

THE **New Era**

OCTOBER 2012

**SIMPLE WAYS
to SERVE, p. 40**

**Strength from
Scripture, pp. 6, 10,
19, 24**

**Advice for Future
Missionaries, p. 34**

**Joining Relief
Society, p. 37**

**Plus, Finding
and Being Good
Friends, pp. 2, 5**



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BE WISE AND BE A FRIEND p. 2

2 The Message: Be Wise and Be a Friend

Elder Robert D. Hales

Is someone depending on your light to guide him or her? Be a good example. Make the world a better place because you were here.

5 At a Crossroads

Leslie Rasmussen

After graduating from high school, Leslie found new friends—but how would they affect her plans for the future?

6 Strengthened by the Word

Youth around the world share how memorized scriptures have helped them in times of need.

9 Your Once upon a Time Is Now

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Your own wondrous story has already begun.

10 6 Tips for Scripture Study

Afton Nelson

Energize your scripture study with these ideas.

13 Mormonad: Straight and Narrow Is the Way

14 Questions & Answers

What does it mean to honor the priesthood of God?

16 Inviting All to Come unto Christ

Kimberly Richter

One young man's Duty to God goal led two friends to investigate the Church.

19 How I Know: Our Book of Mormon Project

Aimee Wilson

Aimee was asked to share her testimony of the Book of Mormon with all the youth in her stake. Now she just had to see if she had a testimony of her own.

20 For the Strength of Youth: Dress and Appearance: "Let the Holy Spirit Guide"

Mary N. Cook

The principles of representation, respect, and reverence apply to the care and protection you give your body.



13 SIMPLE SERVICE
SUGGESTIONS p. 40



COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN p. 32

22 Dressing for a Dance

Crystal Martin
When she entered the room for the dance, Crystal quickly realized her dress was the only one with sleeves—and she knew that her appearance stood out.

23 The Extra Smile

24 Take My Yoke upon You

What do the scriptures mean when they talk about Christ's yoke being easy and light?

26 He Knows Who I Am

Whitney Wilcox
If you feel small in an infinite universe, remember that Heavenly Father knows you individually.

28 I Needed to Understand

Rebecca Welling
After her baby sister died, one young woman wanted to find hope for the future. The answer came through prayer.

31 Winning with Science

Mindy Raye Friedman
Science has taught this young scholar about the process of gaining spiritual knowledge.

32 Communication Breakdown

David A. Edwards
A quick look at Latter-day Saint lingo may help you as you talk with others about the gospel.

34 From the Mission Field: Dear Future Missionaries

Caleb N. Porter
What do full-time missionaries wish they'd learned before serving? An elder in Mexico shares his advice from the field.

37 Looking Forward to Relief Society

Find answers to several questions you may have about advancing from Young Women to Relief Society.

40 13 Simple Service Suggestions

Service doesn't have to be a big ordeal. Often the small, everyday acts of service can make a huge difference.

42 What's Up?

An unusual picture of the temple; "Scrabble Day" with an LDS twist; survey results about Church dances; a word search about Personal Progress and Duty to God; poems quoted by President Thomas S. Monson.

44 Instant Messages

Dusty the cat; overcoming fear at night; the strength to resist; stranded on the road.

47 The Glad Hatter

Christopher Fosse
After sustaining a lacrosse injury, a young man began an unexpected hobby. Now it's helping him save money for a mission.

48 From Church Leaders: How to Defend Religious Freedom

Elder Quentin L. Cook
Religious freedom all over the world is under attack. It is important for your generation to become well educated on this issue. Be an active participant, not a silent observer.

49 Poem: Clean

Jenny Rawlings

49 Photo

Lara Deppe



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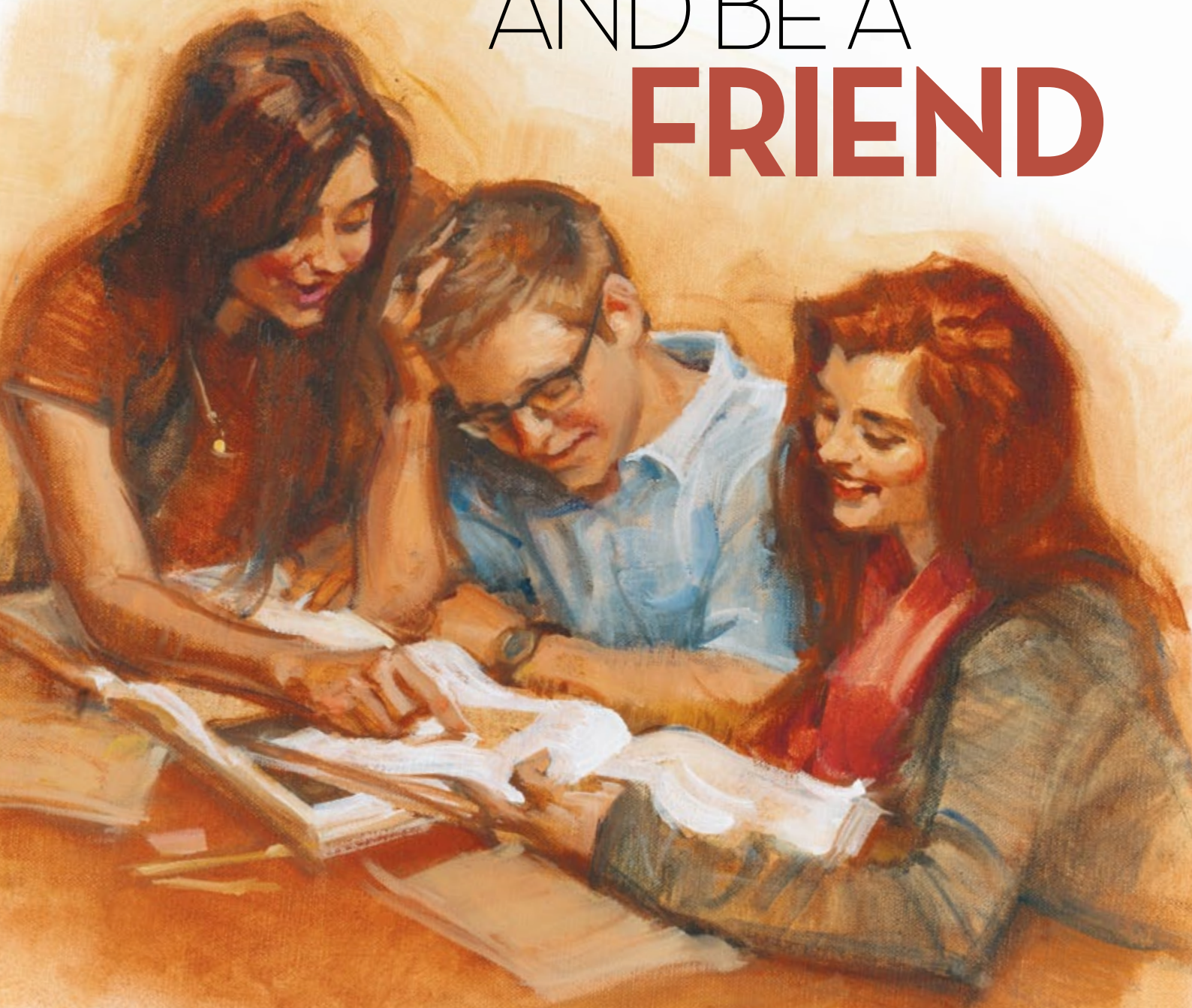
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BE WISE AND BE A FRIEND





**By Elder
Robert D. Hales**

Of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

*Learn and gain knowledge
and wisdom in your youth.
And lift and strengthen
those around you.*

If you really want to be able to have a good life, you'll want to follow the counsel found in the scriptures: "Learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God" (Alma 37:35). The learning process can be summarized in the following way:

We all start with basic intelligence. We add knowledge to that with the learning that comes through the classroom and reading. We add life's experiences. And then we get to the fourth step: wisdom. That's where the world stops. But we have something the world does not have. Upon baptism and confirmation, we were given the gift of the Holy Ghost. Based on our faithfulness to the laws, ordinances, and covenants we take upon ourselves at baptism, to regular and frequent sacrament meeting

commitments, and to priesthood and temple covenants, we will always have the gift of the Holy Ghost to teach and direct us. The Spirit leads us to act and to do. We all have spiritual gifts and talents (see D&C 46).

Wisdom plus spiritual gifts lead to an understanding in the heart. "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). It is important to cultivate wisdom and understanding in your youth.

An experience from my youth taught me something about wisdom. I was a city boy, so my father sent me to work on my uncle's ranch in western Utah. While I was there, I never could understand why the cattle, with thousands of acres to choose from, would put their heads through the barbed wire to eat the grass on the other side of the fence. Have you ever thought about how much we're like that? We will always push to see what the outer limits are, especially in our youth. As human beings—the

natural man—we tend to push up to the barbed wire and stick our head through it. Why do we do that?

We can have so much joy in life without pushing the limits. Remember, "Wisdom is the principal thing," and with that wisdom, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away" (Proverbs 4:14–15). Don't come close. Don't put your head through the barbed-wire fence.

Do You Have Good Friends?

You will notice that, along with these teachings on wisdom, the book of Proverbs also teaches about choosing good friends: "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men" (Proverbs 4:14). "My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: for their feet run to evil" (Proverbs 1:15–16).

How do you know if you have good friends? I will give you two tests. If you apply these tests, you

will never go into strange paths and wander off the “strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life” (2 Nephi 31:18).

1. ***Good friends make it easy to live the commandments when you are with them.*** A true friend strengthens you and helps you live the gospel principles that will assist you to endure to the end.
2. ***A true friend will not make you choose between his or her ways and the ways of the Lord,*** thus taking you off the strait and narrow path. The adversary roams this earth and wants so much to have each one of us fall. If your friends are taking you on paths of wickedness, depart from them now. Choose your friends wisely.

What Kind of Friend Are You?

Now I ask a difficult question: what kind of friend are *you*?

There is more to life than saving ourselves. We are commissioned to lift and to strengthen all those around us. The Lord wants us all back to Him together.

You are a lighthouse, and there is nothing more dangerous than a fallen lighthouse. Remember who you are: you are a light to the world, to your friends, to your brothers and sisters. You are who they look to.

Proverbs 4 continues:

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and



Be a light to the world and lead and guide those around you in paths of righteousness. They are depending on you as a faithful lighthouse.

more unto the perfect day.

“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble” (verses 18–19).

They really don’t know why they’re stumbling. They have no light, no direction.

Do you know what it is like to depend on a lighthouse when the light is not there? Darkness results, and we are lost.

When a pilot loses electrical power, he has no indicators except those things that work without

electricity. He feels totally helpless when he is in a single-seated fighter 40,000 feet (12,200 m) in the air being buffeted around by clouds and such. He doesn’t have any direction. I came through an experience like that, and I’m glad I’m here. It’s an experience that I will never forget. You too may someday find yourself in such a position. There is nothing as dangerous as a fallen lighthouse, especially when you’re depending on the light.

Is someone depending on your light to guide him or her? Be a good example. Be a light to the world and lead and guide those around you in paths of righteousness. They are depending on you as a faithful lighthouse. Be there when someone needs you.

The Spirit is the guiding light that brings joy and happiness. May we never be denied the Spirit to be with us because of our conduct. Oh, how I pray that we will never be alone and sad in this “dark and dreary” world (1 Nephi 8:4).

May the Lord’s blessings be with you as you strive to learn and gain knowledge and wisdom in your youth. May you also gain wisdom and understanding in your hearts of the gospel truths by obedience and also by the light of the Spirit, the Holy Ghost. Be a good friend. Lift and strengthen those around you. Make the world a better place because you were here. Help your friends stay on the strait and narrow path, endure to the end, and return with honor. **NE**

By Leslie Rasmussen

Have you ever found yourself at a crossroads in life? That is where I found myself more than 10 years ago. As I look at the blessings I am enjoying today, I realize that my life would be quite different had I made a different decision at my crossroads.

During my years in junior high and high school, I was a fence-sitter. I didn't really do bad things, but at the same time I wasn't nurturing my testimony and seeking out the Savior. So, shortly out of high school, I found myself at a crossroads. I made friends with some people who weren't living gospel standards. They all liked to drink, especially on the weekends. I was spending a lot of time with these friends. In fact, I started dating one of the guys. We were spending a lot of time together.

I then had an experience I will never forget. I went to church with my family to my grandma's ward. She was performing a musical number, and we went to support her. As I sat in sacrament meeting, I looked around at all of the families. The Spirit then gave my mind an impression I will never forget: "If you marry this man you are dating, he will never bring you and your kids to church." I knew I had to make a decision. I had to decide what I wanted for the rest of my life. I knew what I needed to do—stop dating him. I also knew that I needed to stop hanging around my friends who were negative influences.

It was hard to make this decision. I gave up a boyfriend and all of my friends. The following days, especially weekends, became very lonely, but I knew what I did was what I needed to do.

