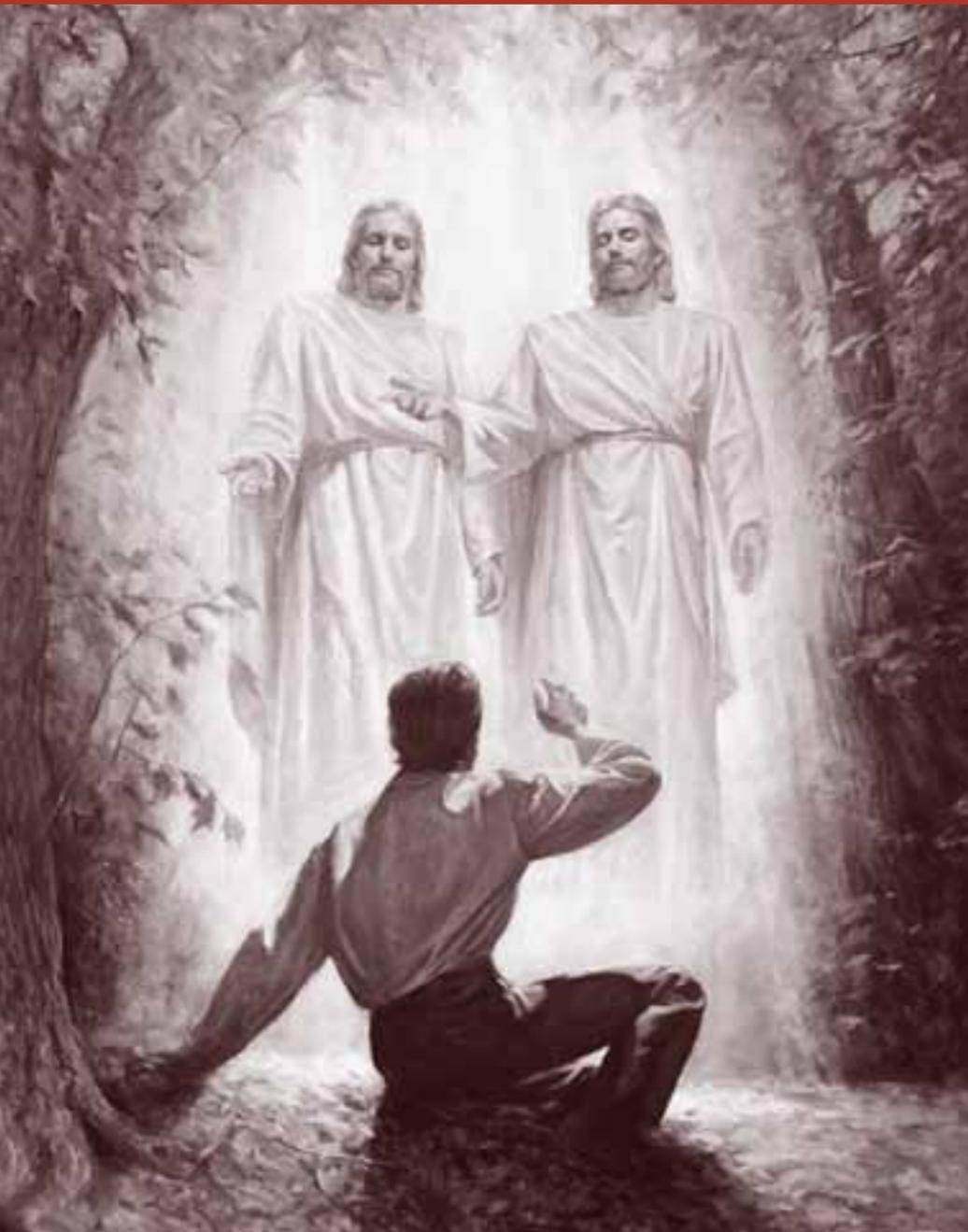


Doctrine and Covenants and Church History

Class Member Study Guide



Introduction

Referring to the revelations recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord said, “Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled” (D&C 1:37). As you study the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history in Gospel Doctrine class and in your families this year, you have the opportunity to learn of commandments, prophecies, and promises that will help you draw nearer to the Lord.

Format of This Study Guide

This study guide has been prepared to help you study the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history. The guide is divided into numbered sections that correspond with the lessons in the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine course. Each section provides the week’s reading assignment, along with questions and other information to enhance your study. You may use the questions to improve personal application of the scriptures and to prepare to make meaningful contributions to class discussions. You may also use the study guide to prompt gospel-centered discussions among family members.

