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind” (D&C 64:33–34). **An abiding faith, a constant trust, and a fervent desire** have always characterized those who serve the Lord with all their hearts.

If any brethren within the sound of my voice feel unprepared, even incapable of responding to a call to serve, to sacrifice, to bless the lives of others, remember the truth: **“Whom God calls, God qualifies.”** ■

From an April 1987 general conference address.

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

“Knowing the Lord is on my side helps me remember why I’m going on a mission: to serve the Lord and bring others to our Savior, Jesus Christ. I know He won’t put me through anything I can’t handle while I’m on my mission.”
Dilan M., Utah, USA

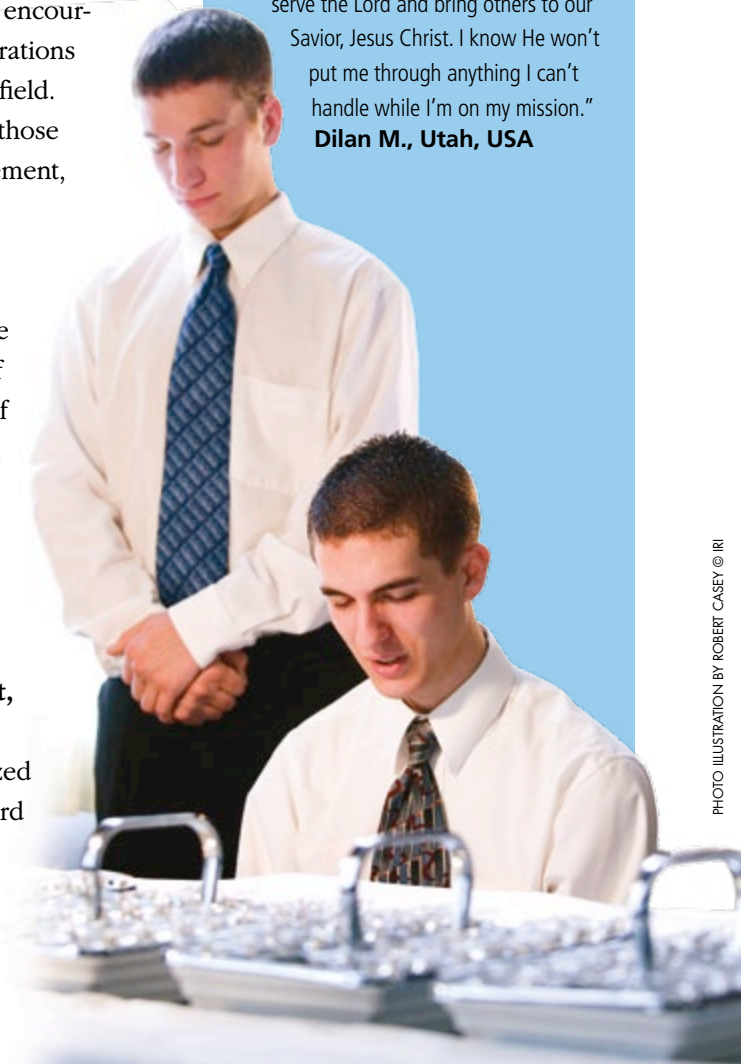


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT CASEY © IRI

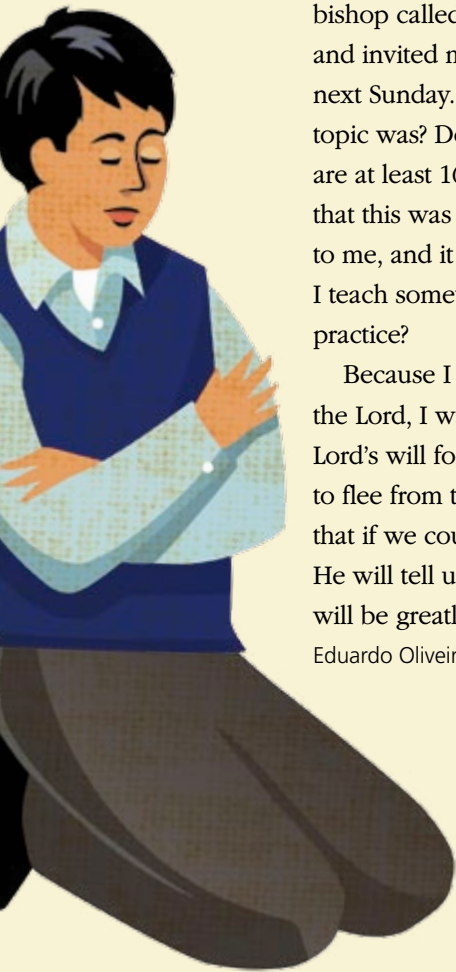
COUNSEL WITH THE LORD

When I was 15 years old, I liked a girl in my class at school and wanted to date her. She was attractive, but I wondered if I should ask her out before I turned 16. I remembered Alma 37:37, which says, “Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good.” So that is what I did. I prayed and waited several days for the Lord’s answer before making a decision.

One day at church, my bishop called me in to a room and invited me to speak the next Sunday. Guess what the topic was? Do not date until you are at least 16 years old. I felt that this was the Lord’s answer to me, and it was no. How could I teach something that I did not practice?

Because I had counseled with the Lord, I was able to learn the Lord’s will for my life and also to flee from temptation. I know that if we counsel with the Lord, He will tell us His will and we will be greatly blessed.

Eduardo Oliveira, Ceará, Brazil



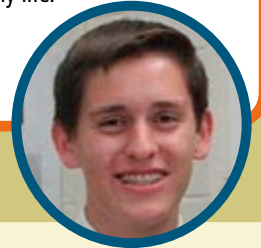
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ALEX ORTIZ; DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER BY HEINRICH HOFMANN; COURTESY OF C. HARRISON CONROY CO.; ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT GREER

MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 24:8

This scripture makes me feel good when I’m passing through a trial because it says, “I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days.” This means to me that, if I seek Him, Heavenly Father will always be there with me unto the end of my life.

Alex Ortiz, Nuevo Casas Grandes, Mexico



THE POWER OF THE ATONEMENT

When the missionaries taught me, the main topics of their lessons were always Jesus Christ and His Atonement. They explained that the Atonement is a gift from Jesus Christ for each of us. It is a gift that we can use in our daily lives when we are faced with trials or when we sin. The power of the Atonement uplifts, heals, and helps us return to the strait and narrow path that leads to eternal life.



As the missionaries shared this, I had a strong feeling that testified to me that it was true, and I decided to join the Church.

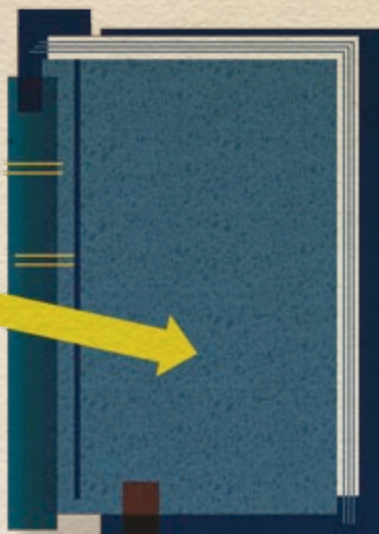
Later I decided to serve a mission because I wanted to help others know about this wonderful gift. By teaching and sharing about the Atonement, I have seen others change to a new way of life. A complete change came, not just by hearing about the Atonement but by applying it in my life as well.

I know that the Atonement is real. When we invite its influence into our lives, whatever circumstances we face, everything can be taken care of and we will feel joy.

Ioriti Taburuea, Kiribati



Holy Bible



Book of Mormon



WHY WE NEED THE BOOK OF MORMON

Some people may ask you why we need the Book of Mormon when we already have the Bible. In fact, Jesus Christ testified that this would happen (see 2 Nephi 29:3). There are many reasons why the Book of Mormon is important in our day (for example, see 2 Nephi 29:7–11). Here are just a few reasons why it's essential.

Another Witness of Jesus Christ

The scriptures show us a pattern of using multiple witnesses to establish truth in Christ's Church. The Book of Mormon adds a second witness to the Bible as a testimony of Christ. Elder Mark E. Petersen (1900–84) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



TWO WITNESSES

"The Bible is one witness of Jesus Christ; the Book of Mormon is another. Why is this second witness so crucial? The following illustration may help: How many straight lines can you draw through a single point on a piece of paper? The answer is infinite. For a moment, suppose that single point represents the Bible and that hundreds of those straight lines drawn through that point represent different interpretations of the Bible and that each of those interpretations represents a different church.

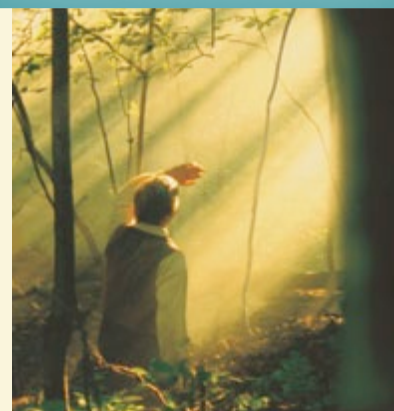
"What happens, however, if on that piece of paper there is a second point representing the Book of Mormon? How many straight lines could you draw between these two reference points: the Bible and the Book of Mormon? Only one. Only one interpretation of Christ's doctrines survives the testimony of these two witnesses.