I am so grateful that the Spirit whispered to my mind that day at church. It was indeed a tender mercy that the Lord guided me. I have since married a worthy priesthood holder in the temple, and we have four wonderful children. My husband faithfully takes us to church each week. My life has been blessed beyond anything that I ever could have imagined. I feel so much joy and happiness in living the gospel. **NE**

At a CROSSROADS

I knew my friends were not taking me to the place I wanted to go.



STRENGTHENED BY THE WORD

Teens testify of times when scriptures taught them, comforted them, and guided them.



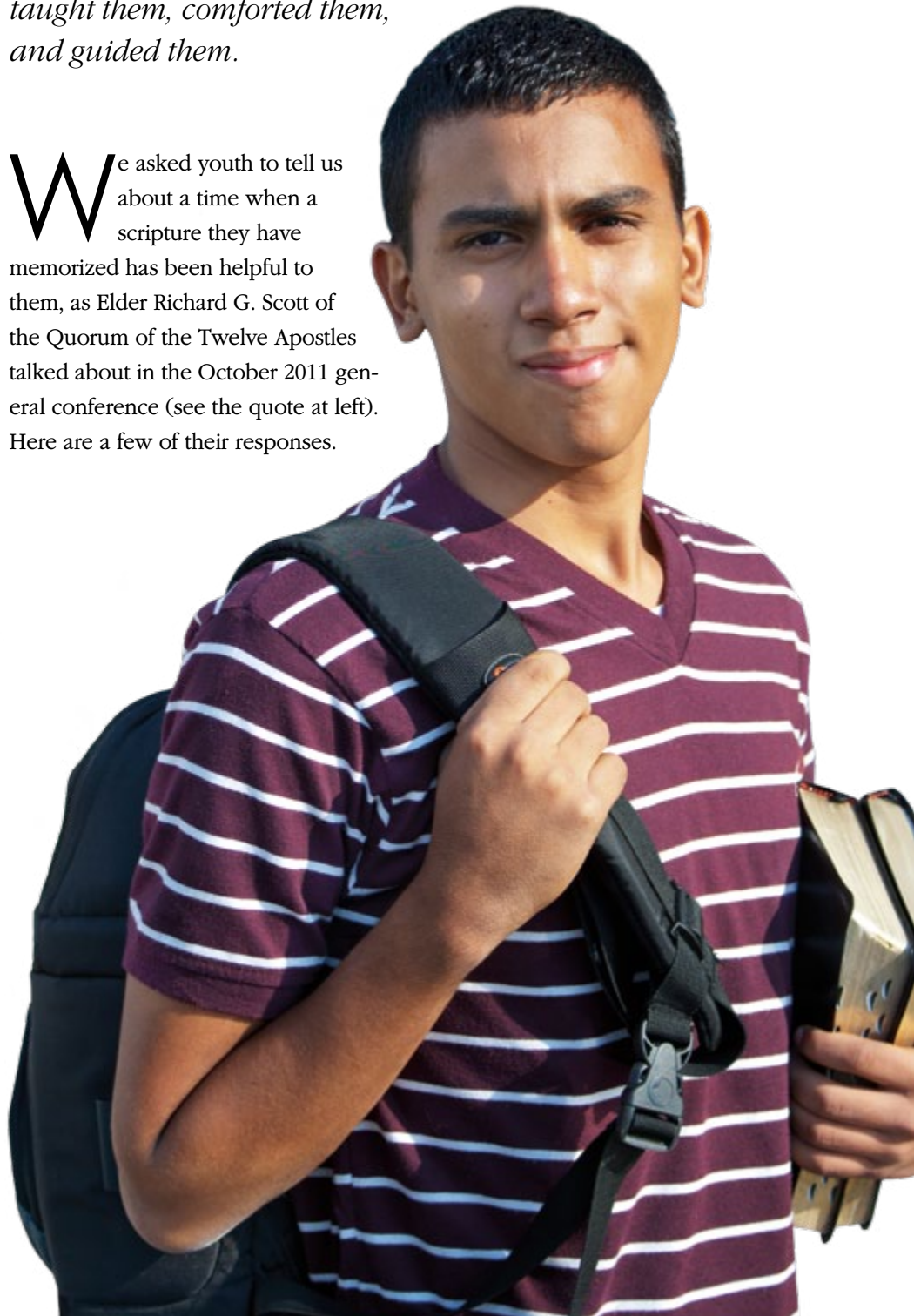
SCRIPTURES HELP IN TIME OF NEED

"Scriptures are like packets of light that illuminate our minds and give place to guidance and inspiration from on high. . . .

"Great power can come from memorizing scriptures. To memorize a scripture is to forge a new friendship. It is like discovering a new individual who can help in time of need, give inspiration and comfort, and be a source of motivation for needed change."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Power of Scripture," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 6.

We asked youth to tell us about a time when a scripture they have memorized has been helpful to them, as Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles talked about in the October 2011 general conference (see the quote at left). Here are a few of their responses.



Peace unto My Soul

“My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment” (D&C 121:7).

The scripture that has given me the most comfort over the years is Doctrine and Covenants 121:7, when the Prophet Joseph Smith was in Liberty Jail crying out to Heavenly Father for help. I memorized this verse in seminary and recall it when I need comfort. It reminds me that my Father in Heaven loves me and is aware of my trials. I have used this verse to bring me peace in times of frustration and weakness.

This verse helped me when I was at a party that turned into an environment I knew I shouldn't be in. I politely told my friends no when they asked me to drink or smoke. This verse gave me the strength I needed to stand up for my beliefs.

This verse also helped me make a difficult decision. My friend and I had been inseparable for five years. We played

sports together, went on trips together, and hung out every weekend. But she began hanging out with an older group of friends who I didn't want to be around. In the end she made me choose between having her as a friend or sticking to my beliefs regarding the Word of Wisdom and the law of chastity. I was devastated. I never knew that standing up for what I believed could be so hard. But I chose to make new friends, always keeping in mind Heavenly Father's promise to Joseph Smith that everything would work out all right.

Nothing is worth compromising my beliefs, and I experience true and lasting joy when I choose the right. This scripture has strengthened my testimony and provided help when I needed it.

Lauren J.
age 16, Arkansas, USA



Weak Things Become Strong

Months before the entrance exam for high school, I did not feel prepared. I was sure that it would be impossible to do well. So I turned to my Heavenly Father in prayer. While I was praying, these words came to my mind:

“If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them” (Ether 12:27).

I realized that when I pray to Heavenly Father for strength to face challenges and tests, He blesses me and helps me overcome my weaknesses. Presenting my concern to the Lord was the best decision I could make. He is the best teacher, and I know He helped me.

Irvin O.
age 16, El Salvador



Pray Always

“Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer Satan, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of Satan that do uphold his work” (D&C 10:5).

This verse helps me face temptations. When I’m about to do something I know is wrong, this verse and its message pop into my mind. Every single time I pray after I have that prompting, I get the help that I need to overcome the temptations I’m faced with.

Jesse F.

age 17, Utah, USA

I Am with Thee

“Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for, lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days” (D&C 24:8).

Memorizing this scripture has been a blessing, especially when I have felt scared or alone.

Whenever I remember it, I gain courage and feel better. As young men and young women, we need guidance and support, especially when confronting difficult trials and challenges. Even though sometimes the future seems uncertain or discouraging, I know that I can trust in the Lord and receive His warm embrace.

When I was little, I was taught at home and in Primary that the Lord would always be by my side if I did my part. Because of those teachings and also this scripture, I know that I can count on Him always.

Sofia I.

age 15, Uruguay



SET A GOAL

Consider setting a goal to memorize some scriptures. You could memorize scripture mastery verses in seminary or as part of Duty to God or Personal Progress.



YOUR
ONCE UPON
A TIME
IS NOW

For a moment, think back about your favorite
fairy tale. In that story the main character . . .
must overcome adversity. . . .

. . . You will experience your own adversity. . . .

It is your reaction to adversity, not the adver-
sity itself, that determines how your life's story
will develop. . . .

. . . Your own wondrous story has already
begun. Your "once upon a time" is now.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the
First Presidency, "Your Happily Ever After," *Ensign*, May 2010, 124–27.

6 TIPS FOR

Scripture Study



Energize your time spent with the scriptures.

By Afton Nelson

Do you sometimes find it hard to study—*really* study—the scriptures? Here are some ideas you can use to add more life to your scripture study and make the most of your reading time.

1 Pray and Seek the Spirit
Ask Heavenly Father to help you feel the Spirit as you read the scriptures. The scriptures were given by revelation and can be understood by revelation. When we rely on help from our Heavenly Father and the Spirit, we become humble, teachable, and ready to learn.

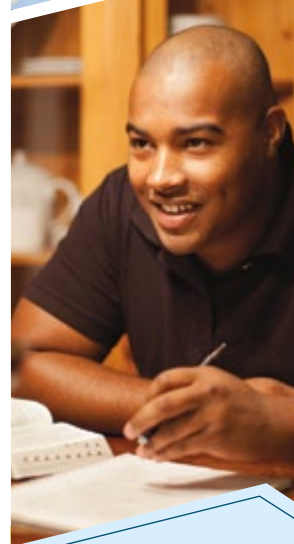
2 Look at Maps
Maps can help set the stage for your scripture study. The words and stories will have more meaning if you have a better understanding of distances traveled, climate, topography, and other prominent features of the places you're reading about. For example, the story of Jonah in the Old Testament (see Jonah 1–3) gains depth when we know that the city of Nineveh was located close to modern-day Iraq and that Tarshish might have been located in Spain.

How far away are these two places from each other? What would Jonah have to do to travel to each place? It was a long, difficult trip. How does this knowledge change your understanding of the story?

3 Look for Lists
Often a verse or verses of scripture will include a list. Once you start to recognize lists in the scriptures, you will see them often. For example, in 3 Nephi 17:3, Jesus has compassion on the Nephites and recognizes they are tired after a long day of listening and learning. He gives the Nephites a list of things to do:

- A. “Go ye unto your homes, and
- B. “Ponder upon the things which I have said, and
- C. “Ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand, and
- D. “Prepare your minds for the morrow.”

Can this list help us get more out of our attendance at Church meetings? How can doing the things on this list help us with our scripture study? Whenever you see a list in the scriptures, write it out and see if you can apply the same steps to aspects of your life.



Ways to Read the Scriptures
Sometimes you can improve your scripture study by reading the scriptures in a new way. Read additional ideas in “Successful Scripture Study” in the January 2012 issue of the *New Era* or at lds.org/go/02A.



17 Never
 and corn for the ox,
 horse, and rye for the
 wine, and for all beas
 and barley for all us
 and for mild drinks,
 rain.
 18 And all saints who
 keep and do these say
 in obedience to the cor
 shall receive ^bhealth
 and marrow to their b
 19 And shall ^afind
 great ^atreasures of ^dkn
 hidden treasures;
 20 And shall ^arun
 weary, and shall walk
 21 And I, the Lord, g
 wise, that the ^ade
 them, a



4

Look for Patterns and Repetition

When you notice a pattern or repetition in the scriptures, there's often something to be learned from it, like in the accounts of Christ's birth in the New Testament. In Matthew 2, Matthew repeats the phrase "that it might be fulfilled." He focuses on how various elements of the Savior's birth fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. Instead of creating a pattern of words like Matthew, Luke creates a pattern of people in his account found in Luke 2, where the shepherds, Simeon, and Anna all saw and bore testimony of the Savior's divinity.

What can we learn from these two accounts of the Savior's birth? What do you think each writer was trying to accomplish by telling the story the way he did?

5

Look for Commandments and Promised Blessings

Often in the scriptures, when the Lord gives commandments He then tells us the blessings we will receive from keeping them. Consider the following:

- "Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (D&C 4:7).
- "And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments [the Word of Wisdom], shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones" (D&C 89:18).
- "Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy

thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God" (D&C 121:45).

Consider using two colored pencils as you read, marking commandments in one color and promised blessings in another. What do you notice? How does this pattern affect your testimony of our Heavenly Father's love for you?

6

Look for Personal Application

Nephi tells us that we should liken the scriptures unto ourselves (see 1 Nephi 19:23). The scriptures were written for us and apply to our lives. For example, we may not find ourselves mining ore to make tools to build a ship (see 1 Nephi 17), but all of us will be asked to do hard things. How can the way Nephi responded to his challenge to build a ship help us respond to our missions?

The more you practice looking for personal application, the quicker you will begin to see it. The Spirit can teach us the beautiful truths of the scriptures if we do our part. But we have to open them and do more than just read the words. As we study with the Spirit, the scriptures can truly come to life for us. **NE**

DRAW NEARER TO GOD

"As we engage with God in sincere prayer, read and study each day from the scriptures, ponder on what we have read and felt, and then apply and live the lessons learned, we draw nearer to Him. God's promise is that as we seek diligently from the best books, '[He] shall give unto [us] knowledge by his Holy Spirit' (D&C 121:26; see also D&C 109:14–15)."

Elder Ian S. Ardern of the Seventy, "A Time to Prepare," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 32.

MORMONAD

ILLUSTRATION BY IAN NAYLOR

STRAIGHT AND NARROW IS **THE WAY**

There are many paths to choose,
but only one leads to eternal life.

(See 2 Nephi 9:41; 31:17-21; Alma 7:9.)