Also included in each section is a scripture chain—a list of scripture passages that relate to the reading assignment. You may want to write these lists in the back of your scriptures. You may also want to develop your own scripture chains by selecting passages from the lists in the Topical Guide and the information in the Bible

Dictionary. To highlight a scripture chain in your scriptures, mark in your scriptures the first passage in the list. Beside that passage write the reference for the second passage in the list. Turn to the second passage, mark it, and write the reference for the third passage. Continue until you have marked the last passage in the list, and complete the chain by writing next to that passage the reference for the first passage.

Pages 25–26 of this study guide contain the complete text of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” You can refer to the proclamation as you study the material in lesson 45. The study guide also contains a chronology of Church history (pages 27–28) and three maps of significant Church history sites (pages 29–31).

The book *Our Heritage: A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (35448) will also give you background information on Church history. Many of the lessons in the course will include a reading assignment from this book. You may already have a copy of *Our Heritage* in your home. If not, speak with your teacher about obtaining a copy.

Contributing to Class Discussions

You share with your Gospel Doctrine teacher the responsibility to help the class be successful. Come to class prepared to contribute to the discussion and to share personal testimony, feelings, and experiences regarding the principles and doctrines being taught.

Suggested Reading Plan

In this course, the lessons are designed with associated reading assignments to help you learn and apply what the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history teach about specific gospel

themes. In addition to completing the reading assignment for each lesson, you are encouraged to read the Doctrine and Covenants from beginning to end during this course.

Introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History

1

Reading assignment: Explanatory Introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants; Doctrine and Covenants 1; introduction to *Our Heritage*.

- How is the Doctrine and Covenants different from other books of scripture? (See the third paragraph in the Explanatory Introduction.)

On 1 November 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith presided at a special conference of elders, held in Hiram, Ohio. Those in attendance decided to compile some of the revelations the Prophet had received and publish them in a book called the Book of Commandments. Following the first session of this conference, the Lord signified His approval for the publication by giving Joseph Smith a revelation that He called “my preface unto the book of my commandments” (D&C 1:6). This revelation is now section 1 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

- What warnings does the Lord issue in D&C 1? (See verses 7–10, 12–16, 31–33.)
- What are some of the purposes of the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants? (See D&C 1:17–28.)

This dispensation can be divided into six historical periods, each of which will be discussed in this year’s course:

New York Period	1820–1830
Ohio-Missouri Period	1831–1838
Nauvoo Period	1839–1846
Pioneering the West	1846–1898
Expansion of the Church	1899–1950
The Worldwide Church	1951–present

Scripture Chain: The Lord’s Word in the Doctrine and Covenants

D&C 1:37–39	D&C 84:60
D&C 18:33–36	D&C 88:66

“Behold, I Am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World”

2

Reading assignment: Study the scripture passages listed in the following questions and in the scripture chain for this lesson.

The Bible, the books of Moses and Abraham in the Pearl of Great Price, and the Book of Mormon are ancient testaments, or witnesses, of Jesus

Christ. The Doctrine and Covenants is a testament of Jesus Christ given in this dispensation.

- Read D&C 19:16–19. What does this passage teach about the Savior’s suffering for us? Why was Jesus willing to experience such great suffering for us? (See D&C 18:10–11; 19:19, 24; 34:3.)
- Read D&C 88:14–18; 93:33; Alma 11:42–44. What can you learn about the Resurrection from these passages?
- Read D&C 18:11–12; 19:16–17, 20; 58:42; 76:62–70. What do these passages teach about the blessings

we can receive through the Savior’s Atonement?

- How can you show the Savior your gratitude for His Atonement?

Scripture Chain: Roles and Attributes of the Savior

D&C 6:20–21	D&C 45:3–5
D&C 6:32–37	D&C 50:44
D&C 19:1–3	D&C 93:5–19
D&C 29:1–2	D&C 133:42–52
D&C 38:1–3	

“I Had Seen a Vision”

3

Reading assignment: Joseph Smith—History 1:1–26; *Our Heritage*, pages 1–4.

After Jesus Christ was crucified, His Apostles presided over the Church. But soon persecution, divisions, and apostasy increased. Within a few decades, there was a falling away from the Church, as the Apostles had prophesied (Acts 20:28–30; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3; 2 Timothy 4:3–4). This falling away is known as the Great Apostasy.