"Again and again the Book of Mormon acts as a confirming, clarifying, unifying witness of the doctrines taught in the Bible."

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Presidency of the Seventy, "The Book of Mormon—a Book from God," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 75.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Throughout April you'll be studying about the Apostasy and the Restoration in your priesthood quorums and Young Women and Sunday School classes (if your ward or branch has the new lessons in your language). The coming forth of the Book of Mormon was an important part of the Restoration. After reading this article, think about how your life is different because you have the Book of Mormon. You could write down your feelings in your journal and consider sharing them with others by testifying at home, at church, or on social media.

once said, “The chief reason we have the Book of Mormon is that in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established. (See 2 Cor. 13:1.) We have the Bible; we also have the Book of Mormon. They constitute two voices—two volumes of scripture—from two widely separated ancient peoples, both bearing testimony to the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹ President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) has added, “We must not forget that the Lord Himself provided the Book of Mormon as His chief witness.”²

The Fulness of the Gospel

We know that “plain and precious things . . . have been taken away from” the Bible throughout time (1 Nephi 13:40). The Book of Mormon clarifies Christ’s doctrine and brings the fulness of the gospel to the earth once again (see 1 Nephi 13:38–41). For example, the Book of Mormon helps us know that baptism must be performed by immersion (see 3 Nephi 11:26) and that little children do not need to be baptized (see Moroni 8:4–26).

Central to the Restored Church

Joseph Smith testified that the Book of Mormon is “the keystone of our religion.”³ Since we know this, it does not seem a coincidence that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on April 6,

1830, just 11 days after the Book of Mormon was first available for public sale on March 26, 1830. The Church was not organized until its keystone scripture was available for its members.

A Blessing in Our Lives

Regarding the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith taught that “a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”⁴ It has the power to change lives—including yours and those you share the Book of Mormon with. President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, has testified, “The effect of the Book of Mormon on your character, power, and courage to be a witness for God is certain. The doctrine and the valiant examples in that book will lift, guide, and embolden you. . . . Prayerful study of the Book of Mormon will build faith in God the Father, in His Beloved Son, and in His gospel. It will build your faith in God’s prophets, ancient and modern. . . . It can draw you closer to God than any other book. It can change a life for the better.”⁵ ■

NOTES

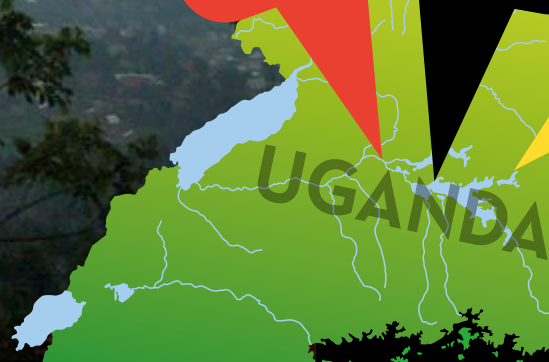
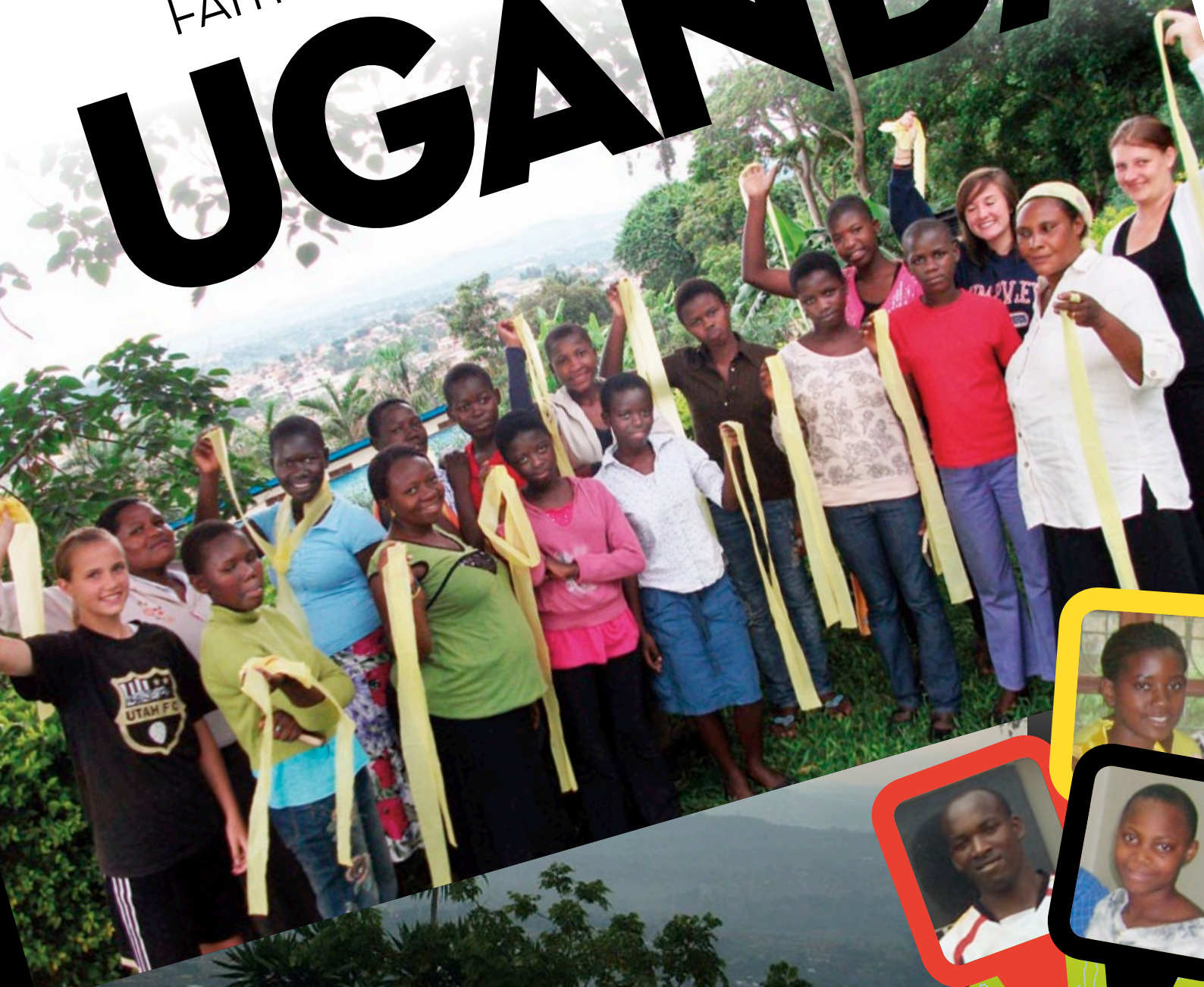
1. Mark E. Petersen, “Evidence of Things Not Seen,” *Ensign*, May 1978, 63.
2. *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* (1988), 204.
3. Joseph Smith, in introduction to the Book of Mormon.
4. Joseph Smith, in introduction to the Book of Mormon.
5. Henry B. Eyring, “A Witness,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 69–70.



**GROWTH IN
FERTILE SOIL:
FAITHFUL YOUTH IN**

By Cindy Smith

UGANDA



As they accept and live the gospel of Jesus Christ, youth in Uganda are seeing faith and hope grow all around them.

In the heart of East Africa, the beautiful country of Uganda is blessed with rolling hills of sugar cane and banana trees—and with young people ready to accept and live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The first stake in Uganda was organized in 2010. The Church is growing rapidly, with many young men and young women in each ward and branch.

Raising a Banner, Being an Example

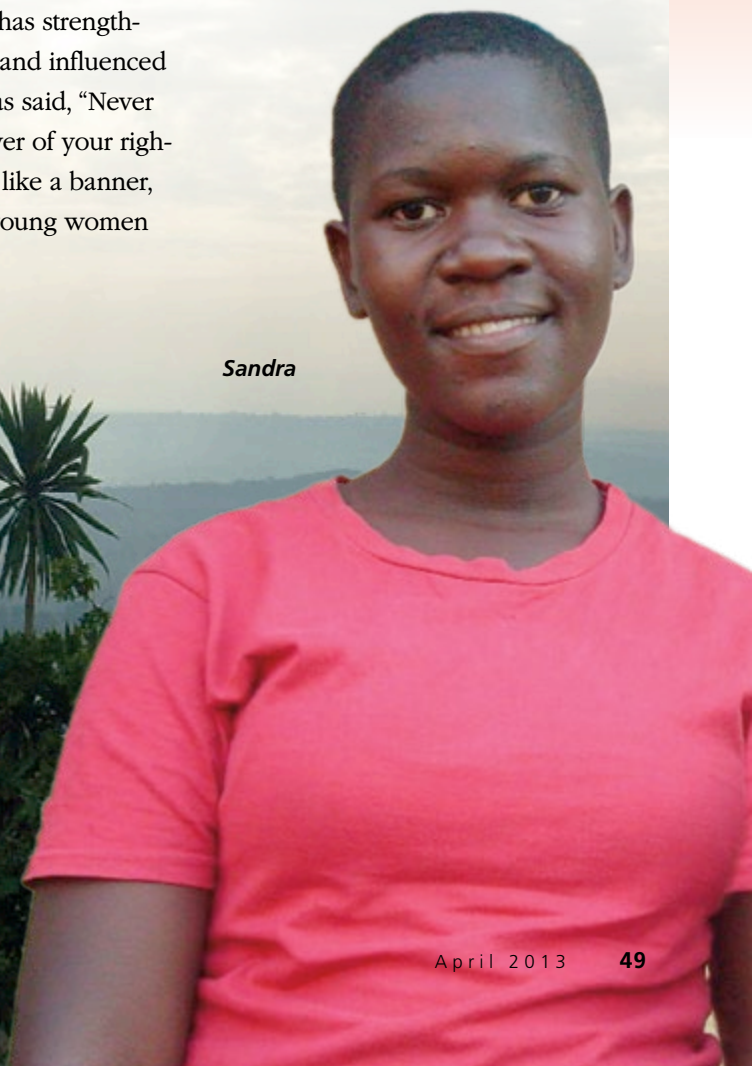
The young women in one ward were inspired by the teachings of Sister Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president, on virtue: “Now is the time for each of us to arise and unfurl a banner to the world calling for a return to virtue.”¹ The young women hiked a hill overlooking the town and raised gold banners symbolizing their pledge to be examples of virtue. Together they sang “High on the Mountain Top” (*Hymns*, no. 5).