“What does it mean to honor the priesthood of God?”

The priesthood is the power by which Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ perform Their work. It is the greatest power on earth. By the priesthood, ordinances are performed, blessings are given, temple work is accomplished, the gospel is preached, and miracles are performed.

Priesthood holders represent the Savior, so they honor the priesthood by doing what the Savior would do if He were here. They honor the priesthood by living worthy of it. They honor the priesthood by their dress, actions, words, service, and even thoughts.

Young women can also honor the priesthood by keeping their baptismal covenants and by reverently participating in priesthood ordinances such as the sacrament or temple work. They can support their fathers, brothers, and other priesthood holders in keeping the commandments and living worthy to perform their priesthood duties.

We all can honor the priesthood by serving faithfully in our callings, by respecting those who hold the priesthood, by respecting the work it accomplishes, and by respecting the ordinances and covenants it helps us receive. **NE**

Act Like a Representative of God



If we can start to understand how wonderful it is that God granted us this gift, then honoring the priesthood becomes simple: act with gratitude and respect towards the power you were entrusted with. Ask yourself: If everyone around me knew that I held God’s power, would they think more or less of Him? That’s what honoring the priesthood is—it’s realizing that you are a representative of God and doing your best to act in a way that shows respect for the trust He has placed in you.

Mason R., 19, Colorado, USA

Be Virtuous



As a young woman I could say that I don’t need to honor the priesthood. But all young women do need to. We honor the priesthood by being virtuous. We honor the priesthood by helping the young men have clean thoughts. We dress modestly and speak with clean language. By doing this, we help young men to honor the priesthood, so we are also honoring the priesthood.

Marisa B., 14, Arizona, USA

Do Your Duty to God

The main way to honor the priesthood is, in my opinion, to do the things that the Lord Himself would do if He were here on the earth, because we represent Jesus Christ. It means we fulfill all the commitments, duties, and promises that we made to God when we were ordained to the priesthood. By honoring His priesthood, we follow His command to “arise and shine forth, that [our] light may be a standard for the nations” (D&C 115:5). We help others know that many authorized servants of God are on earth.

Bismarck B., 18, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Show Respect for the Priesthood

I think that honoring the priesthood is having respect and confidence in using the priesthood. When you have members of the Aaronic Priesthood who respect the priesthood and the sacrament as much as we do in our ward, then you can have some great experiences in passing and preparing the sacrament. We all try to wear white shirts with ties. We know that it makes a great effect in the ward, and it has made an effect on me. I know that holding the priesthood is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Hansen B., 15, Texas, USA

Remember the Savior



The priesthood is the only true power of God on earth and shows us the path to return to Him. When we think of honoring the priesthood, we think of following the teachings from President Thomas S. Monson and the other Apostles. The best way to honor the priesthood is to do the things we are taught, which allows us to remember the Savior. When we remember Him, His Spirit will be with us. Having the Spirit allows us to stay on target and be an example of gospel standards.

Sunday School class: Kylie E., Jaiten B., Joseph E., Alexandra R., Kaylie V., Alisha F., and Haylee W. (not pictured); Idaho, USA

Uphold the Priesthood

Honoring the priesthood means to me that young men respect and uphold the gift that the Lord has given them. When I see a young man respect the priesthood, I feel so much more at peace and I have more respect towards that young man. Heavenly Father has entrusted him with the priesthood, so I feel that it is a young man's duty not only to hold the priesthood but also to uphold it.

Melinda B., 16, Washington, USA

Don't Compromise Your Standards

Honoring the priesthood means not putting yourself in situations where you know you might compromise your standards. When we studied the Old Testament in seminary, we found in Genesis 39 the example of Joseph of Egypt honoring his priesthood by running away from the advances of Potiphar's wife.

One way for young women to help us honor the priesthood is to

follow *For the Strength of Youth* standards and dress modestly.

Joseph B., 16, Texas, USA

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



IT IS SACRED

"Young men and young women . . . should honor [the priesthood] and recognize it as something that is sacred. . . . For it is by

virtue of this authority that the ordinances of the gospel are performed throughout the world and in every sacred place, and without it they cannot be performed. Those also who hold this authority should honor it in themselves. They should live so as to be worthy of the authority vested in them."

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918),
Teachings of Presidents of the Church:
Joseph F. Smith (1998), 144.

NEXT QUESTION

"What do I say to nonmembers who ask why some members of the Church aren't living our standards?"

Send your answer and photo by November 15, 2012.

Go to newera.lds.org, click "Submit Material," and then select "Questions and Answers."

You can also write to us at newera@ldschurch.org or

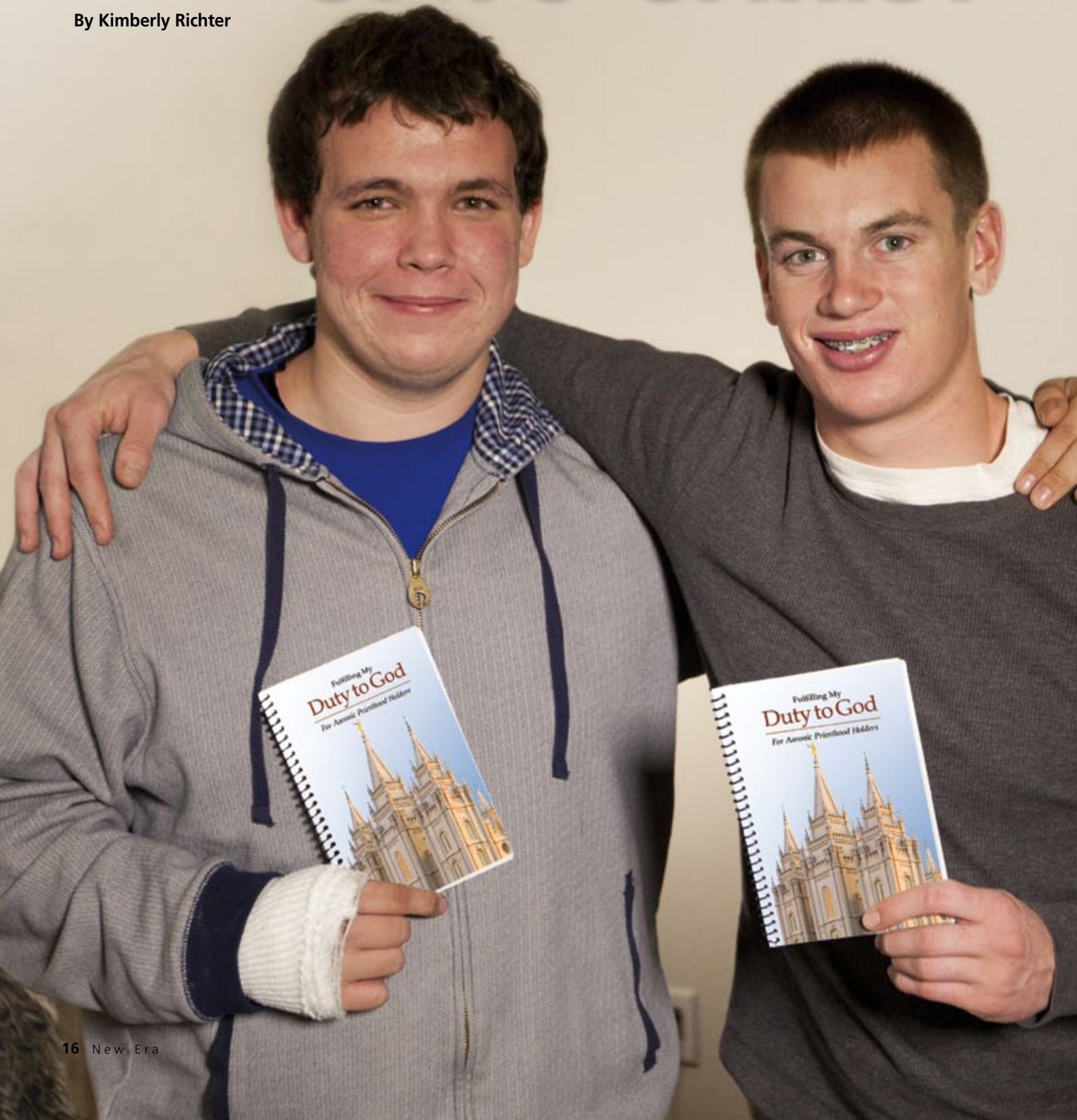
New Era, Q&A, standards
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



INVITING ALL TO **COME** **UNTO CHRIST**

By Kimberly Richter



A young man in Washington made a plan that changed lives.

Marcus V., a priest from Washington, USA, is a busy young man. He's student body president and football team captain, and he participates in other sports, academic pursuits, and interests such as the drums and drama. But despite his busy schedule, he is an active member of his priests quorum, and he makes time to do his duty to God.

A Duty to God Plan

In March 2011, Marcus made a plan in his *Fulfilling My Duty to God* booklet that read simply, "Invite a friend to youth conference." On the day before youth conference, though he'd thought about the plan often, he hadn't invited anyone yet. At lunch, he casually asked if anyone wanted to come to youth conference. To his surprise, one friend did.

This friend, Jesse, came to what turned out to be a great youth conference.

"The testimony meeting was extremely powerful," says Marcus, "and people Jesse knew from school



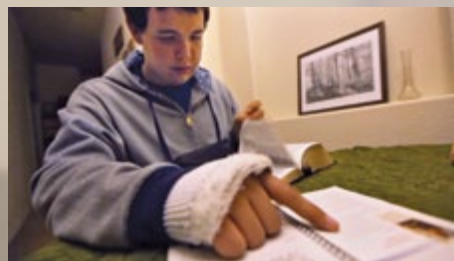
were standing up and sharing their feelings about the gospel." At the end of the conference, Jesse asked for a Book of Mormon.

Marcus gave him a copy, and Jesse started reading right away. "Jesse ran track with me," says Marcus. "We'd go running together and talk about the Book of Mormon and what he'd read."

When Marcus invited Jesse to church, he accepted. He started coming to church and Mutual and meeting with the missionaries.

Another Friend

One day Jesse was reading the Book of Mormon at school, and the boy next to him, his friend Kelly, asked him what he



YOU CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL

All of us can share the gospel. Here are some simple ways:

- Invite a friend to church or Mutual.
- Keep a Book of Mormon with you to give to others. You can write your testimony in the front and mark some favorite verses.
- Talk openly about your beliefs and standards and why they're important to you.
- Invite someone to meet with the missionaries.
- Consistently live the standards in the *For the Strength of Youth* booklet.

Marcus (middle right) baptized his friend Kelly (middle left) because of a *Duty to God* plan he completed.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"My brethren, . . . let us all determine to . . . honor the priesthood we bear through the service we render, the lives we bless, and the souls we are privileged to help save. You 'are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation' (1 Peter 2:9), and you can make a difference."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Examples of Righteousness," *Ensign*, May 2008, 68.



More on *Duty to God*

See a video with Marcus and Kelly online at lds.org/go/02B.

was reading. After a conversation about the Book of Mormon, Jesse invited Kelly to Mutual that night.

Before Mutual the missionaries talked with Kelly. They asked if he wanted to come sit in on a discussion with Jesse. The discussion "contradicted everything I'd ever been told about the Church," Kelly says. "I had a bunch of misconceptions about the Church. It started to change my point of view."

Kelly and Jesse both continued to meet with the missionaries, and Marcus was there as much as possible.

"It was a really happy time for me," Marcus explains. "I felt that when I was at school I could always do the right thing because I was not only responsible for myself, but I was also responsible for these friends I was helping come to the gospel." Kelly says Marcus supported him through it all. "He answered all my questions, and he was a really good friend. He encouraged me to keep going, but he didn't push."

A Baptism

Just a few weeks after his first missionary discussion, Kelly committed to baptism and asked Marcus to baptize him. Marcus relates the baptism to Doctrine and Covenants 18:15, which says, "If it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!"



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MARCUS V.

"I felt that joy," he says. "It was indescribable, so full of light and happiness."

Kelly knows that the gospel has changed his life. "I make positive choices now," he says. "I have good friends. I feel better knowing the truth and that God is real. I'm excited for the future now."

Your Duty to God

Marcus invites young men to "make *Duty to God* a priority. It's really a booklet to make young men into missionaries. Value it, ask your friends about it, talk about it, be thinking about it all the time." Just as Marcus's plan made a difference for Kelly and for Jesse, who continues to study the gospel, your plans in *Duty to God* can change lives. But it's not just about making plans, it's about carrying out your plans, living the gospel, and doing your duty to God.

"It's not enough to focus on making sure that you're not doing the wrong things," Marcus says. "You have to focus on doing good things, on being actively engaged in a good cause [see D&C 58:27]. You have to focus on the light, and then the dark will have no influence over you." **NE**



Our **BOOK OF MORMON** Project

By Aimee Wilson

They wanted me to share my testimony with the stake. But first I had to find out if I had one.

Sure I had a testimony. Or did I? I prayed, read the scriptures (most days), and went to church, but did I really have a personal testimony of Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon? These thoughts filled my mind when a stake leader asked me to join some of the other stake youth in a special project.

Project? What kind of project?