- What were some of the consequences of the Great Apostasy? (See D&C 1:15–16; Joseph Smith—History 1:8–9, 19, 21; Mormon 1:13–14.)

- Why was Joseph confused about which church he should join? (See Joseph Smith—History 1:5–10.) How was Joseph’s situation like that of people today who are searching to know the truth?
- What are some of the truths we can learn from the First Vision?

Scripture Chain: The Apostasy and the Restoration

Amos 8:11–12	D&C 1:14–17
Acts 3:20–21	D&C 128:20–21

“Remember the New Covenant, Even the Book of Mormon”

4

Reading assignment: Joseph Smith—History 1:27–65; Doctrine and Covenants 3; 5; 10; 17; 20:5–15; 84:54–62; *Our Heritage*, pages 5–10.

- What were some of the challenges that Joseph Smith faced while he translated the Book of Mormon? (See *Our Heritage*, pages 7–9.)
- What does the account of the lost manuscript pages teach about the

Lord’s power? (See D&C 3:1–3; 10:14, 43; 1 Nephi 9:6.)

- Who were the Three Witnesses and the Eight Witnesses to the Book of Mormon? (See “The Testimony of Three Witnesses” and “The

Testimony of Eight Witnesses” in the introductory material of the Book of Mormon; see also *Our Heritage*, page 10.) In what ways can you be a witness of the Book of Mormon? (See Moroni 10:3–5.)

- In September 1832 the Prophet Joseph received a revelation in which the Lord said that “the whole church [was] under condemnation” (D&C 84:55). Why was the Church under condemnation?

(See D&C 84:54–56.) What did Church members need to do for the condemnation to be lifted? (See D&C 84:57–58, 60–62.)

Scripture Chain: What the Doctrine and Covenants Teaches about the Book of Mormon

D&C 1:29	D&C 20:8–15
D&C 3:18–20	D&C 33:16
D&C 17:6	D&C 42:12
D&C 19:26–27	D&C 84:54–58

“This Is the Spirit of Revelation”

5

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 6; 8; 9; Joseph Smith—History 1:8–17.

- Why is personal revelation vitally important in our day?
- Read D&C 9:8 and Joseph Smith—History 1:8–10. What can we do to study out a question in our own minds?
- Why should we study and ponder the scriptures when we seek revelation?
- Read D&C 25:10 and 30:2. Why is it important to focus on “the things of [God]” rather than “the things of the earth” as we seek revelation?

How can we free ourselves from the concerns and noise of the world as we seek revelation?

- Read Joseph Smith—History 1:8–17. What do these verses teach about how to receive personal revelation?

Scripture Chain: Receiving Personal Revelation

D&C 5:24	D&C 63:23
D&C 9:8	D&C 88:63–64
D&C 25:10	D&C 138:1–11

“I Will Tell You in Your Mind and in Your Heart, by the Holy Ghost”

6

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 6; 8; 9; 11.

- Read D&C 8:2–3 and 85:6. What do these verses teach about how the Holy Ghost communicates with us? Why is it important to understand this principle of how the Holy Ghost communicates?
- What did the Lord reveal to Oliver Cowdery about his desire for a

“further witness” of the Prophet’s divine mission? (See D&C 6:22–23.) How can we become more trusting of the peace that the Spirit speaks to our minds?

- Why should we submit our will to God’s will when we seek personal revelation?

- How can we discern whether a revelation has come from God? (See D&C 11:12–14; 50:23–24.)

Scripture Chain: Recognizing the Still, Small Voice

D&C 8:2–3 D&C 128:1
 D&C 9:8–9 D&C 136:32–33
 D&C 42:61

“The First Principles and Ordinances of the Gospel”

7

Reading assignment: Study the scripture passages listed in the following questions and in the scripture chain.

- What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ? How can we strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ? (See D&C 19:23; 88:118; Alma 32:27.)
- What is repentance? (See D&C 58:42–43.) Why do we need the Savior’s Atonement to be forgiven of our sins? (See 2 Nephi 2:6–9.)
- What are the purposes of baptism? (See D&C 18:22; 49:13–14.) What qualifications must a person meet to be baptized? (See D&C 20:37.)
- What is the difference between the power of the Holy Ghost and the gift of the Holy Ghost? (See Bible Dictionary, “Holy Ghost,” 704.)