These young women have raised their personal standards of righteousness. Their obedience has strengthened their testimonies and influenced others. Sister Dalton has said, “Never underestimate the power of your righteous influence.”² And like a banner, the example of these young women waves to all the world.

Like many young women in Uganda, Sandra walks more than a mile to church, helps clean the meetinghouse on Fridays, and attends seminary on Saturdays. During the week, she rises before 5:00 a.m. to read schoolbooks, and then she walks to school, returning home after 6:00 p.m. She missed a year of school because of financial difficulties but faces her challenges with a positive attitude: “The gospel has really helped me to stay steadfast and immovable.”

Sandra is the only Church member in her home, but her parents support

Sandra





Top: Youth attend a stake fireside together.
Above: Susan (center), a refugee in Uganda, found peace in the gospel and brought her siblings and other children to church.
Center: The young women of this ward enjoy working on Personal Progress.
Right: Dennis gave up a spot on a professional football team to preach the gospel. He and the other young men in his priests quorum sacrificed and overcame challenges to serve missions.

her Church service, such as helping when the ward cleaned the grounds of a local orphanage. Her family sees how the gospel has helped her be strong, even when facing unresolved problems. Reflecting on the source of that strength, Sandra says, “When I go to church, I feel like I am putting on the armor of God” (see Ephesians 6:11–17).

A more recent convert, Susan, loves the Church. Originally from South Sudan, her family fled hardships and

was blessed to receive the missionaries in Uganda. As a refugee, she found peace and protection in the gospel. On Sundays she would bring her younger siblings to church, as well as up to 10 other children who are not Church members. After the unexpected death of a family member, she returned to South Sudan, where she waits for the Church to be established in her area. Both Susan and Sandra face challenges, but they rely on God and enjoy the fruits of living the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Alma 32:6–8, 43).

Sacrificing to Serve a Mission

Young men in Uganda start playing football as small boys, using tightly bound branches for a ball. Ever since he was very young, Dennis had a gift for the sport, and his high school gave him a scholarship to play for their team. After he completed high school, a professional team offered him pay, room, and board. It was a dream come true, but





Dennis knew this would likely interfere with his plans to go on a mission later in the year.

Dennis’s desire to do what his Heavenly Father wanted him to do was so strong that he did not even want to be tempted to remain on the



team when the time would arrive for him to serve a mission. Many people questioned his choice, but Dennis is certain he made the right decision—for himself and others. “My two little brothers and my little sister were just baptized,” he says. “I never thought my sister would hear the gospel. When I see God doing miracles in my family, it gives me a bright hope for my future.”

In Dennis’s ward the young men study *Preach My Gospel* each week. They have become like a team, working closely with the full-time missionaries and bringing friends to Sunday meetings and other activities, including basketball and football games during the week. The priests have baptized friends and others they helped teach with the missionaries.

Over several years, this team of young men has strengthened the whole ward, and four of them, including Dennis, received calls to the Kenya Nairobi Mission.

They have followed the counsel of Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to “become missionaries long before you submit your mission papers.”³ They did so by working together as a quorum, a team better than any other.

All four missionaries overcame challenges in order to serve. Wilberforce explains, “I was almost losing hope of going on a mission [because of the costs], but then I read Matthew 6:19–20: ‘Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.’ So with diligence and commitment, I was able to accomplish my goal of serving a full-time mission. I love missionary service. Nothing is better than seeking first the kingdom of heaven.”

Hope for the Future

The youth of Uganda are helping build God’s kingdom here, with great hope for the future. Although there is no temple in East Africa, the youth look forward to the time when they will marry in a distant temple. One stake activity focused on preparing to enter the temple, and at the conclusion, a member of the stake presidency bore his testimony: “God loves you. You are the future of the Church in Uganda.” These righteous youth

are already having a great influence.

The young men and women of Uganda are sacrificing the things of the world for blessings that will last forever. They have planted the seed of faith and are nourishing it with care (see Alma 32:33–37). Like a tree filled with fruit (see Alma 32:42), the youth share the joy of the gospel in this fertile land. ■

Cindy Smith lived in Uganda while her husband worked there, and they now reside in Utah, USA.

NOTES

1. Elaine S. Dalton, “A Return to Virtue,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 80.
2. Elaine S. Dalton, *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 80.
3. David A. Bednar, “Becoming a Missionary,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 45.





What Is a **TRUE FRIEND?**

By Elaine S. Dalton

Young Women General President

The definition of a friend has changed in today's technologically connected world. Today we may think we have many "friends." It is true: we do enjoy the ability to be informed and to stay current with what is happening in the lives of many of our acquaintances as well as current and former friends and even people we have not met personally whom we call our friends.

In the context of social media, the term "friend" is often used to describe *contacts* rather than *relationships*. You have the ability to send your "friends"

a message, but this is not the same thing as having a relationship with a person one on one.

Sometimes our preoccupation is on *having* friends. Perhaps we should focus on *being* a friend.

There are many definitions of what it means to be a friend. I will never forget hearing Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles speak about what it means to be a friend and the powerful influence of friends in our lives. His definition has had lasting impact in my life. He said,

"Friends are people who make it easier to live the gospel of Jesus Christ."¹ In this sense, seeking another person's highest good is the essence of true friendship. It is putting someone else first. It is being strictly honest, loyal, and chaste in every action. Perhaps it is the word *commitment* that unlocks the real meaning of friendship.

When my daughter, Emi, was 15, she made a decision about what kind of friends she would seek. One morning I noticed her copy of the Book of Mormon opened to Alma 48. She had marked the verses that describe Captain Moroni: "Moroni was a strong and a mighty man; he was a man of a perfect understanding. . . . Yea, and he was a man who was firm in the faith of Christ" (verses 11, 13). In the margin she had written, "I want to date and marry a man like Moroni." As I watched Emi and the kind of young men she associated with and later dated when she turned 16, I could see that she was exemplifying those qualities herself and helping others live up to their identity as sons of God, priesthood holders, and future fathers and leaders.

True friends influence those with



whom they associate to “rise a little higher [and] be a little better.”² You can help one another, particularly young men, prepare for and serve honorable missions. You can help one another remain morally clean. Your righteous influence and friendship can have an eternal effect not only on the lives of your associates but also on generations to come.

The Savior called His disciples His friends. He said:

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you *friends*; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:12–15; emphasis added).

As you live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ, you will attract people to you who will want to be your friend—not just a contact on a social media site but the kind of friend the Savior exemplified by His words and His example. As you strive to be a friend to others and to let your light shine forth, your influence will bless the lives of many with whom you

associate. I know that as you focus on being a friend to others, as defined by prophets and the examples in the scriptures, you will be happy and you will be an influence for good in the world and will one day receive the glorious promise mentioned in the scriptures about true friendship: “That same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory” (D&C 130:2). ■

NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, “This Is the Way; and There Is None Other Way,” in *Brigham Young University 1981–82 Speeches* (1982), 67.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Quest for Excellence,” *Liahona*, Sept. 1999, 8; *Ensign*, Sept. 1999, 5.

KEY IDEAS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

“Choose friends who share your values so you can strengthen and encourage each other in living high standards.

“To have good friends, be a good friend. . . .

“As you seek to be a friend to others, do not compromise your standards.”

For the Strength of Youth (booklet, 2011), 16.



My INVITATION to SALVATION

By Emerson José da Silva

As a young man, I visited many denominations and was confused because each one taught different interpretations of the scriptures. I did not feel good about the irreverence I found in some of them, so I gave up trying to find a church to attend.

Several years later a friend of mine, Cleiton Lima, was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He did not mention this to me even though we were good friends, but as time went by, I began to see changes in him. On Sundays I usually went to his house in the morning so we could play football, but I could never find him at home. This happened two or three Sundays in a row. Finally Cleiton told me that he could no longer play football



on Sundays because he was honoring the Lord's day. I told him, "This church is making you crazy."