I quickly learned that each participant would need to read the Book of Mormon for a month, and then we would all tell about our experiences. It didn't sound too bad until I learned we would be filmed so the stake leaders could share a video of our testimonies with the youth in each ward.

Every ward in the stake would see this?

I decided being videotaped would be way better than having to talk in front of huge groups of people in each ward. So I agreed. Each day, I curled up cozily to read at least one chapter in the Book of Mormon. As the days whizzed by, I realized I loved this book. The Book of Mormon came alive with new depth and vitality. Near the end of the project, I read Moroni 10:3–5. I wanted to know the truth, and I had faith to receive it.

That night when all was quiet, I knelt to ask God to know if the Book of Mormon is true. As I prayed, I felt encircled by a peaceful warmth. I knew without a doubt that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. This book became as true and as real as the stars I see glistening in the sky. What a powerful testimony this experience became in my life!

The time arrived for the leaders and invited youth to meet together. We came fasting to help bring the Spirit into our meeting. When it was my turn, I rose to speak. My testimony of the Book of Mormon had not come in a sudden burst of light or some other dramatic display. It had arrived more simply. The same peace and warmth I had felt when I prayed about the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon came over me again. I stood and bore testimony of the sacred pages I had read; I knew the Book of Mormon is true. **NE**



Youth Testimonies

Hear testimonies of youth in Eastern Europe who accepted a challenge to read the Book of Mormon in a short video at lds.org/go/02C. You can share your testimony at lds.org/go/02D.

Dress and Appearance

“Let the Holy Spirit Guide”



By Mary N. Cook

First Counselor in
the Young Women
General Presidency

As Christ’s representatives, we show respect for our bodies “at all times and in all things, and in all places” by abiding by certain standards.

Kim has consistently worn modest clothing. The other day I asked for her opinion on what she considers to be a modest skirt, a modest blouse, and a modest swimsuit. Instead of coming up with exact measurements for hemlines and necklines, we discussed the principles surrounding modesty and the challenge of finding modest clothing that looks attractive. We had fun brainstorming ways to creatively lengthen a skirt. Finally Kim said, “If I’m not comfortable when I first put something on, it usually means it’s immodest and I won’t be comfortable wearing it. I’ve learned to never buy it. I just put it back on the rack.”

As Kim strives to live worthily, the Holy Ghost can guide her in her clothing choices. She lives the standard of modesty generously and doesn’t try to alter the rules of dress and appearance. She understands that her body is a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16) and that she has a responsibility to care for, protect, and properly clothe it.

As a temple is built, great care is taken to ensure it is protected and beautifully adorned, inside and out. A key to planning temples is the understanding that a temple *represents* the Lord—it is His house. We *respect* temples as sacred structures where only those who are worthy may enter. We *revere* temples because the sacred ordinances and covenants in which we participate make it possible for us to return to our Heavenly Father.

Your body is more precious than the most exquisite temple on earth. You are God’s beloved son or daughter! These same principles—representation, respect, and reverence—apply even more so to the care and protection you give your body.

Representation

Each week as we partake of the sacrament, we take upon us the Savior’s name. We are His representatives on earth. One of the guidelines in *For the Strength of Youth* states: “Through your dress and appearance, you can show [the Lord] that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ and that you love Him.”¹

When one young woman read this statement, she decided she didn’t want to walk even close to the line of immodesty.

Immediately she removed anything in her wardrobe that wasn't consistent with being a representative of the Savior. She said, "I would be smart if I didn't even try on anything in stores that I knew I shouldn't wear. Why be tempted?" The principle of representation helped her make that firm resolve.

Respect

As Christ's representatives, we show respect for our body "at all times and in all things, and in all places" (Mosiah 18:9) by agreeing to abide by certain standards. The Lord requires that only those who are clean may enter the temple. Your choice to be virtuous is evidence of your respect for the Lord and your physical body.

We should also show respect for others' bodies and help them live virtuous lives. Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: "[Young women] need to understand that when they wear clothing that is too tight, too short, or too low cut, they not only can send the wrong message to young men with whom they associate, but they also perpetuate in their own minds the fallacy that a woman's value is dependent solely upon her sensual appeal. This never has been nor will it ever be within the righteous definition of a faithful daughter of God."²

Young women, respect your body and help others, particularly young men, maintain virtuous thoughts and actions. Respect your body, knowing that *daily* righteous living gives you *eternal* value.

Reverence

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught: "Just as the temple grounds portray the sacredness and reverence for what takes place inside the temple, our



clothing portrays the beauty and purity of our inner selves. How we dress portrays whether we have proper respect for . . . ordinances and eternal covenants and whether we are preparing ourselves to receive them."³

Show your reverence for our Savior's atoning sacrifice by wearing your "Sunday best" to participate in the ordinance of the sacrament. "Young men should dress with dignity when officiating in the ordinance of the sacrament."⁴ Young women, dress modestly.

Arise! Be the example of modest dress at home, at school, on the beach, at dances, or when playing sports. Follow Kim's example when choosing your clothing, letting the Holy Spirit guide you in your decisions. "Ask yourself, 'Would I feel comfortable with my appearance if I were in the Lord's presence?'"⁵

If you live these three principles—representation, respect, and reverence—when you are choosing your attire, you *will* "shine forth" (D&C 115:5) as the Savior's beloved representatives. **NE**

NOTES

1. *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 6.
2. M. Russell Ballard, "Mothers and Daughters," *Ensign*, May 2010, 20.
3. Robert D. Hales, "Modesty: Reverence for the Lord," *Ensign*, Aug. 2008, 36.
4. *For the Strength of Youth*, 8.
5. *For the Strength of Youth*, 8.



More Online

For more on this standard, including Mormonads, videos, and youth experiences, visit lds.org/go/02E.

Dressing

FOR A DANCE

By Crystal Martin

I was tempted to follow the crowd, but then I realized I needed to be an example instead.

When I was a teen, it was sometimes hard to live the gospel. The area I lived in didn't have many Church members, and my friends who were not members of the Church sometimes made it harder for me to stay on the right track.

"You should wear this; it would bring out the color in your eyes," one of my friends said to me before a dance. She held up a dress she was going to let me borrow, but it didn't have sleeves. I decided to wear the dress with a jacket.

When I got to the dance, nobody else was wearing a dress with sleeves, and I felt like I stood out. When I started getting too warm, my friends told me I should just take off the jacket and that I would look better anyway.

Just as I was about to justify taking off the jacket, I remembered my patriarchal blessing. My blessing told me I would have many temptations and if I fell, many individuals would follow me. That was when I realized I needed to stay on the right track—not only for myself but for others who looked up to me. I decided to keep the jacket on.

Sometimes I was made fun of for not doing the things everybody else was doing, but I stayed strong and was blessed because of it. I later learned that many people had looked up to me. Some of my friends even told me they respected me for following my standards. They apologized for giving me such a hard time for not doing the things everybody else was doing in high school.

Because I followed the standards of the Church and tried to be an example, I was able to have missionary experiences and teach the gospel to others. I would not have been able to influence others if I hadn't stayed on the right track. **NE**

STANDARDS OF DRESS

"Never lower your standards of dress. Do not use a special occasion as an excuse to be immodest. . . . Young women should avoid . . . clothing that does not cover the shoulders."

For the Strength of Youth (2011), 6, 7.



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT GREER



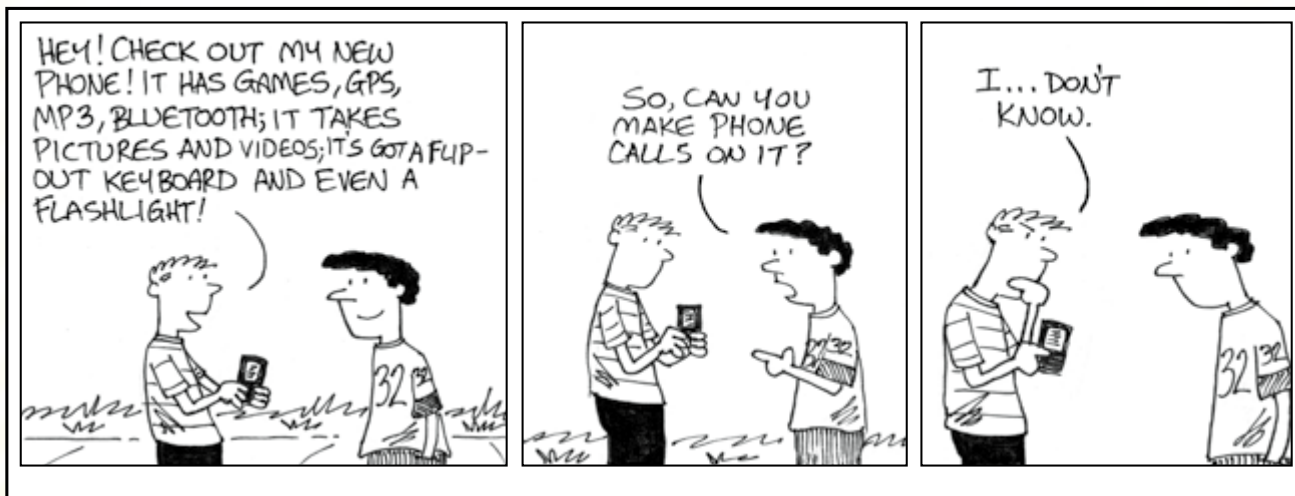
VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



KEVIN BECKSTROM



ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF



RYAN STOKER

TAKE MY

YOKE

UPON YOU

A useful tool for harnessing animals became a central image in the Savior's invitation to come unto Him.



A Double Yoke

Purpose: To harness a pair of animals so that they can drag a load together as efficiently as possible. Used especially with oxen for plowing soil.

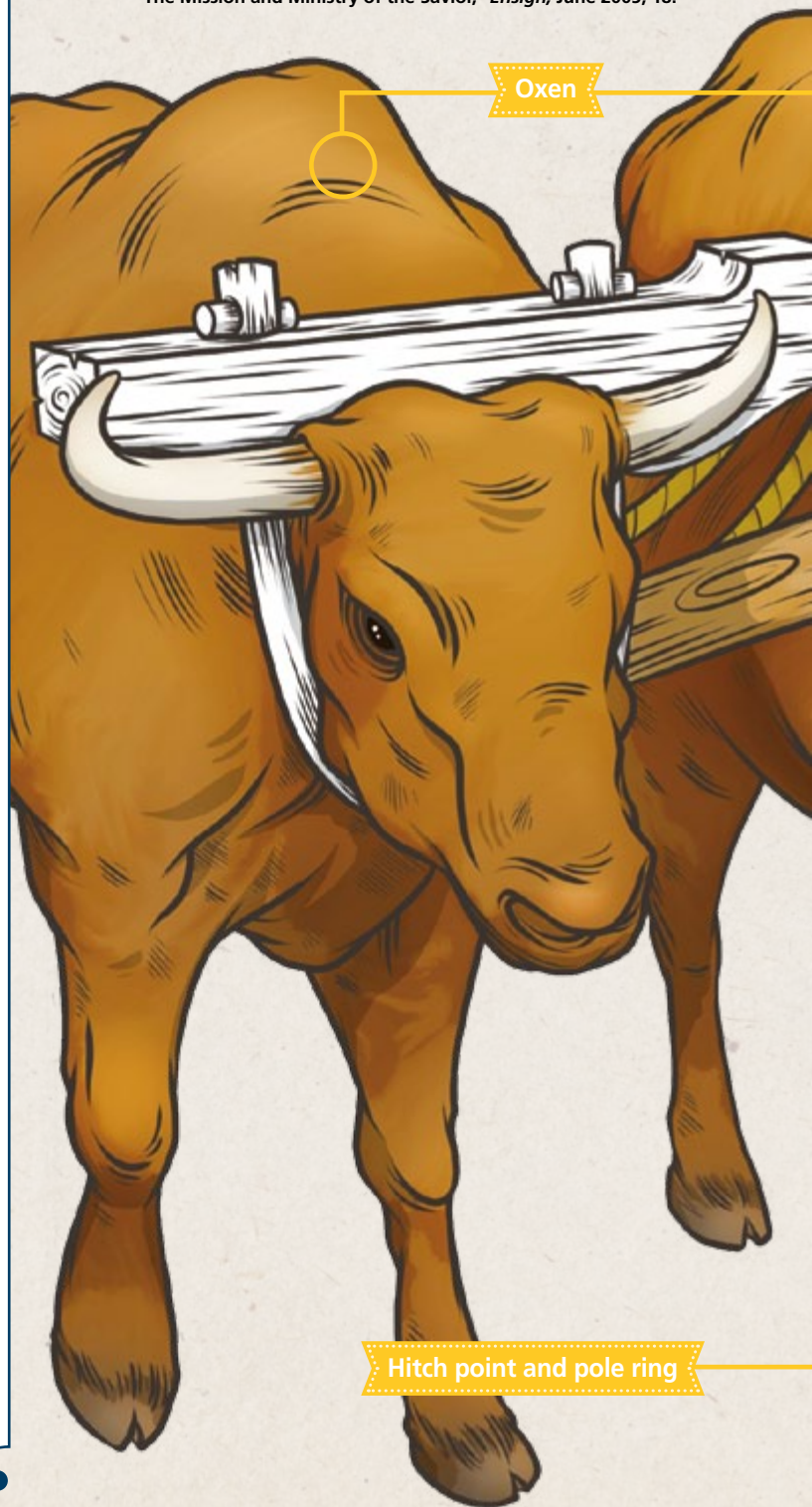
How it's made: A **beam** carved from a single piece of wood is fitted to a particular ox's shoulders, maximizing comfort and pulling force. The **strap or bow** around the neck is attached to **pegs** to secure the yoke. The **hitch point** connects the yoke to what's being pulled.