Scripture Chain: Repentance and the Atonement

2 Nephi 25:23 D&C 19:15–19
 Alma 42:13–24 Articles of Faith 1:3
 D&C 18:10–13

The Restoration of the Priesthood

8

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 13; 20:38–67; 27:12–13; 84:6–30; 107:1–20; 110:11–16; Joseph Smith—History 1:66–73; *Our Heritage*, pages 11–14.

Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord gave many revelations that add greatly to our understanding of the keys, offices, organization, ordinances, duties, and blessings of the priesthood.

- What are some ways in which priesthood holders act on behalf of God to bless His children? (See D&C 20:38–55; 107:8–12, 23, 35.)
- What authority and blessings were restored with the Aaronic Priesthood? (See D&C 13; 84:26–27; 107:20.) What authority and blessings were restored with the Melchizedek Priesthood? (See D&C 84:19–22; 107:8–12, 18–19; 110:11–16.)
- What are the offices of the Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood? What are the duties of each office? (See D&C 20:38–59; 27:12–13; 42:43–44; 43:15–16; 84:111; 107:10–17, 23, 25, 33–35, 38–39, 58, 68, 71, 87–88, 93–97; 124:91–93, 124, 128.)

Scripture Chain: Governing the Church through Priesthood Keys

As you study the following passages, keep in mind that priesthood keys are the right to preside over and direct the Church within a jurisdiction, such as a stake, ward, or quorum. Under the direction of the President of the Church, who holds all of the keys restored to the earth in this dispensa-

tion, specific keys may be given to others to preside, such as a temple president, stake president, mission president, bishop, or elders quorum president. These keys are bestowed upon presiding priesthood leaders when they are set apart.

Matthew 16:19 D&C 84:19
D&C 78:15–16 D&C 112:30–34
D&C 81:1–2

“The Only True and Living Church”

9

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 20:1–36, 68–69, 75–79; 21; 27; 115:1–4; *Our Heritage*, pages 14–16.

After the Book of Mormon was published and the priesthood was restored, the next major step in the restoration of the gospel was the formal organization of the Church. Doctrine and Covenants 20 contains instructions from the Lord to Joseph Smith about organizing the Church.

- On what date was the Church organized in this dispensation? (See D&C 20:1; 21:3.)
- Read D&C 20:68–69. What do these verses reveal about the Lord’s

expectations of us as Church members?

- How might your life be different if the Church had not been restored or if you were not a member of the Church? What can you do to more fully enjoy the blessings of membership in the Church?

Scripture Chain: Prophecies of the Restoration of the Lord’s Church

Isaiah 29:14 D&C 27:6, 12–14
Daniel 2:44 D&C 65:2
Revelation 14:6–7

“This Is My Voice unto All”

10

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 25.

Many of the revelations given in the Doctrine and Covenants were given to individuals. Although the counsel in the revelations was specific to individuals who lived many years ago, much of this counsel applies to us today. In July 1830, the Lord directed a revelation to Emma Smith, the wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith (D&C 25).

- Read D&C 25:5, 14. What are some ways that husbands and wives can help each other in times of difficulty? How can spouses show that they delight in each other?

Read the following passages about the Lord’s counsel to avoid pride:

Warnings to avoid pride: D&C 23:1; 25:14; 38:39; 90:17; 98:19–20

Blessings for those who are humble:
D&C 1:28; 19:23; 112:10; 124:97

Scripture Chain: Likening the Scriptures to Ourselves

1 Nephi 19:23	D&C 82:1–6
D&C 25:13–16	D&C 93:49
D&C 61:36–37	

“The Field Is White Already to Harvest”

11

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 4; 11–12; 14–18; 31; 33; 75; *Our Heritage*, page 11.

- According to D&C 4:2, what does the Lord require of those who serve in His kingdom?
- Which attributes are repeated most frequently in D&C 4:5–6; 12:8; 18:19? What experiences have you had that show the importance of any of these attributes in serving the Lord?
- Read D&C 4:4; 11:3; 33:3. What did the Lord mean by comparing missionary work to a field that is ready to be harvested?
- What should the Lord’s servants teach? (See D&C 11:9; 15:6; 18:6; 31:3–4; 33:10–11; 42:12; 52:8–9.)

Scripture Chain: Missionary Work

Alma 17:2–3	D&C 11:21
Alma 26:22	D&C 12:8
D&C 4:1–7	D&C 18:10–16

“The Gathering of My People”

12

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 29:1–8; 33:3–7; 37; 38:24–41; 52:2–5, 42–43; 57:1–3; 110:11;
Articles of Faith 1:10; *Our Heritage*, pages 16–23, 37–39.