Then Cleiton invited me to attend church. I gave him an excuse because I was still disenchanted with religion. For 10 months, Cleiton brought over missionaries to teach me, but I always excused myself or told them I was too busy. But he never gave up.

One day in June, he invited me to attend a Church dance. I teased him, "Is there going to be free food and a lot of girls?" Laughing, he said yes!

I have to admit that I was defeated by my stomach. I visited the church and loved it. I was welcomed by everyone, I ate a lot, and I became interested in attending a meeting.

When I arrived at church on Sunday, I met many people and heard their testimonies.

I was not

familiar with the Book of Mormon, but I felt the Spirit of the Lord when various Church members testified, "I know that the Book of Mormon is true, that this is the Church of Jesus Christ, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet called by God." I had never felt so good. I still did not want to meet with the missionaries, but that testimony meeting touched me.

The next week, Cleiton again invited me to go to church. I couldn't because I had another obligation. I could see the sadness in his face when I told him I didn't know if I could go.

However, on Sunday morning I awoke with a desire to go to church. I got up at 6:50, which was difficult for me, and I got ready and waited for Cleiton to come. He was surprised when he saw me dressed and waiting. That Sunday the bishop taught about the priesthood. I felt the Spirit strongly and had the impression that I should take the missionary lessons. By the end of the Young Men meeting, I knew that I was going to be baptized.

When church ended, I told Cleiton, "I want to be baptized!"

He thought I was joking. But then he said, "If I call the elders, will you meet with them?" I answered yes.

I was taught by great elders. When I heard the message of the Restoration, I had an even greater confirmation that I should be baptized. But I wanted to know for myself the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. The elders marked Moroni 10:3–5 in my Book of Mormon and invited me to pray and ask God if it is true.

The next evening I remembered that I had not yet read the Book of Mormon. As I began to read, I felt a very strong spirit. I prayed, and before I was finished, I knew that the Book of Mormon is true. I am grateful to God for having answered my prayer. I was baptized in July 2006.

I later served as a missionary in the Brazil Cuiabá Mission, and my friend Cleiton served in the Brazil Santa Maria Mission. We did what Cleiton did for me: invite people to come unto Christ and help them receive the restored gospel through exercising faith in Jesus Christ, repenting, being baptized, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. This truly is the way to salvation.

Let us always invite our friends and relatives to learn of this gospel, for the Savior invited everyone when He said, "Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28). I know that this is the Church of Jesus Christ and that now is the time to invite everyone to come unto Him. ■



TEN WAYS TO KNOW YOU ARE CONVERTED

By Tyler Orton

I learned in priesthood meeting that one of the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood is to help us “become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live by its teachings.”¹ I was unsure of what it meant to “become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ.” I asked my parents and older siblings what they thought it meant, and together we discussed a number of ways you can see if you’re becoming converted.

There are probably others, but here are 10 ways that we came up with. Since conversion is a lifelong process, we don’t have to be perfect in each of these areas now, but they can help us know if we’re making progress.

- 1.** When you are converted, you not only *know* what you should do but you also *desire* to do the right things. It’s not enough to just avoid doing wrong because you are afraid of getting caught or punished. When truly converted, you really want to choose the right.
- 2.** Another sign of becoming converted is that you have no more desire to do wrong. The Anti-Nephties are a great example of this. When they were converted to the gospel of Christ, they “entered into a covenant with God to serve him and keep his commandments” (Mosiah 21:31). Like the Nephites taught by King Benjamin, they had “no more disposition to do evil” (Mosiah 5:2).

They became truly converted to the gospel of Christ, and Satan's temptations had no power over them.

3. When you are converted, you are more concerned about what God thinks than what others think about you. At my school in Indonesia, students tend to drink a lot. Sometimes it can be tempting to go out partying when everyone else is doing it and making fun of you for not going. My brother was invited to drink and party many times, but he never did—he stood up for what he believed. It was hard, and he spent plenty of nights home alone. When

students were saying good-bye at his graduation, several people shared with him how amazed they were that he was able to resist peer pressure and be true to his standards. They told him how much they looked up to him because of it. He showed he was converted by resisting peer pressure.

4. When converted, you try your best to live the gospel always—not just on Sundays or when it's convenient but all the time. Your actions don't change depending on who you're with or who might be watching you. When your peers tell

a crude joke or want to watch a dirty movie, you don't go along with it just because no one is watching; instead you stand up for what you believe.

5. When you are converted, you are more kind and compassionate in dealing with others. You don't judge or criticize or gossip. You are more aware of others' feelings, and it becomes natural to look for ways to serve and help. If you are walking down the hall of your school and someone drops his books, you don't even have to think about what to do. You automatically stop to help.



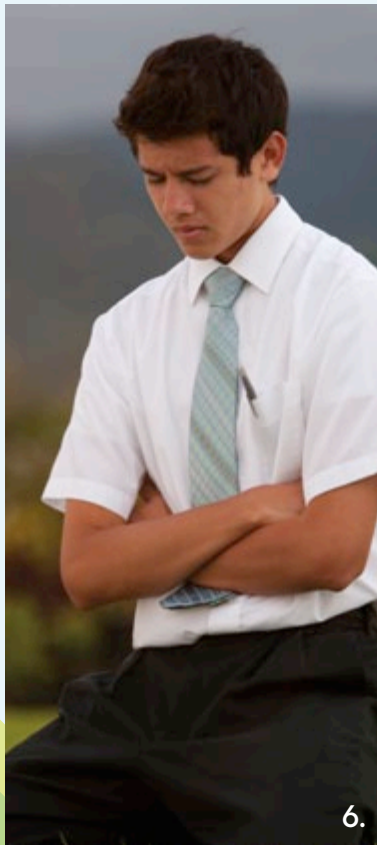
5.



A SURE WAY TO HAPPINESS

"The Lord wants the members of His Church to be fully converted to His gospel. This is the only sure way to have spiritual safety now and happiness forever."

Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Presidency of the Seventy, "Converted to His Gospel through His Church," *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2012, 15.



6.



2.

To show that they would be true to their covenant to live the gospel, the converted Lamanites buried their weapons (see Alma 24).



6. When you are converted, your desire to pray increases and you feel like you are really communicating with God when you pray. You will always make time to pray no matter how you feel or what is going on in your life. President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) told us, “If we do not feel like praying, then we should pray until we do feel like praying.”²

7. When you become converted, you look forward to Sunday because it is the Sabbath. When Sunday comes, instead of thinking, “Oh man, it’s a day that I can’t hang out with my friends or go to the movies,” you think, “Great, a day that

I can attend church and focus on spiritual things and spend time with my family!”

8. When converted, you keep the commandments and you don’t look for excuses, rationalize behavior, or try to find gray areas. You don’t try to push the limits; you simply keep the commandments because you know it is the better way.

9. When converted, you look forward to paying your tithing. You view it as a privilege and feel that 10 percent is not that much, especially compared with the blessings and satisfaction you gain. These blessings are worth much more than the money you paid.

10. When you become converted, you have a strong desire to help others know the truth and happiness that you have found. A good example from the scriptures is Lehi’s dream, in which he had such a strong desire to share the delicious fruit of the tree of life with his family. When he partook of the fruit, his first thought was not to take more for himself but to look for his family so that they could also partake of the fruit and have the same happiness (see 1 Nephi 8:12).

In summary, you know you are becoming converted when you start to live the higher law, the gospel of Jesus Christ. You live the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law. You live the gospel in all aspects of your life. You live the gospel to its fullest, not because you have to but because you want to. You are a happier and nicer person, and you want to become the person Heavenly Father wants you to be. You want to be like Jesus Christ and follow His example. When you become that person, you have truly been converted. ■

Tyler Orton lives in Java, Indonesia.

NOTES

1. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 8.1.3.
2. Ezra Taft Benson, “Pray Always,” *Liahona*, June 1990, 4; *Ensign*, Feb. 1990, 4.

HARD WORK IS WELL **WORTH IT**

You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish
if you keep trying.

(See For the Strength of Youth [booklet, 2011], 40–41.)



Grandma Deny's Little

Missionary

By **Emília Maria Guimarães Correa**

“When a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men” (2 Nephi 33:1).

Vítor lived with his mother and sister at his Grandma Deny's home. Vítor's grandma became ill and could not leave her bed for many weeks. She was lonely in her room by herself.

Vítor decided that he could keep Grandma Deny company. Every day when he came home from school, he took a copy of the *Liahona* into Grandma's room and read her stories from the children's pages.

After he read all the copies of the *Liahona* that his family had, he began reading the Book of Mormon and the Bible to her. Grandma Deny was not a member of the Church, but she loved hearing Vítor read to her. She was happy to learn about the gospel.

Grandma asked many questions. If Vítor did not know the answers,

he asked his Primary teacher or looked in the scriptures. Grandma called Vítor her little missionary.

Grandma Deny told Vítor that she had learned a lot from him. She promised that she would attend church with him when she got well. What she had learned made her want to get better and study more about the gospel.

When Grandma was well, she kept her promise. She went to church with Vítor to learn more about what he had taught her. It was not long before Grandma was baptized and confirmed. Vítor had helped her learn that the gospel is true.