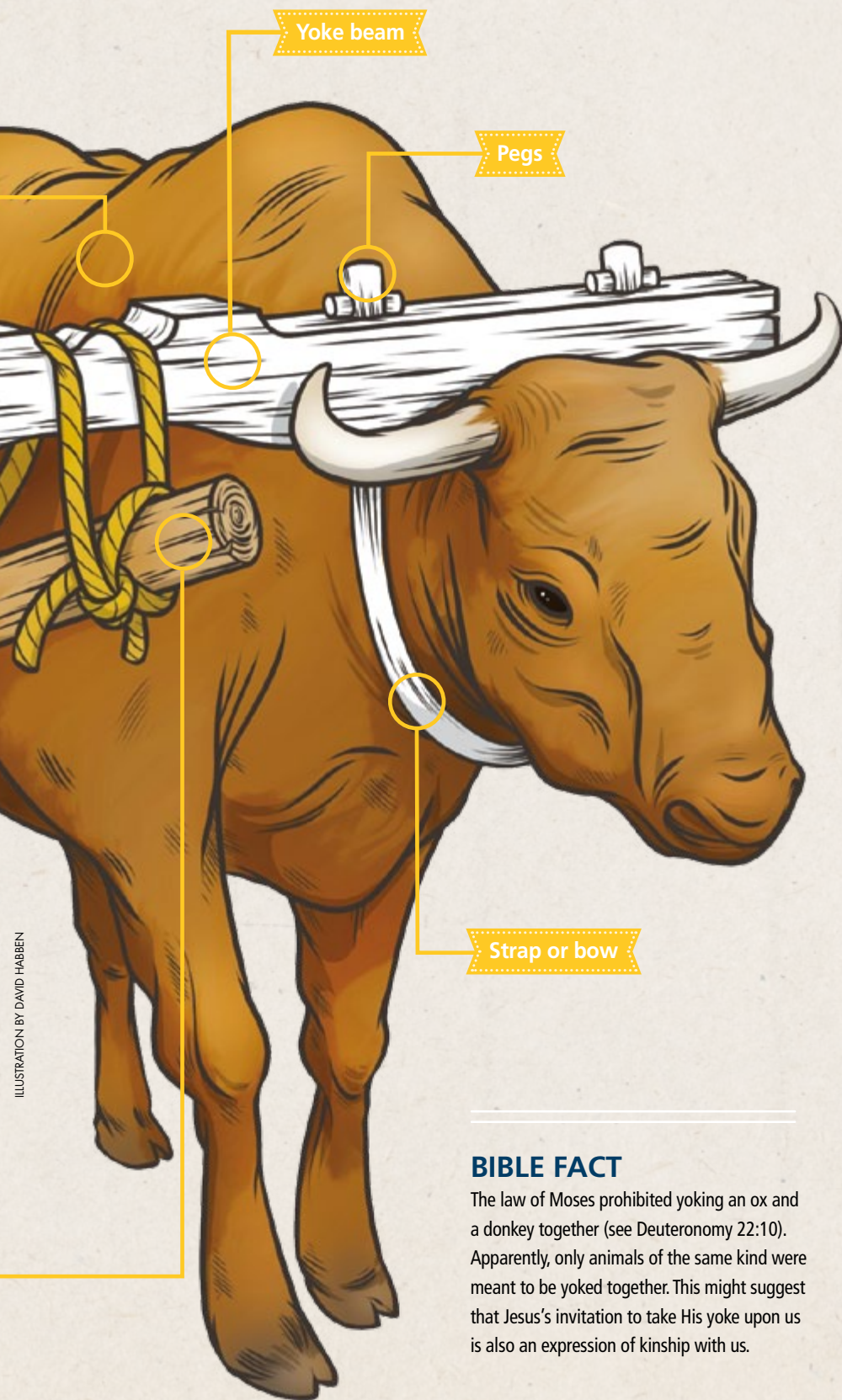
How it works: The beam rests in front of the shoulder hump (or withers), distributing weight and enabling natural and comfortable movement. Custom fitting each side allows oxen of unequal size or strength to pull together without one being dragged by the other.

YOKED WITH HIS POWER

"You come unto Christ to be yoked with Him and with His power, so that you're not pulling life's load alone. You're pulling life's load yoked with the Savior and Redeemer of the world, and suddenly your problems, no matter how serious they are, become lighter."

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Mission and Ministry of the Savior," *Ensign*, June 2005, 18.





“COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

“TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS.

“FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.”

MATTHEW 11:28-30

What

WE CAN LEARN

A yoke is:

- **Designed to carry burdens.** Why drag the heavy weight of sin around (see Isaiah 5:18)? When we repent and come unto the Savior, He takes that burden away and gives us peace and healing.

- **Intended to help get work done.** With the Lord’s yoke, we can help do His work (see Moses 1:39), and He will work with us (see Jacob 5:72). It’s still work, but in it we find rest to our souls.

- **Custom fitted.** It’s *His* yoke we take upon us—the one best suited for us, because His ways help us live in harmony with our true nature, “the nature of happiness” (Alma 41:11), and because the Savior knows us and can succor us individually (see Alma 7:12). **NE**

BIBLE FACT

The law of Moses prohibited yoking an ox and a donkey together (see Deuteronomy 22:10). Apparently, only animals of the same kind were meant to be yoked together. This might suggest that Jesus’s invitation to take His yoke upon us is also an expression of kinship with us.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HABBEEN

HE KNOWS WHO I AM

*God has
numberless
creations,
and He has
an individual
plan for me.*

By Whitney Wilcox

It's often easy to feel insignificant when you look at all that God has created in His infinite timetable. Seeing the vast differences in climates, people, and cultures just on this earth can be overwhelming.

Once while camping in the beautiful canyons of southern Utah, the group I was with hiked the rock formations and learned how water had worked away at the stones for thousands of years to form their current design. At night, we stared at the thousands of stars in awe. At times like these, I've had friends who have commented, "With such numerous creations, I don't think God knows me or cares about my life." What my friends fail to recognize is the reason for all of God's creations. Our loving Heavenly Father has made this miraculous planet for each of us so we may gain experience and find joy. In 2 Nephi 2:25, we read, "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy."

How could God put so much thought into the intricate workings of where we

live and how we function and then leave us on our own? He doesn't. Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) remarked, "When we say God has a plan, he

truly has a plan—not simply a grand scale, but for each of us as individuals" (*Deposition of a Disciple* [1976], 45). That doesn't mean everything will be easy on our road. Elder Maxwell explained, "The plan always points the way, but does not always smooth the way" ("The Great Plan of the Eternal God," *Ensign*, May 1984, 22). When something doesn't turn out the way we imagined, we need to remember God's eternal timetable and trust that there are reasons beyond our narrow scope of vision.

Proverbs 3:5 counsels, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." The Lord knows us and has crafted the world for our growth, development, and happiness. It is up to us to take advantage of those opportunities. With every talk in sacrament meeting, every time we succeed, and, indeed, every time we fail, we can learn and come closer to God, becoming more of what He would have for us. Heavenly Father will help us along our individual path if we keep the commandments and follow His will. **NE**

PHOTOGRAPH © ISTOCK



YOU ARE EVERYTHING TO GOD



“While we may look at the vast expanse of the universe and say, ‘What is man in comparison to the glory of creation?’ God Himself said we are

the reason He created the universe! His work and glory—the purpose for this magnificent universe—is to save and exalt mankind (see Moses 1:38–39). . . . Our Heavenly Father created the universe that we might reach our potential as His sons and daughters.

“This is a paradox of man: compared to God, man is nothing; yet we are everything to God. While against the backdrop of infinite creation we may appear to be nothing, we have a spark of eternal fire burning within our breast. We have the incomprehensible promise of exaltation—worlds without end—within our grasp. And it is God’s great desire to help us reach it.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “You Matter to Him,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 20.

Read More from Moses

Moses reached the same realization Whitney did—that each person matters to Heavenly Father even though He created worlds without end. Read about his experience in *Moses 1*.



I NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND

When my baby sister died, I couldn't make sense of the tragedy.

I am the fifth child in a family of nine kids. We've always gone to church on Sundays and had family night on Mondays. I was president of both the Beehive and Mia Maid classes. I guess I took my religion for granted. Nobody really asked me if I believed it, and I never really even asked myself.

That all changed one Sunday morning in March. My mother had risen early to warm our home with a brisk fire in our big rock fireplace. There was no other heat in the house, and Mother knew we'd get out of bed faster if we were warm.

My mother ignited the wood on the fireplace grate, and small flames started burning the kindling. My little brother and sister were lying on the couch in a big blanket.

A flame jumped onto the nozzle of a gasoline can that had been left on the hearth. My mother lunged to take the can outside but stumbled, and gasoline spilled across the room. Suddenly the curtains, walls, and furniture caught fire.

"Matthew! Mary! Fire!" My mother jumped toward her children, the flames of the fire building around her bathrobe.

Instantly the children roused. Older Matthew shielded our younger sister, and together they leapt through the flames, stumbling outside into the early morning rain.

My mother ran toward the back rooms, shouting for the rest of us. We older children awoke in a sleepy stupor. I remember feeling the heat on my face and hearing the crackle of burning wood. Thick smoke burned my

lungs and eyes. We escaped through our bedroom windows, dropping onto the cold, wet grass with our bare feet.

Sirens broke the air as a fire truck arrived and firefighters surrounded the area. My mother counted as eight pajama-clad children emerged from the home coughing, crying, and wheezing. My stomach heaved when I heard her gasp, "We left the baby in there!" She tried desperately to get back inside.

One of the men held my mother back while she fought at his grip, her arms reaching toward the fire and her baby. As jets of water struck the house, a fireman climbed into the billowing smoke of the baby's room. He returned within moments. He slumped to the grass, clutching my littlest sister. She wasn't breathing.



**Families
into Eternity**
President

Thomas S. Monson has said, "Life beyond the grave is as real and as certain as is our life here on earth" ("The Holy Temple—a Beacon to the World," *Ensign*, May 2011, 94). Watch a short video, "We Can Live with God Again," where he testifies of this truth, at lds.org/go/02F.



WHAT WE BELIEVE: LIFE AFTER DEATH

Few things in life are as hard to bear as losing a loved one. When someone close to you passes away, you may at first feel empty. Thankfully, the Lord does not leave you alone in doubt. He has provided you knowledge and truth so that you can better understand why death occurs and how we can come to terms with it. It's natural to grieve over the loss of a loved one. The Savior said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). The Comforter, the Holy Ghost, can soften the pain of your loss by helping you remember the importance of faith and hope, as well as the following truths:

1. Death is a part of God's plan.
2. Family relationships can continue beyond death.
3. Through Jesus Christ, all will be resurrected.

Gaining a testimony of these truths will enable you to see death for what it really is: a short-term separation before eternal life.

I watched my mother weep inconsolably. We had lost our home, clothes, even our childhood pictures. But nothing compared to the emptiness of losing our baby. How could this have happened?

We buried my sister three days later. The funeral left me empty and cold. I returned to our blackened home that afternoon and kicked at the embers. Heavy tears slid down my chin, and I turned and ran toward a nearby field. Sorrow overwhelmed me, and I dropped to my knees. For the first time in my life, I prayed—I mean *really* prayed. I opened not only my mouth but also my heart. The words that followed were not repetitious or planned. My pain spilled out, and I cried, "I need to understand. Why did this happen?"

Something changed. My body started to warm from the inside out. It was more than the warmth of a physical touch. My soul awakened, and I felt comfort and love. It was as though Heavenly Father were saying, "I understand."