The spiritual gathering of Israel occurs as people learn the gospel, come unto Christ, are baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and keep their covenants. In this way they are gathered from the world into the Church, or the kingdom of God on earth. The physical gathering of Israel occurs as Church members come together in a particular location or in the stakes of Zion throughout the world.

- Read D&C 29:1–2, 7–8. What do these verses teach about the purposes of the gathering?
- What purposes did the Lord give for commanding His people to go to Ohio? (See D&C 38:31–32; 39:15.) How were the Saints “endowed with power from on high” after they gathered to Ohio? (See D&C 95:8; 105:33; 110:9.)
- Rather than gather to a central location as the early Saints did, we are now counseled to gather to and strengthen the stakes of Zion where we live. What can we do to ensure that our stakes are a refuge and a defense against evil?
- The gathering of the Lord’s people continues today. Many of Heavenly

Father's children are searching for the truth, and "are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it" (D&C 123:12). What responsibilities do we have to assist with this work?

Scripture Chain: The Gathering of the Lord's People

1 Nephi 15:12–17 D&C 33:6
1 Nephi 22:11–12 D&C 110:11
D&C 29:7 Articles of Faith
1:10

"This Generation Shall Have My Word through You"

13

Reading assignment: The scriptures listed in the following questions and in the scripture chain; Bible Dictionary, "Joseph Smith Translation," 717; *Our Heritage*, pages 23–25, 41, 58.

- Joseph Smith's role in restoring and receiving the Lord's word was foretold on several occasions. What prophecies are found in Moses 1:40–41 and 2 Nephi 3:11–15? What scriptures have come to us through the Prophet Joseph Smith?
- Identify some plain and precious doctrines of the gospel that were restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. (See the following scripture chain.)

Scripture Chain: Doctrines and Practices Restored through Joseph Smith

D&C 84:19–25 (Melchizedek Priesthood)
D&C 88:15–24 (Three kingdoms of glory; see also D&C 76:50–112)
D&C 93:29 (Premortal existence)
D&C 107:23, 33, 35 (Apostles and prophets)
D&C 124:37–42 (Temples)
D&C 128:16–18 (Baptism for the dead)
D&C 130:22 (The Godhead)

The Law of Consecration

14

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 42:30–42; 51; 78; 82; 104:11–18; *Our Heritage*, page 26.

In February 1831, soon after the Saints began to gather in Kirtland, Ohio, the Lord revealed that they should begin to live the law of consecration. To *consecrate* means to set apart or dedicate something to the Lord's service.

- What are the purposes of the law of consecration? (See D&C 42:30–35, 40, 42; 51:9; 78:3–7, 14; 82:17–19.)

The law of consecration is an organized way in which individuals consecrate their time, talents, and possessions to the Church to build the

Lord's kingdom and serve His children.

- What do you think could be some of the blessings of living in a community where people lived the law of consecration?
- As Saints of God, we must be prepared and willing to live the law of consecration in its fulness. But we do not need to wait for a future day to consecrate our lives to the Lord. In what ways can you live the law of consecration in your life today?

Scripture Chain: The Law of Consecration

4 Nephi 1:3
D&C 42:30
D&C 49:20

D&C 51:3
D&C 78:3–6
D&C 105:5

“Seek Ye Earnestly the Best Gifts”

15

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 46; Articles of Faith 1:7; 1 Corinthians 12–13; Moroni 10:8–18; *Our Heritage*, pages 42–43, 47–48, 63.

Gifts of the Spirit are spiritual blessings or abilities that are given through the Holy Ghost. These gifts were taken from the earth during the Great Apostasy, but God restored them in the early days of this dispensation. God gives at least one of these gifts to every faithful member of His Church who has received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- Which spiritual gifts are listed in D&C 46:13–25? What are some purposes of the gifts of the Spirit? (See D&C 46:8–9, 11–12, 26.)

- What can you do to seek gifts of the Spirit? (See D&C 46:7, 9, 30–33.)
- How can a patriarchal blessing help us in understanding what blessings or gifts the Lord may have given us or may yet give to us?

Scripture Chain: Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1–12
Moroni 10:8–18

D&C 46:11–33
Articles of Faith 1:7

“Thou Shalt . . . Offer Up Thy Sacraments upon My Holy Day”

16

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 59; Bible Dictionary, “Sabbath,” pages 764–65.