When Vítor grew up, he became a full-time missionary in the Boston Massachusetts Mission. Before he left, he went to the temple—with Grandma Deny. ■

Emília Maria Guimarães Correa lives in the Federal District, Brazil.





By Elder M. Russell Ballard

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Why does the Church have such a long name?

Jesus Christ Himself named the Church (see Doctrine and Covenants 115:4).

The words *Church of Jesus Christ* declare that it is His Church.

Of Latter-day explains that it is the

same Church as the Church that Jesus Christ established when He lived on earth but restored in these latter days.

Saints means that we follow Him and strive to do His will.

Our members have been called

Mormons because we believe in the Book of Mormon, but we should use the full name of the Church whenever possible. ■

From "The Importance of a Name," Liahona and Ensign, Nov. 2011, 79–82.



By Darcie Jensen

When the Salt Lake Temple was completed in 1893, Latter-day Saints rejoiced. It had taken them 40 years to build the temple. Because children had donated money to help build the temple, President Wilford Woodruff decided to hold five special dedicatory sessions for children to attend.

Today temples dot the earth, and children still help celebrate the completion of temples. See how children have participated then and now. ■

Darcie Jensen lives in California, USA.

More than 12,000 children came to the **Salt Lake Temple** for the dedication. These children from the Sugar House Ward rode a train.



This ticket allowed children up to the age of 16 to attend special dedicatory services for the **Salt Lake Temple**. Apostles and members of the First Presidency spoke to the children inside the temple.



Sometimes temples are rededicated after they are remodeled. Primary children sang and carried lights in the performance that celebrated the rededication of the **Anchorage Alaska Temple**.



Each week as the **Gilbert Arizona Temple** is being built, Primary children from the Gilbert Arizona Highland Stake have set a goal to serve someone in their wards.

When the **San Diego California Temple** was being built, Primary children from Mexico made a colorful rug for the temple. General Authorities stood on the rug during the cornerstone service at the dedication.



Celebrating Temples!



Primary children in Manitoba, Canada, drove three hours to the **Regina Saskatchewan Temple** to touch the walls and commit to go inside one day.

Primary children at the **Kyiv Ukraine Temple** open house welcomed visitors by singing "I Love to See the Temple."



More than 800 Primary children from West Africa sang "I Am a Child of God" at the cultural celebration before the **Accra Ghana Temple** was dedicated.



Primary children sang for President Gordon B. Hinckley when he arrived to dedicate the **Aba Nigeria Temple**.



Each temple has a cornerstone that shows the year it was dedicated. At the dedication, General Authorities seal the cornerstone with mortar. Isaac B., age 9, helped put mortar on the cornerstone of the **Kansas City Missouri Temple**.

Temple Questions and Answers

Why do we have temples?

Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are holy places where we learn eternal truths and take part in sacred ordinances.

What is it like inside the temple?

The temple is a peaceful, reverent, and beautiful place. Everything inside the temple is clean and orderly. Everyone dresses in white and speaks with quiet voices.

What happens in temples?

A wife can be sealed to her husband, and children can be sealed to their parents. The sealing makes it possible for families to be together for eternity. In the temple, men

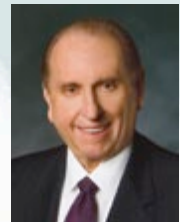
and women also receive a gift of spiritual blessings called the endowment. They can also receive the endowment and be sealed for those who died without making temple covenants.

What else happens in temples?

Besides the sealing and the endowment, other ordinances are done in temples. People can be baptized and confirmed for those who were not able to join the Church while they were alive. When you turn 12 and are worthy to enter the temple, you may have the opportunity to be baptized and confirmed for those who died without the gospel.

What if my family hasn't been to the temple?

Heavenly Father knows and loves you and your family. He wants everyone to have the blessings of temple ordinances. Live worthy to enter the temple. Set a goal now that you will receive the endowment and marry in the temple some day. Your Heavenly Father will bless you and your family. ■



"My young friends . . . , always have the temple in your sights. Do nothing which will keep you from entering its doors and partaking of the sacred and eternal blessings there."

President Thomas S. Monson, "The Holy Temple—A Beacon to the World," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2011, 93.



Families Can Be Together Forever

(Simplified)

Words by Ruth Muir Gardner
Music by Vanja Y. Watkins

Brightly ♩ = 80-96

1. I have a fam - 'ly here on earth. They are so good to me.
2. While I am in my ear - ly years, I'll pre-pare most care-ful - ly,

I want to share my life with them through all e - ter - ni - ty.
So I can mar - ry in God's tem - ple for e - ter - ni - ty.

Chorus

Fam - lies can be to - geth - er for-ev - er Through Heav'n-ly Fa - ther's plan. I

al-ways want to be with my own fam-i - ly, And the Lord has shown me how I can. The

Lord has shown me how I can.

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Jesus Christ Restored His Church in the Latter Days



You can use this lesson and activity to learn more about this month's Primary theme.

Imagine going on a treasure hunt. Where would you look for the treasure? How would you find it? Would there be a treasure box? What would be inside?

Some treasure boxes contain beautiful jewelry and precious coins. But as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we have a treasure that is even more valuable: the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many people don't know about this treasure, so one of our duties is to share it with as many people as we can.

After Jesus and His Apostles died, some important gospel teachings and ordinances were lost or changed, including baptism, priesthood authority,

temples, living prophets, and the sacrament.

All of these gospel treasures were restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove when he prayed to know the truth.

Later Joseph received the gold plates and translated them into the Book of Mormon. The Book of Mormon contains teachings that we treasure because it explains truths that were once lost. We receive many blessings because we have these gospel truths.

What precious treasures these are! ■

SCRIPTURE AND SONG

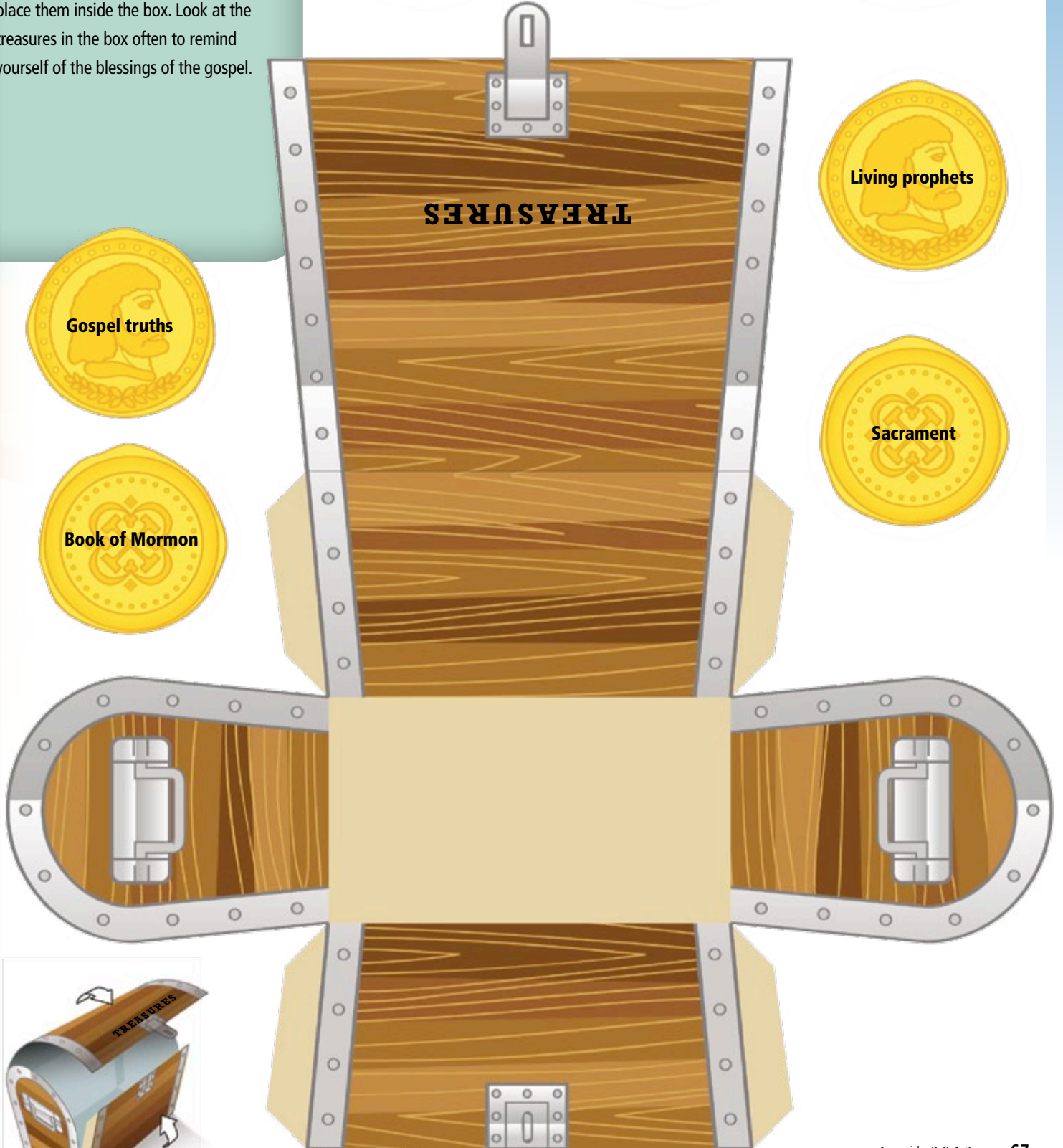
- Doctrine and Covenants 35:17
- "The Sacred Grove," *Children's Songbook*, 87 (or another song about the Restoration of the gospel)

LET'S TALK

Share how the treasures of the gospel of Jesus Christ bless your family.