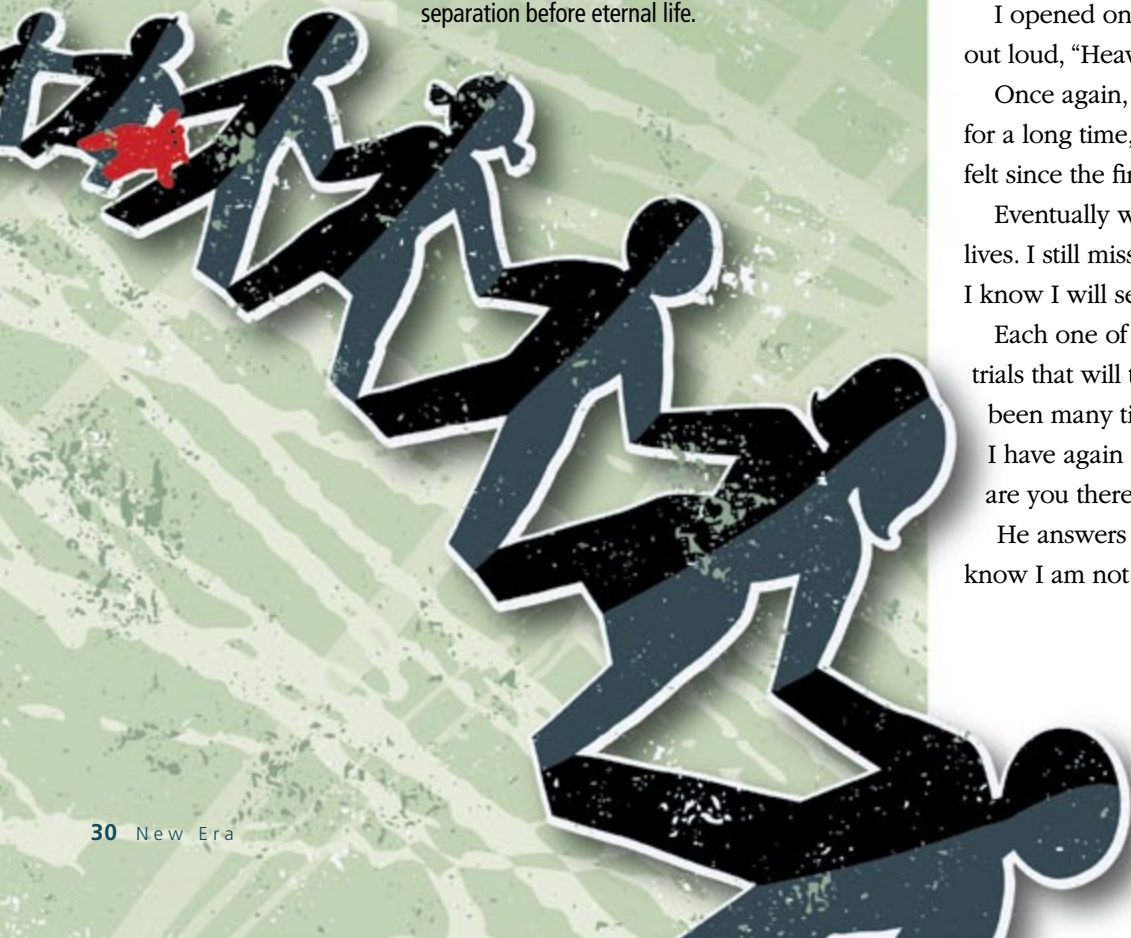
I opened one eye toward heaven and said out loud, "Heavenly Father, is that you?"

Once again, I felt it. I stayed on my knees for a long time, clinging to the first peace I'd felt since the fire. Heavenly Father was there.

Eventually we rebuilt our home and our lives. I still miss my sister, but I am at peace. I know I will see her again.

Each one of us will have to go through trials that will tear at our hearts. There have been many times since that morning that I have again asked, "Heavenly Father, are you there?"

He answers in that quiet voice, and I know I am not alone. **NE**



Winning with SCIENCE

Jayme W. used to wake up during the night hearing her little sister, Katie, cough and struggle to breathe. Katie has cystic fibrosis, and the buildup of mucus in her lungs makes it hard to breathe. When Katie started on a new treatment, Jayme decided to write a science paper about it. She submitted the paper to an international science competition and ended up winning first place among 10,000 entries.

What was your paper about? I wrote my paper on hypertonic saline therapy. Basically, the therapy is a seven percent salt concentration solution that is inhaled as a vapor. It goes into the cells of the lungs, and it draws out the mucus in the cells and makes it easier for the patient to cough up the mucus.

How has your testimony been strengthened through working with your sister? I have definitely seen the hand of God in the transformation of my sister from a sickly child. Seeing color in her face, watching her develop a love for running, and watching her feel well has been so miraculous. I know that could have been accomplished only with the help of God. My testimony of the love of God for each of us has grown immensely.

What has science taught you about gaining spiritual knowledge? In science and research, you don't just get the answers handed to you. Knowledge is built step by step, and you have to do a lot of work on your own. You have to experiment, try different things, and if something doesn't work, you just have to try again. Spiritual knowledge is also gained in small increments. The answers don't come all at once, just a little bit at a time. Like gaining scientific knowledge, you also have to do research on your own like studying the scriptures, pondering, and praying. And if the answer doesn't come right away, you have to keep trying.

What is your favorite scripture? My favorite scripture is Luke 1:37, which states, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." This is such a simple statement, yet it is so profound! Just the thought that with God we can do anything fills me with hope and courage. **NE**

—As told to Mindy Raye Friedman

Name: Jayme W.
Age: 16
Location: Utah
Fun facts: Won first place in the senior division (grades 10–12) of the DuPont Challenge science competition with her paper "Salt: Enhancing Lives One Breath at a Time." Was invited to participate in the White House science fair. Other interests include theater, piano, and violin.



Communication BREAKDOWN

By David A. Edwards
Church Magazines

Here are some things to consider when talking about the Church with those who aren't members.

Imagine you're talking to someone who says this: "They told me our combination was *pas de bourrée*, *glissade*, *grand jeté*, but I knew I was supposed to do *glissade*, *glissade*, *pas de chat*."

Or this: "During *stoppage time* their *winger* got a *red card* after arguing about a *foot fault*. On the following *set play* our *striker* was able to *trap* the *cross* and score."

If you know ballet, you probably understood the first statement. And if you know soccer, you probably understood the second statement. But if you'd never learned about these things, you'd have little idea what these people were saying. These are examples of *jargon*—special words and phrases that are particular to a certain activity or group.

As you may know, in the Church we have our own jargon that's pretty difficult for others to understand. When we talk with people about the Church, our intent should be to help them understand who we are and what we believe so that they can feel the Spirit—or at least become more

comfortable with us and not feel like outsiders when they're with a group of Latter-day Saint youth. Jargon often gets in the way of this goal.

On the next page are some of the more obscure expressions you might consider simplifying when you talk with people about the Church.

This list isn't comprehensive, nor is it meant to suggest that you should never use these words in conversation. It's merely meant to make you aware of how jargon can sometimes be an obstacle to communication. It's OK to use our accustomed vocabulary—as long as you can explain it and the explanation doesn't distract from your main message.

Above all, remember that your purpose as a disciple of Christ is ultimately to help people come unto Him so that they can return to our Heavenly Father. Choosing our words carefully may seem like a small thing, but it might crack open the door of understanding just enough for someone to eventually feel comfortable about entering in completely. **NE**



BUILD UNDERSTANDING

“When opportunities present themselves to you in the course of your lives,

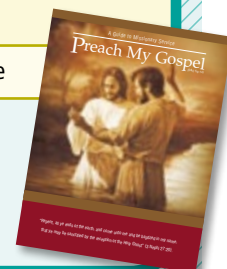
may the Lord bless you to share the gospel generously and kindly with [those] who are not members of the Church to bring about a better understanding of the restoration of the gospel. That is our responsibility as Christians. That is the responsibility of every member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Building Bridges of Understanding,” *Ensign*, June 1998, 68.

WHAT WE SAY	WHAT OTHERS MAY HEAR	WHAT WE MIGHT SAY INSTEAD
My ward . . .	My area of the hospital . . .	My congregation . . .
The stake dance is at the stake center.	The dance involving cuts of meat is at a storage center for cuts of meat.	The regional youth dance is at the regional church building.
At Mutual, we . . .	At the common [word missing], we . . .	At our youth activity night, we . . .
In this last dispensation . . .	In this last [something-or-other] . . .	In our day . . .
Apostasy	A lake of noodles?	Falling away
Deacons, teachers, priests	Men who work for a church, people who teach in school, and religious men in robes	Young men 12–13 years old, 14–15 years old, and 16–17 years old
Beehives, Mia Maids, Laurels	Where bees live, [no idea], and some kind of plants	Young women 12–13 years old, 14–15 years old, and 16–17 years old
Celestial kingdom	A fairy-tale land, maybe?	Heaven, or where Heavenly Father lives
Premortal existence	A parallel universe, perhaps?	Our life as spirits before we came to earth
I’m going to seminary.	I’m studying to become a minister.	I’m going to religion classes for youth.
We’re going to do baptisms for the dead.	We’re going to do something morbid.	We’re going to the temple to do special ceremonies on behalf of our ancestors.
My older brother is in institute.	My older brother is in an asylum.	My older brother goes to religion classes for young adults.
The gospel has been restored.	The stories in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have been renovated. or Christ’s message has been refurbished. or Christianity as a whole has been repaired.	The Church that Christ established was changed and fell away, and now it’s been brought back, along with His true teachings.
We have our agency.	We have our business with clients.	We are free to choose.
Word of Wisdom	Good advice	Health code

➤ Find More Terms

Look through chapter 3 of *Preach My Gospel*, which contains principles for missionaries to study and teach. Under the heading “Key Definitions” (pages 44, 58, 70), you’ll find lists of terms people may have trouble understanding.



Dear

FUTURE MISSIONARIES

By Caleb N. Porter

Now that I'm in the mission field, here are some things I wish I'd learned before I left.

Editor's note: While serving as a full-time missionary in the Mexico Torreón Mission, Elder Porter wrote this letter home to the younger members of his family.

I wanted to share some insights I have gained on how to better prepare to serve a full-time mission. These insights have come to me gradually with experience and time, and I hope by sharing them that I can encourage you to begin to prepare now to have greater success in your missionary efforts.

Learn to Talk to People

One of the first things I learned is the importance of being able to carry on a conversation with people face-to-face. Texting and social media can be wonderful tools, but they cannot replace the dynamic exchange that takes place while you're simply conversing with someone. If you are in the grocery line, talk with the person next to you, even if it's simply about the weather.

The best place to start is in your own home. Have conversations with your family. Talk with your parents and siblings about various things, and tell them how you feel. Learn how to express yourself. Your missionary efforts will be more successful if you can lessen your fear of talking to people, especially to complete strangers, about things that matter to you.

Talking to strangers can be hard, but it's a reality of missionary work—you will be talking with strangers

for the majority of your mission. The more you can learn to look someone in the eye and share your feelings, the greater the opportunities you will have to invite the Spirit to be a part of your conversations. You will also learn that even though folks may be "strangers" to you initially, all are in reality your brothers and sisters, so do not be afraid to "open your mouths" (D&C 33:8–9).





Learn to **Listen** and Then Act

You will be spending a lot of time listening to those you teach. They will share with you their thoughts, feelings, and even their doubts. Learn to sincerely listen. This will help you to more easily recognize the challenges your investigators may be facing and to more specifically address their concerns (see *Preach My Gospel* [2004], 185–86). Begin now by learning to listen sincerely to your sisters, brothers, parents, and friends. While you're listening, learn to forget yourself in the process. Don't focus on how you're going to fix other people's problems or respond to their concerns. Instead, just listen and allow the Spirit to direct you on what you should say and when.

This can be challenging, especially if you're learning a new language. I have noticed that if I become too focused on what to say or how to say things correctly with the language, then I often lose the chance for the Spirit to guide my thoughts and words. I have begun to learn how to focus on acting when the Spirit prompts me.

Learn to **Follow the Spirit**

One of the biggest blessings during my time of service has been learning the importance of acting on promptings when they are received. When the Spirit tells me to do something, I try to do it, no matter how small it may seem. For instance, I felt prompted to pray for rain while teaching a family for the first time. The little rancho where I am serving has been in drought for several years and rarely sees rain, but the Spirit prompted me to ask for rain. That night, it rained. This made such a strong impression that the family asked us to return to continue to teach the gospel.



Learn to **Ask Questions**

I have learned the importance of asking questions when prompted by the Spirit. To you future missionaries, I would recommend that you practice asking questions. In doing so, learn to be direct so that you can help others get to the heart of their concerns. From my brief observations, I have seen that successful missionaries are those who have learned the principle of listening and then asking questions that promote pondering. This approach





has been much more successful for me than trying to force a conversation that is one-sided or trying to prove the truthfulness of the gospel by logic alone. I have instead learned the significance of inviting others to learn for themselves by asking important gospel questions that invite deeper contemplation, reflection, and personal study.

Learn to Be Bold

I have learned the importance of being bold. We sometimes invite those we teach to set a baptismal date during our first visit. Initially, this was really scary for me, but I have seen many times the fruits of extending the invitation of baptism during that first visit. As I was reading the Book of Mormon, I realized that one of the first things Christ did during his visit to the Americas was to invite those He taught to be baptized in His name (see 3 Nephi 11:23). Baptism is the gateway that allows individuals to partake of the gospel and eventually receive temple blessings. This is one reason we serve missions—to extend the same invitation and blessings to all of God's children.

Therefore, be bold with those around you. Invite your friends to seminary, Church services, and activities. Invite them to hear the missionary lessons if prompted. Invite them to hear your testimony. As missionaries, you will have both the responsibility and authority to invite people to repent and “come unto Christ” (D&C 20:59). Remember, you have something of “great price” to share; there is no reason to hold back. Learn to be bold and direct.