From the earliest times, God has commanded His children to keep the Sabbath day holy (see Bible Dictionary, “Sabbath,” 765). In our dispensation, the Lord has again emphasized the importance of the Sabbath.

- The Lord has said, “Thou shalt go to the house of prayer . . . upon my holy day” (D&C 59:9). Why do you think it is important to meet together to worship God on the Sabbath? What can you do to prepare yourself for Sunday meetings?

- Why is it important to partake of the sacrament each week? (See D&C 59:9; 3 Nephi 18:6–7.)
- Read D&C 59:10. What does it mean to rest from our labors? How does resting from our labors show our devotion to God?
- What blessings does the Lord promise to those who keep the Sabbath day holy? (See D&C 59:9, 13, 15–17.) How does observing the Sabbath help us receive a fulness of joy?

The Law of Tithing and the Law of the Fast

17

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants

59:13–14, 21; 119; 120.

- Read D&C 119:3–4. What is the Lord’s definition of tithing? What does the Lord promise those who pay tithing? (See Malachi 3:10–12 or 3 Nephi 24:10–12.)
- What are some purposes for fasting? What has the Lord promised to those who obey the law of the fast? (See Isaiah 58:8–12.) In what ways

has fasting helped you?

Scripture Chain: Tithing

Genesis 14:18–20

D&C 64:23

Leviticus 27:30

D&C 119

Malachi 3:8–12

Scripture Chain: Fasting

Isaiah 58:5–11

D&C 59:13–16

“Establish . . . a House of God”

18

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 95;

109; 110; *Our Heritage*, pages 33–36.

Temples are an essential part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In December 1832, the Lord commanded the Saints to build a temple in Kirtland, Ohio (D&C 88:119; 109:2).

- Read D&C 95:3–4, 8–9, 16–17; 109:5, 8. What do these verses teach about the purposes for building the Kirtland Temple? What did the Lord reveal to Joseph Smith about how to build the Kirtland Temple? (See D&C 95:13–17.)
- What were some of the challenges and sacrifices associated with building the temple? (See D&C 109:5; *Our Heritage*, 33–34.) What are some sacrifices you could make to participate in temple work?

- Why do we dedicate temples? How have you felt as you have attended a temple dedication service? What spiritual manifestations occurred during the dedication of the Kirtland Temple? (See *Our Heritage*, 34–35.)
- What priesthood keys did Moses, Elias, and Elijah restore? (See D&C 110:11–16.) What blessings and responsibilities do you have today because these keys were restored?

Scripture Chain: The Holiness of the Temple

D&C 97:15–16

D&C 110:7–8

D&C 101:22

D&C 124:39

D&C 109:12–15

The Plan of Salvation

19

Reading assignment: Study the scripture passages listed in the following questions and in the scripture chain.

- Read Moses 4:2, D&C 19:16–19, and D&C 76:40–42. Why is the Atonement central to the plan of salvation?

The plan of salvation can be divided into three parts: premortal life, mortal life, and life after death.

- What are some of the challenges you have faced during mortal life? How does knowing that there is life after death help you cope with these challenges?

Scripture Chain: The Plan of Salvation

Premortal life

Job 38:4–7
D&C 138:55–56
Abraham 3:22–28

Life after death

Alma 40:11–14
Alma 42:11–13, 15
D&C 76:111
D&C 88:14–16

Mortal life

Alma 42:9, 14
D&C 29:40–43
Articles of Faith 1:3

The Kingdoms of Glory

20

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 76; 131; 132:19–24; 137.

- What circumstances led to the vision that is recorded in D&C 76? (See D&C 76:11–19; see also the heading to D&C 76.)
- Who will inherit the telestial kingdom? (See D&C 76:81–83, 98–101, 103.) Who will inherit the terrestrial kingdom? (See D&C 76:71–75, 79.) Who will inherit the celestial kingdom? (See D&C

76:50–53, 68–69. Identify what you can do to ensure that you are able to attain the celestial kingdom.)

Scripture Chain: Exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom

D&C 76:50–59
D&C 78:7
D&C 88:21–22

D&C 131:1–4
D&C 132:21–23

“Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord to Come”

21

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 29:9–29; 34:5–12; 45:16–75; 88:86–99; 101:22–34; 133.

The Doctrine and Covenants provides a wealth of information about the Second Coming, the events that will precede it, and the thousand years of

peace that will begin when the Savior comes again.

- Read D&C 29:9–11; 34:7–12; 45:44–54; 49:6–7; 133:46–53.

What do these passages teach about the Savior's Second Coming?