MAKE A GOSPEL TREASURE BOX

Cut out and fold this treasure box like the diagram at the bottom. Cut out the coins that list some of the treasures the gospel has given you and place them inside the box. Look at the treasures in the box often to remind yourself of the blessings of the gospel.



Where the Church Was Organized



By Jan Pinborough
Church Magazines

Come along with us to explore an important place in Church history!

If Maggie and Lily E. want to see where the Church was first organized, they don't have to look very far. It's right next door to the chapel in Fayette, New York, where they go to church every Sunday!

The Church wasn't organized in a church building, but in a log house.



The Prophet Joseph Smith had come to stay there with the Whitmer family in 1829. The original house no longer stands, but this log cabin is on the same spot.

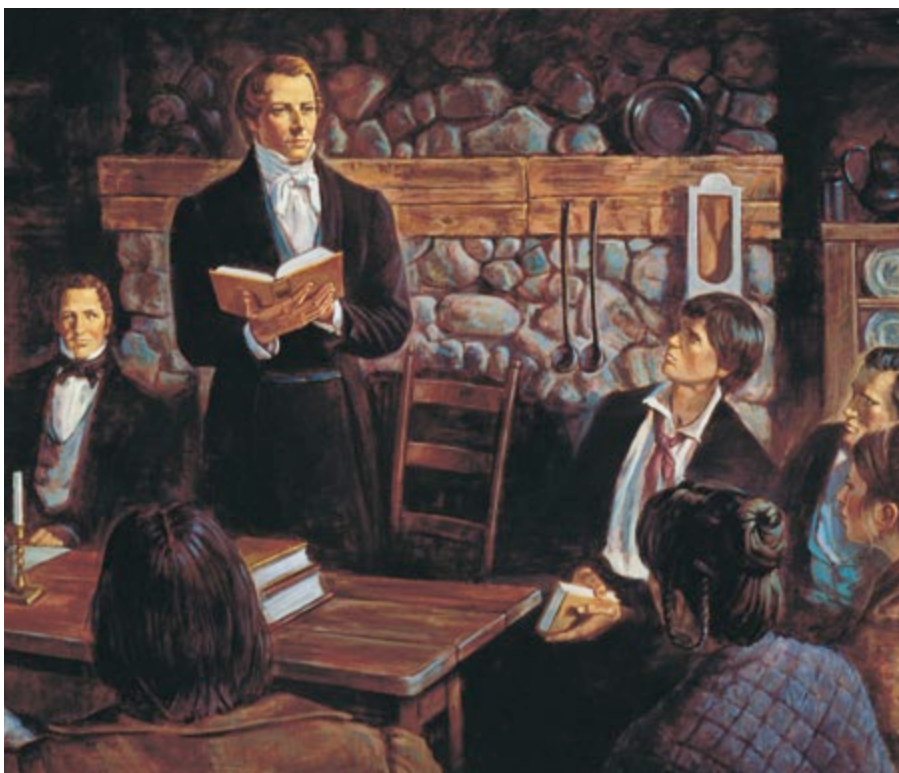
The church building where Maggie and Lily go to church has a visitors' center with displays about the Whitmer home and the special things that happened there. ■

1. Joseph Smith finished translating the Book of Mormon here.





2. Outside, not far from the house, three men saw the angel Moroni and the gold plates. They are called the Three Witnesses because they witnessed, or saw, the plates. You can find their testimonies in the front of the Book of Mormon.



3. On April 6, 1830, about 60 people came to a special meeting. Joseph Smith officially organized the Church, and the sacrament was blessed and passed. This was the first sacrament meeting!

BAPTISM THEN AND NOW

Maggie, 11, and Lily, 9, were baptized in a font near the place where the first members of the Church were baptized.

Both girls were very excited to be baptized. When it was Lily's turn to be baptized, she had an interview with her bishop. "He asked me if I had a testimony of the prophet and if I paid my tithing," Lily said.

The girls both have good memories of their baptismal days. "When I came out of the water, I had a feeling that I could do anything," Maggie said.

Both girls got journals so they could record their feelings about their special days.



4. Right after the meeting, Joseph Smith's parents and several other people were baptized outside.

Max and Mia Save the Day

By Chris Deaver, Texas, USA

Max got ready to play superhero. He put on his red T-shirt. He put on his superhero cape. Then he went to his little sister's room.



“Come on, Mia,” said Max. “Let’s go save the day!”



Max and Mia went into the living room. They saw a basket full of clothes.

“Will you help me?” asked Mom.

“OK,” Max said. “Then we can go save the day.”



Max and Mia helped Mom fold all the clothes and put them away.

Then Max saw some trash on the floor. “Let’s pick up all the trash,” said Max. “Then we can go save the day.”



Max and Mia raced around the house. They threw away all the trash they could find.

They saw Mom sweeping the kitchen floor. “We can help you,” Max said.

Mia held the dustpan while Max swept the floor.



“Now let’s go save the day,” Max said.

Mom looked around at the clean house. Then she hugged Max and Mia. “I think you already did!” ■



JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

“And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

“But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid” (Matthew 14:26–27).

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Visit news.lds.org for more Church news and events.

Worldwide Leadership Training—a New Approach



Elder L. Tom Perry, Elder Donald L. Hallstrom, and Bishop Dean M. Davies lead a panel discussion on the importance of using priesthood keys.

In the coming months, Church members around the world will participate in an inspiring new approach to Worldwide Leadership Training.

Unlike previous training meetings, this year's Worldwide Leadership Training will not be broadcast as a single event for ward and stake leaders. Instead, it is divided into nine short segments—on a DVD and on LDS.org—that encourage discussion by all leaders, members, and families throughout this coming year and beyond.

The focus of the training is “Strengthening the Family and the Church through the Priesthood.” In the training, members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, along with other General Authorities and general officers, give inspired instruction on:

- How families can find strength and peace through the power of the priesthood.
- How to help every family experience the blessings of the priesthood.
- How those who hold priesthood keys strengthen homes and families.
- How to minister in Christlike ways.
- How to bring up children in light and truth.

All Church units will receive copies of the DVD, and ward and stake councils are requested to view it in its entirety. They should then counsel together about how to help ward and stake members benefit from the instruction.

In meetings and classes, members can view and discuss individual segments of the DVD. Families and individuals can view the segments, along with additional resources to enhance their study, at wwlt.lds.org.

In every setting, the most powerful part of the training will happen after a segment is over and the discussion begins. As leaders, members, and families ponder, share, and testify about what they have heard and felt, the Holy Ghost will inspire them and teach them how to apply the instruction in their own circumstances. Through these experiences, this Worldwide Leadership Training will help strengthen families and the Church throughout the world. ■

Standing outside the Mary Fielding Smith house in This Is the Place Heritage Park, Elder M. Russell Ballard, Linda K. Burton, Elder Ronald A. Rasband, Elaine S. Dalton, Rosemary M. Wixom, and Bishop Gary E. Stevenson discuss the blessings of having the priesthood in every home.



RESPONDING TO THE CALL FOR MORE MISSIONARIES:

Fostering a Missionary Mindset at Home and in Church

By Heather Whittle Wrigley

Church News and Events

Bishop Victor Nogales of the Parque Chacabuco Ward, Buenos Aires Argentina Congreso Stake, sits in front of a bulletin board covered with pictures of the 37 young men and women in his ward. When one of them leaves for a mission, he puts a note by the picture.

“My young people get very excited when they come into my office and see the pictures and notes,” he said. “It motivates them to prepare for their own missions.”

This ward in Buenos Aires exemplifies the spirit of missionary work. In the first six months of 2012, 19 youth—14 of them converts—left their homes to serve full-time missions in eight countries. More than 80 percent of the eligible youth have committed to serve missions.

In recent years Church leaders have made several requests that more young people serve missions.

During April 2005 general conference, soon after the Church released *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service*, Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled families and leaders to foster a missionary spirit and prepare more young men and

young women to serve honorably by helping them understand who they are and by teaching them doctrine (see “One More,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 69).

President Thomas S. Monson’s announcement during the October 2012 general conference that missionary age limits would be lowered served as another reminder that the Lord is hastening His work.

Today many families and Church leaders are taking these messages to heart and establishing a rich tradition of missionary service in their areas.

Helping Youth Understand Who They Are

In answer to the question, “How have you been able to prepare so many of your youth to be willing to serve?” Bishop Nogales responded, “When I was called as bishop, my first concern was the young people of my ward, and I made it clear to other ward leaders that we needed to be part of their lives.”

For example, all of the Chacabuco missionaries held callings in the ward prior to their departure. Often new converts and less-active members

were invited to serve as teachers, which helped them prepare to teach the gospel.

Bishop Nogales also arranged for youth to prepare spiritually for a mission by working with the local full-time missionaries.