Learn to Love

Perhaps most important, learn to sincerely love those you will have the opportunity to teach. Pray for them, serve them, and show them that you care, and they will begin to have confidence in you as a representative of Jesus Christ.



THE LOST LAMB, BY DEL PARSON

If you begin to prepare now by talking to others, listening to their concerns, asking questions as prompted by the Spirit, and then learning to be bold and to love, I know the Lord will bless you in your missionary efforts. **NE**

More Ways to Learn

Find additional help to prepare for missionary work in *Preach My Gospel* (see [lds.org/go/02G](https://www.lds.org/go/02G)) and the *New Era* special issue on missionary preparation ([lds.org/go/02H](https://www.lds.org/go/02H)).

LOOKING FORWARD TO
RELIEF SOCIETY



When your 18th birthday approaches, you may wonder what it will be like to attend Relief Society instead of Young Women. Here are answers to some of the questions you may ask yourself.

WHEN DO I SWITCH FROM YOUNG WOMEN TO RELIEF SOCIETY?

Young women usually advance to Relief Society on their 18th birthday or in the coming year. The exact day you advance to Relief Society will depend on your individual circumstances, including school graduation, college attendance, and your desire to continue with your peers. Counsel with your parents and bishop or branch president to decide the right time for you. By age 19, however, you should be participating fully in Relief Society.



On the first Sunday of each month, the lesson topic is selected and given by the Relief Society presidency. On the second and third Sundays, you'll have a lesson from a manual (this year, it's *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: George Albert Smith*). On the fourth Sunday, you'll study a talk from a recent general conference. When you enter Relief Society, you can ask for a manual and lesson schedule so you can read the material before class each week.

DOES RELIEF SOCIETY HAVE ACTIVITIES LIKE WE DO IN MUTUAL?

There will usually be one activity (called a "Relief Society meeting") every month, though the Relief Society president may hold them more or less often. These meetings might include classes to help you learn new skills or strengthen your testimony, service activities, or other gatherings so you can get to know the sisters in your ward and stake. Just like you did in Mutual, you can invite friends who are not members of the Church to these meetings.

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR RELIEF SOCIETY?

You're probably more prepared than you think. The first thing you'll want to know is that Relief Society has three purposes. They are to help women:

1. Increase faith and personal righteousness.
2. Strengthen families and homes.
3. Seek out and help those in need.

WHAT WILL RELIEF SOCIETY MEETINGS BE LIKE ON SUNDAY?

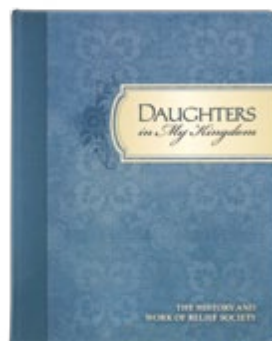
Relief Society meetings are a lot like Young Women meetings. You have opening exercises and a lesson.

On the first Sunday of each month, the lesson topic is selected and given by the Relief Society presidency. On the second and third Sundays, you'll have a lesson from a manual (this year, it's *Teachings of Presidents of the*

You're already doing a lot of these things in Young Women and Personal Progress, so Relief Society will help you continue them.

If you'd like to know more about Relief Society, read *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society*, which you can find in distribution centers or online at [lds.org/go/02J](https://www.lds.org/go/02J).

If your ward has a combined Relief Society and Young Women activity, you may want to go and talk with Relief Society sisters. You'll start to build friendships that will continue when you enter Relief Society.



WHAT WILL VISITING TEACHING BE LIKE?

You'll have the opportunity and responsibility to be a visiting teacher and to have visiting teachers of your own. Visiting teachers are often assigned in companionships, and they can become friends who help watch over, strengthen, and teach you. So if you find yourself in need, you can ask them for help; and if the sisters you visit teach are in need, they can ask you for help.

Where possible, you'll meet with each sister you visit teach at least once a month. You may share the "Visiting Teaching Message" from the *Ensign*. Location and travel circumstances may limit communications to phone calls, letters, or e-mails.

Visiting teaching is more than just a single visit—it's a way to nurture each sister throughout the month. It might include sitting by her in Relief Society, praying for her daily, sending her a text message just to say hello, or wishing her well if you know

she has a big event coming up. Visiting teaching is a great way to form friendships with sisters you may not have grown as close to otherwise, it helps you learn gospel doctrines and principles with each month's message, and it helps you serve Heavenly Father as an instrument in His hands.

HOW CAN I MAKE FRIENDS WITH RELIEF SOCIETY SISTERS WHO ARE A LOT OLDER THAN I AM?

It's natural to think you don't have much in common with older sisters, but rather than focus on your differences, think about everything you have in common. Remember that a lot of the women know something about what you're going through at this age. They wondered what they would do after finishing high school, looked forward to working or getting an education, dated, and prepared for marriage. Ask them about

their experiences, and see how much you can learn. And think of how you can learn and share with them too, such as teaching them more about technology. You all have ways to help each other, and service is a great way to make friendships.

You can also participate in Sunday lessons. Try to make comments, even if it feels intimidating. Share your experiences as well. As the sisters learn more about you, it will help you all to grow closer to one another. **NE**




DIVINELY ORGANIZED

"[Relief Society] is divinely made, divinely authorized, divinely instituted, divinely ordained of God."

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918), *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* (1998), 184.

Watch a Video

View a short video about Relief Society online at lds.org/go/02K.



Write a letter of thanks to your parents or a teacher at school or at church.

SURPRISE



your parents by washing the dishes, vacuuming, or doing other chores even when it's not your turn.

VISIT senior citizens at a nursing home.



Sit with someone new at school or in class at church.



SEND A

thank-you

note to one of your leaders after an especially meaningful lesson or activity.

13 Simple

SERVICE

SUGGESTIONS

Service ideas don't always need to be done on a large scale to make a difference. Consider some of these ideas this month.

Start a book club in your area. Or help **TEACH** siblings or other children how to read.



Teach a friend how to make a **friendship**

bracelet (or teach some other skill you have).



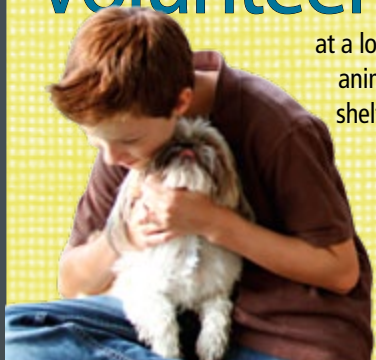
Wake up early and secretly wash

your family's car.



Volunteer

at a local animal shelter.



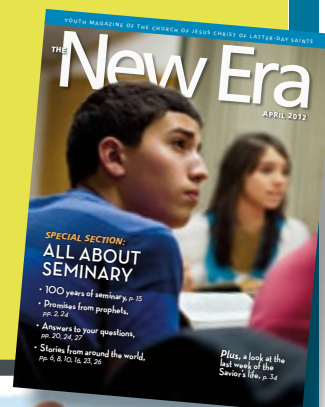
Brighten someone's day with a

SMILE.



share

your copy of the *New Era* with a friend who does not subscribe to it.



Worldwide Humanitarian Relief Programs

Sometimes people might have the impression that the Church and its members serve only other Church members. They might ask, "What does the Church do for people who are not Latter-day Saints?"

The answer is that Church members all over the world regularly engage in service, both individually and in groups, for both Latter-day Saints and those who are not Church members. One might clean up after an earthquake, another might donate or serve food at a homeless shelter, or a youth group might offer to paint picnic tables at a park. As you serve in your community, you help others see that Church members give service to people of all backgrounds.

For years the Church has administered a huge worldwide humanitarian relief program providing disaster relief (in 2010, it aided people affected by 119 disasters in 58 countries), as well as other humanitarian efforts, including bringing clean water systems to communities, teaching about newborn healthcare, establishing vision care programs, providing wheelchairs, offering training for improved food production, and funding immunizations worldwide. These services are given without regard to the religion of the recipients, because we believe Heavenly Father loves all His children and wants us to serve them all.

For humanitarian service ideas, go to lds.org/service/humanitarian/help.



Offer to **COOK** dinner for your family or a neighbor one night.



Pick up trash in your neighborhood, such as at a school or in a park.

QUOTES FROM CONFERENCE

“What a blessing it is to have the account of the mission of our Lord and Savior declared in the Book of Mormon to add a second witness to the doctrine declared in the Bible. . . . Both the Bible and the Book of Mormon are necessary for our salvation and exaltation.”

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Power of Deliverance,” *Ensign*, May 2012, 96.

KEEPING THE TEMPLE IN SIGHT

When my family went to the Los Angeles California Temple, I was thinking about all I’ve been taught about the temple. “Always look to the temple” kept coming to my mind. I came up with this camera angle and took a picture of the temple reflected in my sunglasses. I looked up and thought again how we must enter the temple with a pure heart and a burning testimony of and love for the gospel of Jesus Christ. This picture describes what we must do—always look to the temple.

Kandace M., 16, California, USA

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KANDACE M.



MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

This is my favorite scripture because when I read it I feel good because the Prophet Joseph Smith read that verse. It also tells that every time I have problems

I can ask for help from Heavenly Father and the Savior.
Bryson R., 12, Utah, USA



Tell us about your favorite scripture in a paragraph or two. Send it to us, along with a photo, by going to newera.lds.org and clicking “Submit Material.”

SPELLING OUT “MORMON.ORG”

My friend Ashley and I came up with an idea for a spirit day held at our junior high school in Washington. The theme was “Scrabble Day,” where students wear a letter on their shirt and mix up, spelling different words throughout the day and taking pictures with different students. So the night before, we got a group of youth from the stake and our seminary classes to each wear a different letter in “Mormon.org.”

Little did we know that morning when we lined up to take a picture that it would bring so much positive attention to us as youth of the Church and how far our message of standing for what we believe in would travel. As soon as we lined up, a huge crowd formed; hundreds of students circled around and watched us and read the message on our shirts.

We were being a standard to our peers, because they know what kind of people we represent at school. The best part was that after taking the picture, throughout the school day we each were asked questions and got complimented for our spirit-day idea. Kids who didn’t know we were Latter-day Saints before were asking us about our faith, and we were able to answer their questions with confidence.

Maddie M., 15, Washington, USA



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MADDIE M.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BRYSON R.

CHURCH DANCE SURVEY RESULTS

The *New Era* recently held a survey on Church dances. We asked teens who subscribe to the *New Era* newsletter and on our Facebook page to tell us about Church dances in their areas. Here are some interesting things we found out:

- About 40% of you have heard of non-LDS teens who have sought out LDS Church dances.
- Over 84% of you hold dances at least twice a year, with 42% of you holding them more than six times a year.
- Some of you wish your adult leaders would pay closer attention to the lyrics of the songs and do something about it when inappropriate songs are played.
- You much prefer Church dances to other kinds of dances because of the standards that are kept and because there's less drama and more fun.

If you'd like to join our e-mail list and get regular newsletters, usually sent monthly, just say so in an e-mail to newera@ldschurch.org.

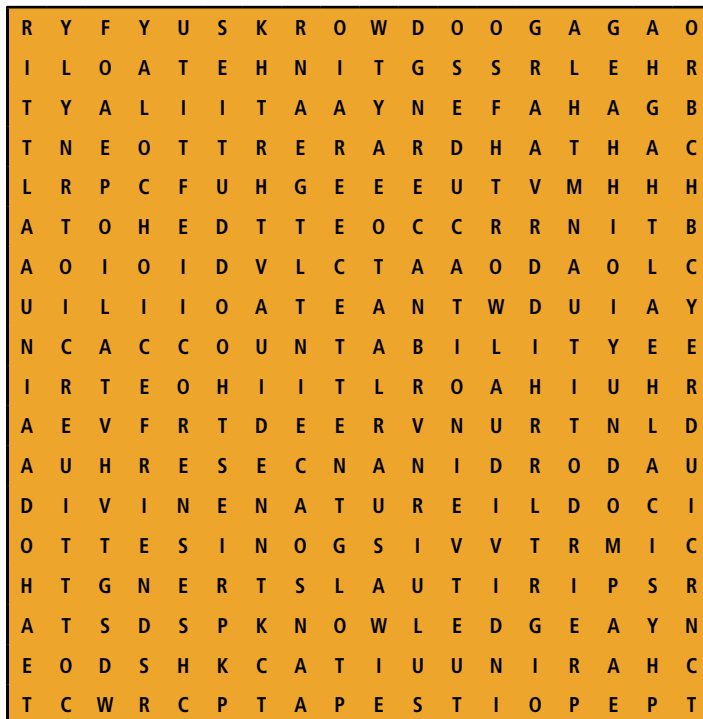


5 POEMS

QUOTED BY PRESIDENT MONSON

- "Maud Muller," by John Greenleaf Whittier
- "The Gate of the Year," by Minnie Louise Haskins
- "Little Boy Blue," by Eugene Field
- "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood," by William Wordsworth
- "Woody and Won," by Gerald Massey

SEARCHING FOR PROGRESS AND DUTY



See if you can find each of these topics discussed in the *Personal Progress* or *Duty to God* booklets.