- The Savior's Second Coming will usher in the thousand-year period called the Millennium. What will life on earth be like during the Millennium? (See D&C 45:58–59; 101:23–34.) How can this knowledge about the Millennium be a blessing in your life now?

- What can you do in your life now to prepare for the Second Coming? (See the scripture chain below.)

Scripture Chain: Preparing for the Second Coming

D&C 27:15–18 D&C 101:22–23
D&C 43:20–23 D&C 133:4–5, 11
D&C 45:32, 35, 56–57

The Word of Wisdom: “A Principle with Promise”

22

**Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 89;
Our Heritage, pages 25–26.**

- Read D&C 89:4. What does this verse teach about the Lord's reasons for giving the Word of Wisdom?
- What is the Lord's counsel about what is not good for the body? (See D&C 89:5–9.) What are some of the consequences of using harmful substances?
- What is the Lord's counsel about what is good for the body? (See D&C 88:124; 89:10–17.)
- What are the promised blessings for those who obey the Word of

Wisdom and walk “in obedience to the commandments”? (See D&C 89:18–21.) How have you been blessed as you have obeyed the Word of Wisdom?

Scripture Chain: The Body Is a Temple

Daniel 1:8 D&C 59:17–20
1 Corinthians D&C 89
3:16–17
1 Corinthians
6:19–20

“Seek Learning, Even by Study and Also by Faith”

23

**Reading assignment: Study the scripture passages
in the following questions and in the scripture chain.**

- The Lord revealed instructions about how to conduct the School of the Prophets. Read D&C 88:122–25, and identify the things the Lord said the brethren should do and the things He said they should not do. What

can we learn from these verses about how to teach one another?

- What counsel does the Lord give in D&C 88:118 about learning? How does faith increase your ability to learn? What are the dangers of

learning without having faith in God and obeying His commandments? (See 2 Timothy 3:7; 2 Nephi 9:28–29.)

- Read D&C 88:76–80. Why do you think we are commanded to learn about so many different things?

Scripture Chain: Seek Learning

2 Nephi 9:28–29	D&C 90:15
D&C 6:7	D&C 93:36–37
D&C 19:23	D&C 93:53
D&C 88:76–80	D&C 131:6
D&C 88:118	D&C 136:32–33

“Be Not Deceived, but Continue in Steadfastness”

24

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 26; 28; 43:1–7; 50; 52:14–19; *Our Heritage*, page 36.

During the early years of the Church, some members allowed themselves to be deceived by Satan, which led to their apostasy, or rebellion against God. As members of the Church today, we must be faithful and watchful.

- What are some of the ways in which Satan tries to deceive us and lead us into apostasy? What can we do to keep ourselves from being deceived and led into apostasy?
- During the early years of the Church, many people claimed to receive revelations to guide

the Church or correct the Prophet Joseph Smith. What did the Lord reveal in response to these claims? (See D&C 28:2, 6–7; 43:1–3.)

- Read D&C 50:17–24 and Moroni 7:15–17. What do these verses teach about how we can discern the things of God from the things of Satan?

Scripture Chain: Recognizing and Avoiding Individual Apostasy

2 Nephi 28:20–22	D&C 84:54
D&C 6:4–6	D&C 93:39
D&C 10:26	D&C 121:37

Priesthood: “The Power of Godliness”

25

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 84:33–44; 107; 121:34–46; *Our Heritage*, pages 26–27.

The Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood were restored to the earth in the spring of 1829. Following the organization of the Church in 1830, the Lord gradually revealed priesthood offices, quorums, and councils as needed to provide leadership for the growth of the Church.

- What do priesthood holders promise as part of the oath and covenant of the priesthood? (See D&C 84:33, 36,

39–44.) What blessings does the Lord promise as part of the oath and covenant of the priesthood? (See D&C 84:33–34, 38, 42.)

- In D&C 121:34–46, the Lord reveals principles for using the priesthood. In addition to their application to priesthood holders, these principles apply generally to all human relationships. How can we apply these principles as we interact with others?

“Go Ye into All the World, and Preach My Gospel”

26

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 112; *Our Heritage*, pages 30–33, 36.

- Read D&C 42:6 and 88:81. What instructions did the Lord give to the Kirtland Saints in these verses?
- Read *Our Heritage*, pages 30–32. What sacrifices did these Saints make in order to share the gospel? What sacrifices may we need to make to serve as full-time missionaries? What sacrifices may we need to make to share the gospel with our friends and neighbors?
- What promises did the Lord make to

the Twelve Apostles in D&C 112:19–22?