As local Church leaders and members have committed themselves to the youth of the ward, they have been rewarded with seeing the missionary spirit grow immensely.

A Missionary-Minded Family

Garth and Eloise Andrus of Draper, Utah, USA, know what it means to have a missionary-minded family. They have 17 grandsons who have served missions, and they have served six missions themselves.

Fostering a spirit of missionary service in your family is something that begins from the time children are young, Brother Andrus said.

Sister Andrus agreed. “You don’t leave serving a mission as a silent expectation, but you talk to your kids and grandkids about it like it’s not a question—*when* you go on your mission, not *if*,” she said.

Teaching youth who they are by setting an example of missionary service is also important. Brother and Sister Andrus accepted their first call in 1980, just as their youngest son was leaving on his mission.

One grandson wrote them after receiving a gift they sent to help him prepare for his mission. “He thanked



Bishop Victor Nogales stands at the bulletin board that shows all the youth of his ward, including those who are currently serving missions.

us [for the gift], but said, ‘Far more important is to thank you for the example that you have set,’” Sister Andrus said.

Teaching the Doctrine

“Our youth have a right to expect that their parents and Church leaders and teachers will see that they know and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Elder Ballard said. “The Holy Ghost will confirm the truth to their hearts and will ignite the Light of Christ in their souls. And then you will have *one more* fully prepared missionary” (M. Russell Ballard, “One More,” 71).

Some 6,000 miles (9,600 km) away from Buenos Aires, the rural Horseshoe Bend Branch near Boise,

Idaho, USA, has also seen a dramatic increase in missionary service as families and leaders have reinforced efforts to teach the gospel to their youth.

From a small branch of 75 members, nine young people are serving missions.

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles emphasized the reasons for and the benefits of serving. “All missionaries . . . serve with the sole hope of making life better for other people,” he said. “The decision to serve a mission will shape the spiritual destiny of the missionary, his or her spouse, and their posterity for generations to come. A desire to serve is the natural outcome of one’s conversion,

worthiness, and preparation” (“Ask the Missionaries! They Can Help You!” *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 18).

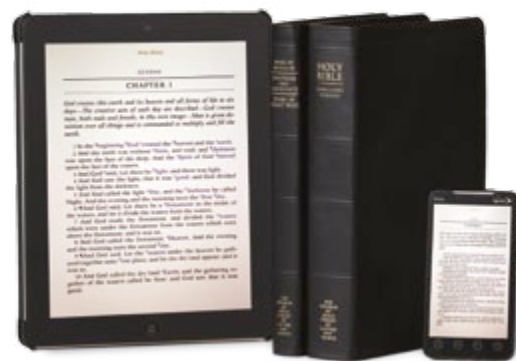
Martin Walker, president of the Emmett Idaho Stake, agreed. “Serving a mission places a young person on a course that will affect generations,” he said. “As a stake, we do everything we can to prepare young people for missionary service.”

Part of that preparation includes teaching the youth the doctrine. Youth in the Horseshoe Bend Branch have access to a weekly missionary preparation class taught by a former mission president—training that supplements missionary training provided by the stake’s monthly youth missionary preparation meeting and its annual Aaronic Priesthood Camp.

LaRene Adam—one of Brother and Sister Andrus’s six children—served alongside her husband, Jim, in the Copenhagen Denmark Mission from 2007 to 2009. She testified of the importance of teaching children the gospel in the home.

“One of the greatest things you can do to help your children build a testimony of missionary work is to hold your family home evenings and family scripture study,” she said. “If you give them that strong basis of gospel study and gospel knowledge, they are so much better prepared and know so much more about the gospel.” ■

Church Releases New Edition of English Scriptures in Digital Formats



After nearly eight years of work, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has released in digital formats an updated edition of its English-language scriptures and study aids.

The last update to the Church's English scriptures—the Holy Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price—was completed in 1981. The improvements made for that edition, including the addition of extensive study helps in each book of scripture, were significant and crowned 10 years of work.

The 2013 edition includes revisions to study aids, new photos, updated maps, and adjustments to chapter and section headings.

Online and mobile versions of the new edition are available now at scriptures.lds.org. Annotations that readers have made in their Gospel Library accounts will automatically transfer to the new digital scriptures.

The Church plans to release printed copies of the new edition beginning in August 2013. Because the new edition maintains the pagination and font style of the earlier edition, most members will notice little if any difference. For example, all the verses found on page 47 of the 1981 edition of the Book of Mormon

will be found on page 47 of the new edition. This consistency allows members to continue using the 1981 edition.

“The current edition of the scriptures, with its extensive study helps, will continue to serve Latter-day Saints very well,” said Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “This new edition incorporates adjustments that will be a blessing to Church members in years to come, but members should not feel that they need to purchase a new set of scriptures, particularly since all of the adjustments are available in digital formats at no cost. There are no changes to the scriptural text itself, other than spelling and punctuation corrections.”

Eight years ago, Church leaders requested that an updated edition of the English scriptures be produced. The intent was to make helpful adjustments, such as updating some archaic spellings, correcting mistakes in the study helps, and incorporating recent historic findings into the section headings of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Examples of spelling updates for the new edition include changing “stedfast” to “steadfast,” “morter” to “mortar,” and “rereward” to “rearward.” Additionally, minor typographical

errors in spelling and punctuation in the text have been corrected to ensure fidelity to the earliest manuscripts and editions.

Typeface adjustments in the new edition help indicate more clearly what is scripture and what is a study help. The style and format of titles, table of contents pages, and abbreviations pages have also been standardized to improve the reading experience.

Some of the adjustments to headings are intended to provide a clearer context for the scriptures. For example, in the Doctrine and Covenants some of the section headings have been revised and introductory headings have been added to both official declarations to provide the reader with a better understanding of the purposes of those revelations and the Church's doctrine related to them.

Printed copies of the new edition will be available in the same sizes and bindings (Holy Bible, Book of Mormon, triple combination, and quadruple combination) as the earlier edition, and the current economy covers will be available in black. The current bonded leather covers are being upgraded to a simulated leather cover in black and burgundy, and the current genuine leather will be replaced with an upgraded genuine leather cover in black, burgundy, and brown. ■

Young Women and Relief Society General Leaders Tour Asia Area

By **Brenda Frandsen, Asia Area media specialist**

With contributions from David O. Heaps, Paul Stevens, and Linda Rae Pond Smith

For nine days in November 2012, Mary N. Cook, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency, and Linda S. Reeves, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency, instructed and inspired sisters young and old all across the Asia Area.

The trip coincided with the announcement of the revised youth curriculum, *Come, Follow Me*, which Young Men, Young Women, and youth Sunday School classes will begin using in January 2013. The new curriculum is designed to help teachers teach more like the Savior did and develop stronger connections with class members.

Following Sister Cook and Sister Reeves's visit to the Asia Area, many Asian youth and their parents reflected that they are now more motivated to

purify and refocus their lives and become examples to their local communities.

In Hong Kong, Sister Reeves promised the youth, "If you will stay clean in your life, you can stand with confidence before anyone!"

Inspired by her words, 12-year-old Tang Kak Kei commented after the meeting, "I know that I need to read the Book of Mormon every day. Learning to repent and live righteously is what *For the Strength of Youth* has taught me to do so the Light of Christ and true happiness can radiate through me."

In India, Sister Cook met with members in the new meetinghouse in the Chennai India District and with members of the new Hyderabad India Stake and admonished the young adults to prepare for the future. "Qualify yourselves educationally," she urged, "with skills to help you build up the kingdom. Focus on your family and what you can do to bless your family members, and on your spiritual preparedness so you will be worthy of those spiritual promptings and so you will know where to go and what to do."

In Indonesia, Sister Reeves participated in the first stake conference of the new Surakarta Indonesia Stake. "We felt of their humble and loving spirits. What faithful members!" she said.

Sister Reeves then visited Malaysia, where she discussed with a group of Relief Society sisters the most pressing issues for the Relief Society as an organization in Malaysia and how the Church can provide guidance and inspiration.

In Taiwan, Sister Reeves commented on the strength and dedication of local members. "We are so happy to know of their faithful lives and consistent temple attendance. . . . The members are loving examples to their friends and neighbors," she said. ■

**In Taiwan,
Mary N. Cook
and Linda S.
Reeves met
with area
authorities and
Taiwan priest-
hood leaders
and members.**



PHOTOGRAPH BY YANG CHIEH-WEN



Youth around the world show how they're standing in holy places.

Call for Youth Photos

This year's Mutual theme is "Stand ye in holy places and be not moved" (D&C 87:8). Young men and young women, the *Liahona* is looking for photos of you standing in holy places. Photos could show you spending time with family, serving, doing missionary work, creating art, studying the gospel, exploring nature, and more! Here's how to submit your photo:

- Have someone take a picture of you standing in a holy place.
- Email your high-resolution photo to liahona@ldschurch.org.
- Add a message about why this is a holy place for you.
- In your email, please include your full name, birth date, ward and stake (or branch and district) name, and an email address for your parents.

Photos of youth from around the world will be featured in an upcoming issue.

Apostle Visits Morocco

In December 2012, after creating the 3,000th stake of the Church in Sierra Leone in West Africa, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of

the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles paid a special visit to a tiny and remote branch of the Church in Rabat, Morocco.