Faith	Accountability	Priesthood Duties	Ordinances
Divine Nature	Good Works	Physical Health	Learn
Individual Worth	Integrity	Education	Act
Knowledge	Virtue	Family	Share
Choice	Spiritual Strength	Friends	

BY THE NUMBERS

Approximate number of individual devices (computers, phones, etc.) streaming live video feeds of the April 2012 general conference. You can view conference at conference.lds.org.

667,000

WE'VE GOT MAIL

Ready for General Conference

Last conference I wrote down some questions I had about things happening in my life and prayed to receive answers during general conference. During conference I took notes, and when I reviewed my questions, I realized that all my questions had been answered. Some were simply reminders of what I already knew, and some were answered in unlikely ways. General conference is a blessing in so many ways.

Grace H., 18, Taiwan

Promise to Heavenly Father

I really love the gospel because it helps me to do and be what the Lord expects. Sometimes I feel it is hard for me to act as the Lord expects, but the scriptures and my patriarchal blessing remind me of who I am and what I promised to do before I was here on earth. I will not fail in that promise to Heavenly Father.

Jay Ann B., 19, Philippines

Strength through Trials

Reading about other teenagers going through everyday trials helps me get through my own. It's good to know that we're not alone and others are going through what we are. When you share an experience, it helps everyone who reads it.

Ty C., 16, Utah, USA

Dating and Relationships (from youth.lds.org)

I am 15, almost 16, and I really needed this message [see "But We Were in Love" at lds.org/go/02L]. There is this guy I have had a "special interest" in since I met him at my first stake dance. Living on the East Coast, my opportunities to date other LDS members are limited, but I still didn't want to start "dating" the day I turned 16. Overall, I wasn't sure how to handle a future situation that could have turned into one like in this story. This article answered my prayers about this guy and relationships in general.

Marissa Lynn C., 15, USA

DUSTY THE CAT

Dusty the Cat entered our lives unexpectedly. He looked to be at death's door. A filthy coat of long, matted hair hung on his boney frame, and dull eyes peered from his sad face. Dad decided to keep Dusty as a shop cat. Slowly the bedraggled feline regained his health. Matted fur became clean and beautiful.



COMFORTED AT NIGHT

But after several years, Dusty began acting funny. We took him to the veterinarian and found out that Dusty had gone blind.

Instead of confining Dusty to the safety of the shop, Dad installed a wire fence extending to the house and back. The small enclosure allowed Dusty to enjoy the outdoors without being in danger. Whenever Dad was near, Dusty would wander toward his voice until bumping into the fence. He would then move along the fence, getting closer to the familiar sound. At mealtimes, Dad would gently pick him up and carry him to food and fresh water.

When I first saw this, it reminded me of how we all come to our Father in Heaven, blind and in need. We are loved and comforted while being fed the bread of life and led to living waters (see John 4:6–14; 6:47–58). Our coats of sin are cleansed through the Atonement as we repent and live righteously. We can hear His voice through the Spirit and move toward our Father in Heaven without seeing Him. He will carry us gently toward eternal life.

The tenderness exhibited by my dad for Dusty may seem insignificant, but it illustrates part of the great love and mercy our Heavenly Father has for us.
Cynthia B., Wyoming, USA

THE STRENGTH TO RESIST

For many young people, the high school years can be difficult. The pressure to fit in with the crowd—coupled with school, sports, and the struggle to find an identity—can create

One morning as I watched TV, I came across a show about ghosts. Watching it unsettled me, and I switched off the TV. I've always had a hard time separating fact from fiction. I have a vivid imagination, and often I can't help but conjure up images and situations in my mind that turn my blood cold.

That night, the memory of the ghost stories assaulted me, and I lay in my bed in wide-eyed terror. My imagination wouldn't stop, and I was literally afraid for my life.

I turned on my lamp and prayed for peace.

Finishing my prayer, I opened my scriptures. As I read, my anxiety slowly faded. I felt the comforting

situations that make it hard to live life in harmony with gospel standards. I was certainly no exception. There were many times when I questioned both my ability to live righteously and my strength to overcome temptation. I watched a close friend, who was a Church member, fall to temptation. I saw him continually make poor decisions until he dropped out of school and began to refuse my aid and advice. As I saw most of my friends surrender themselves to Satan's will, and as I felt a separation growing between us, I feared I would be the next to fall.

I began to realize, however, that whenever I was faced with a difficult



impression that my Heavenly Father was aware of my fears. He would protect me. I read on, clinging to the growing feeling of comfort.

I read Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee

withersoever thou goest."

I wasn't really alone. I was reassured that Heavenly Father is aware of me and knows my fears. I closed my book and drifted off into peaceful sleep.

I know that Heavenly Father will always be there for me. In a world where apprehension and uncertainty threaten peace of mind, we can take refuge in the Lord.

Megan G., Colorado, USA

decision, I had already made the choice. I knew what was right, and I had already decided that I was going to serve a mission.

Ever since I was young, I have been eagerly looking forward to serving a mission, and I don't want to do anything to put that in jeopardy. This desire and goal to serve has been a tremendous blessing in my life. I think it has truly separated me from my friends in high school. This sense of purpose has helped me in all of my decisions. I have not even served a full-time mission yet, but already I can feel the blessings that I am receiving because of my choices.

John S., Colorado, USA

THE POWER OF PRAYER

One day I decided to visit my granny who lives far away in the country. She invited me over for lunch and to ride her horses. We had a wonderful afternoon together and enjoyed each other's company. After we talked for a couple of hours, it was time for me to go. I started up my motorcycle and began my long journey home.

After two hours of driving I was in the middle of nowhere. Suddenly my motorbike ran out

of gasoline. I couldn't believe it! And my grandmother was too far away to help. I put my hand in my pocket to look for my cell phone, but it wasn't there. I was terrified. Where could it be? I must have dropped it in the road.

I thought I had no way out of this situation. I had no idea what to do. Then suddenly I felt a voice

that said: "Pray always, that you may come off conqueror" (D&C 10:5). So I decided to pray. In that moment two of my friends appeared and rescued me.

I know that God hears our prayers. The Savior taught, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

"For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8).

I know that it is true. Sometimes He may not answer as we expect, but He does answer—in His own time and according to His will.

Cristian L., Uruguay



Josh B. didn't let a lacrosse injury keep him down. When a concussion temporarily prevented him from being able to read, watch TV, or use a computer, he decided to pass the time knitting hats. This led to unexpected opportunities to share the gospel.



When did you first get into knitting? My sister learned to knit five years ago during a Beehive activity. I thought it was pretty cool, so she taught me how to do it. Then one Saturday my mom suggested that I do something productive while I watched a college football game. So I started knitting as a service project. I figured it would be a great Duty to God or Scouting project.

How did your friends find out about your knitting? During lacrosse, I got hit in the back of the head with a stick. I got a concussion and had to avoid anything that would stimulate my brain while I was healing—anything with flashing lights or anything that would make me think too hard, like heavy reading or math.

I had to take it easy for about a week. I was really bored, so my mom suggested I

could pass the time by knitting a hat. I was going to watch my lacrosse team play that night, so I decided to make a hat using our team colors and wear it to the game. My friends couldn't believe I had made it myself. Someone asked if they could buy one from me, and that's when I got the idea to sell hats to help pay for my mission. Since then, I've sold about 300 hats.

Has this project had other positive effects?

People always want to know where I learned to knit. So I tell them the story, starting with my sister in Beehives, and it opens up questions about the Church. Now, because of these hats, even students from other schools know that I'm a Latter-day Saint and want to ask me questions about my beliefs.

What has this experience taught you? I've learned that even bad things can have good outcomes. Getting the concussion wasn't fun at all, but from that I've been able to earn money for my mission and even do some missionary work right now.

Also, you shouldn't be afraid to share your talents. We are all representatives of the Church, and other people see that. Being in high school is a great missionary opportunity. People have questions, so let them know about the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. **NE**

The Glad Hatter

—As told to Christopher Fosse



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JOSH B.

HOW TO DEFEND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



By Elder Quentin L. Cook

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

I know I can show others what I believe by how I treat those around me.
Hunter S.

It's so important to not argue with anyone about their beliefs, but don't be afraid to defend and stand up for your own.
Tori D.

We can help make laws and regulations to help others live a better life.
Andrew H.

challenge you to work with people of other faiths to **improve the moral fabric of the world** and to protect religious freedom. How can you help bring about this restoration of morality in our day and help preserve religious freedom?

1. Be a righteous example. You must **not be in camouflage** as to who you are and what you believe. We need to be the best examples we can possibly be. Collectively, our example will be more important than what any single member or leader proposes.

2. Be civil in your discourse. We live in a world where there is much turmoil. Our faith requires that we **treat our neighbors with respect**. In general conference I pointed out, "There are some who feel that venting their personal anger or deeply held opinions is more important than conducting themselves as Jesus Christ lived and taught. . . . It is appropriate to disagree, but it is not appropriate to be disagreeable" ("We Follow Jesus Christ," *Ensign*, May 2010, 84–85).

3. Be an advocate for religious freedom and morality. This is a time when those who feel accountable to God for their conduct feel under siege by a secular world. Religious freedom all over the world is under attack. It is important for your generation to **become well educated** on this issue and **assume responsibility** for insuring that the religious freedom you have inherited is passed on to future generations.

All religions hold truths, and we should **work together for the common good**. Our joint effort should be to **protect important civic values** like honesty, morality, self-restraint, respect for law, and basic human rights. Our challenge is to help people without religious faith understand that the protection of moral principles grounded in religion is a great benefit to society and that religious devotion is critical to public virtue.

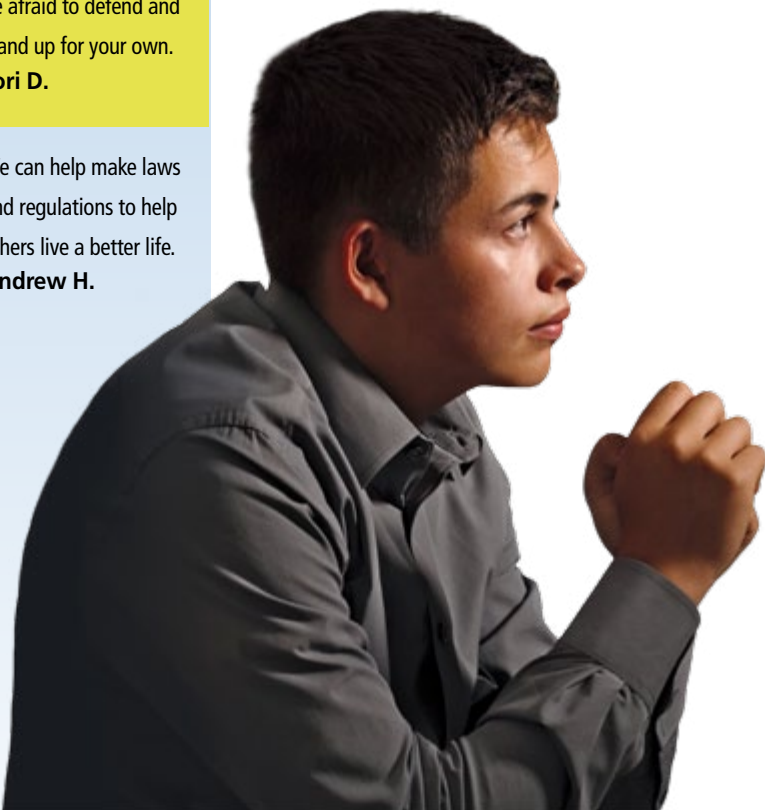
One of the reasons the attack on the moral or religious principles has been so successful is the reluctance of people of faith to **express their views**. Extraordinary effort will be required to protect religious liberty. Our doctrine confirms, "No government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience" (D&C 134:2).

Join with people of all faiths who feel accountable to God in defending religious freedom so it can be a beacon for morality. We caution you to be civil and responsible. We ask that you do this on the Internet and in your personal interactions. Be an active participant, not a silent observer. **NE**

Adapted from a December 2011 commencement address at BYU–Idaho, "The Restoration of Morality and Religious Freedom."

Share Your Experiences

Share *your* experiences in applying this principle and read the experiences of other youth by going to lds.org/go/02M.





Clean

By Jenny Rawlings

With its perfectly straight veins,
The leaf knows when to change,
That it cannot remain
On the tree to which it is chained.

As it falls, it forgets, the thin mist
Obscuring all but one important detail—
Knowledge, complicated, but beginning to untwist.
Drifting gently into the water, red turns pale;
Then it is gone.

WHAT'S ONLINE

General Conference Archives



Did you know that you can watch, listen to, and read general conference talks within days after it happens? Just head to **conference.lds.org**, where you can even download

the audio files for your MP3 player.

Youth Making a Difference

All around the world, youth like you are helping to strengthen their families, whether they come from a family of Church members or are the only Church members in their families. Watch a video with several youth sharing their experiences in “Shining Forth in the Family” at **lds.org/go/02N**.

Family History and Rock Climbing

How does family history relate to rock climbing? Find out what one young man has to say in a video at **lds.org/go/02P** (click on “Experience of Devin”). You’ll find even more video experiences of youth doing family history at **lds.org/fhy** (click on “Experiences”).



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