In a special Sunday evening devotional, Elder Holland shared the love Church leaders have for every member of the Church throughout the world, no matter how few in number or distant in location they may be.

"You are not forgotten, and you are part of a marvelous work as the Lord identifies and hastens the gathering of Israel in this great last dispensation," he said.

Tegucigalpa Honduras Temple Dedicated

On Sunday, March 17, 2013, following a cultural celebration and three-week open house, the Tegucigalpa Honduras Temple was dedicated in three sessions, which were broadcast to all Church units in Honduras and Nicaragua.

Honduran members, who have traditionally traveled several hours to the Guatemala City Guatemala Temple, rejoiced to see the country's first temple dedicated. The temple was first announced by the First Presidency in a June 9, 2006, letter, and ground was broken on the current site on September 12, 2009.

President Monson Visits Germany

Late in 2012 President Thomas S. Monson traveled to Germany to meet with members of the Church in Hamburg, Berlin, Munich, and Frankfurt, Germany, and to exhort them to follow Jesus Christ.

"He taught forgiveness by forgiving," he told members in Frankfurt. "He taught compassion by being compassionate. He taught devotion by giving of Himself."

The Holy Ghost Teaches Me

Ever since my family joined the Church, I have seen the power that comes from reading the *Liahona*. It is through these profound words that I was inspired to serve a mission. Many subjects are discussed in the magazine, but what matters to me is what the Holy Ghost teaches me each time I read it. Indeed, we will be free—even in "enemy territory" (see Boyd K. Packer, "How to Survive in Enemy Territory," *Liahona*, Oct. 2012, 24)—as we study, read, and apply the principles taught. The Savior lives, the priesthood is on the earth, and God is in the heavens.

Newton T. Senyange, Uganda

Corrections

The October 2012 *Liahona* incorrectly attributed the photographs in the story "First Stake in India Organized" on pages 76–77. The photographs were taken by Sister Gladys Wigg. We apologize for the error.

In the December 2012 *Liahona*, the Vigil family, discussed in the article "Sacred Transformations" on page 36, was baptized in July 2010, not June 2011. Also, Andrea Vigil was born in July, not August, 2012.

In *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow*, the image on page 2 was mislabeled. It is an image of President Snow's son, Oliver Goddard Snow. Also, in the caption on page 28, the names Brigham Young Jr. and Francis M. Lyman should be switched.

DRINKING FROM THE FOUNTAIN

By Aaron L. West

Editor, Church Publishing Services

When we talk about the beauty of temples, we typically mention spires, windows, and murals. We speak reverently of baptismal fonts, endowment rooms, sealing rooms, and celestial rooms.

But when a prophet dedicates a temple to the Lord, he dedicates the entire edifice, not just the beautiful parts that everyone notices. In the dedicatory prayer for the Kansas City Missouri Temple, President Thomas S. Monson said: “We dedicate the ground on which this temple stands. We dedicate every part of this beautiful structure, from the unseen footings to the majestic figure of Moroni crowning its highest point.”¹ When President Joseph Fielding Smith pronounced the dedicatory prayer on the Ogden Utah Temple, he dedicated “the foundations, the walls, the floors, the ceilings, the tower, and all parts of the building,” and he prayed for protection of “all the mechanical parts, the lighting conduits and fixtures, the ventilating system and elevators, and all things pertaining to this building.”²



*Jesus Christ
is the fountain
of living water.*

I’m grateful that the Lord inspires His prophets to dedicate every part of every temple. Although a door hinge or a light fixture clearly has a lesser purpose than an altar in a sealing room, such lesser pieces contribute to the temple’s ultimate, exalting purpose.

One of these lesser pieces has helped me learn an enduring lesson. I was in the Salt Lake Temple one day, preparing to leave the dressing room after participating in an ordinance for the dead. Noticing a drinking fountain, I realized I was thirsty, so I bent down for a quick drink. A message came into my mind:

You drink this water in the temple, but do you really drink the living water that is available here?

It wasn’t a pounding condemnation—just a gentle rebuke and a soul-penetrating question.

My answer to that question was no. I wasn’t completely drinking the temple’s living water. I had to admit that my mind had wandered minutes earlier as I received ordinances for the dead. Although I had done a good work for people who needed my help, I hadn’t allowed myself to receive all the help I needed.

Now, every time I go to a temple, I look for a drinking fountain and stop for a drink. I ask myself how deeply I am drinking from the fountain of living water. My answer: Still not deeply enough. But my thirst is increasing. ■

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, in “Kansas City Missouri Temple: ‘Beacon of Divine Light’—an Offering of Hands and Hearts,” *Church News*, May 12, 2012, ldschurchnews.com.
2. Joseph Fielding Smith, in “Ogden Temple Dedicatory Prayer,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1972, 12.

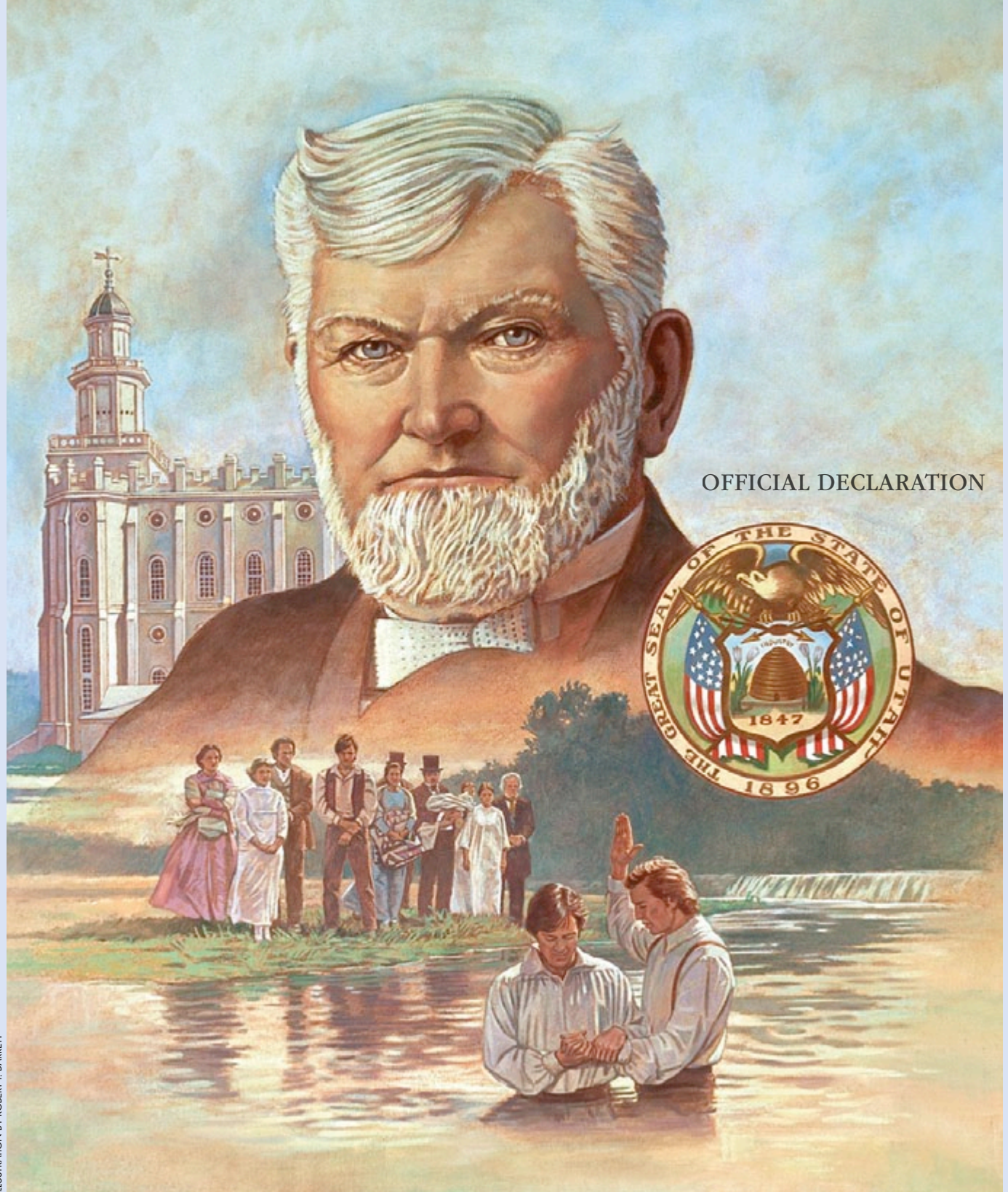


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

WILFORD WOODRUFF

Wilford Woodruff served a mission in Great Britain in the 1840s. Because of his service, more than 1,000 people were **baptized**. Wilford Woodruff later served as president of the **St. George Utah Temple**. As President of the Church, he pushed for **Utah** to become a state. He also received the revelation and issued **Official Declaration 1** instructing the Saints to stop practicing polygamy.



Actors portray scenes from the life of Jesus Christ for online videos found at biblevideos.lds.org; several scenes from the last week of the Savior's life are shown in the article on page 26. In "The Mission and Ministry of Jesus Christ" (page 18), Elder Russell M. Nelson teaches five aspects of the Savior's ministry that we can emulate in our own lives.