Scripture Chain: Doing Missionary Work and Nurturing New Converts

Doing missionary work

Nurturing new converts

Mark 16:15
D&C 18:15–16
D&C 60:2
D&C 88:81
D&C 123:11–12

Ephesians 2:19
Helaman 6:3
Moroni 6:4

“They Must Needs Be Chastened and Tried, Even as Abraham”

27

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 101; 103; 105; *Our Heritage*, pages 27–29, 37–45.

From 1831 to 1833, many Saints settled in Jackson County, Missouri, which the Lord had designated as the center stake of Zion. But, because of the transgressions of some Church members and the persecutions of the local citizens, the Saints were driven from Jackson County in the fall of 1833.

- What reasons did the Lord give for allowing afflictions to come upon the Saints in Missouri? (See D&C 101:2, 4, 6–8.) For what purposes does the Lord chasten His people?

(See D&C 95:1; 105:6; Helaman 12:3.)

- How did the Lord show compassion for the Saints after chastening them? (See D&C 101:9–19.) How have you felt the Lord’s love and mercy in times of special need?
- Read D&C 101:35–38. What can we learn from these verses to help us keep our mortal life in proper perspective?
- The Lord revealed that the Saints would have to “wait a little season”

for the redemption of Zion because of the disobedience and dissension of some Saints (D&C 105:9, 13). What are some of the requirements the Lord gave for the eventual establishment of Zion? (See D&C 105:1–13.)

Scripture Chain: Enduring despite Adversity

Acts 14:21–22	D&C 50:5
2 Nephi 2:11	D&C 58:2
Mosiah 24:13–16	

“O God, Where Art Thou?”

28

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 121:1–33; 122; *Our Heritage*, pages 45–53.

- Read D&C 121:1–6. What do these verses indicate Joseph Smith was feeling and thinking about at this time? What are your thoughts and feelings as you read Joseph Smith’s pleadings with the Lord in these verses?
- Read D&C 121:7–10. What did the Lord teach Joseph in these verses?
- Think of some of your own trials as you read D&C 122:5–8. In what way has the Savior “descended below” all things? (See Alma 7:11–12; D&C 19:16–19.) How can a knowledge of

the Savior’s suffering help you be faithful in your own tribulations?

- Read D&C 98:12, 14–15; 101:1–2, 4; 122:7; 136:31. What do these verses teach about the purposes of adversity? Why does the Lord allow us to suffer tribulations? (See D&C 58:2–5.)

Scripture Chain: The Savior’s Suffering for Us

Isaiah 53:5–6	D&C 88:6
Hebrews 2:17–18	D&C 122:5–8
Alma 7:11–12	

Building the Kingdom of God in Nauvoo, Illinois

29

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 124:1–21, 87–90, 97–110; 126; *Our Heritage*, pages 51–52, 55–58, 61–62.

- How did the Saints arrive in Nauvoo? (See *Our Heritage*, 51–52, 55.) What were some of the challenges they faced in their journey and upon arriving?
- Many Church members in Nauvoo, including the members of the Quorum of the Twelve, were called to serve as missionaries. What sacrifices did the early missionaries make? (See *Our Heritage*, 55–58.)

What sacrifices could you make to help build the kingdom of God?

- Read D&C 124:16–19, 87–90, 97–110. The men in these verses received great instructions and promises. However, they fell into apostasy and forfeited many of their blessings. What has helped you most in your efforts to endure to the end in righteousness?

- While the Saints were living in Nauvoo, the Prophet Joseph Smith organized the Relief Society by the authority of the priesthood. What blessings have come into your life because of the Relief Society?

Scripture Chain: Building the Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:33 D&C 6:6
 Jacob 2:18–19 D&C 105:32

“The Prisoners Shall Go Free”

30

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 2; 124:25–55; 127; 128; Joseph Smith—History 1:36–39; *Our Heritage*, pages 58–60.

- On 19 January 1841, several months after the Saints had begun performing baptisms for the dead, the Lord commanded them to build a temple in Nauvoo (D&C 124:25–27). What reasons did the Lord give for this commandment? (See D&C 124:28–30, 33, 40–41, 55.)
- Read D&C 128:15. In what ways do the dead depend on us for their salvation? In what ways does our salvation depend on the salvation of the dead? (See D&C 128:17–18.)
- Read D&C 128:19, 22–24. According to these verses, what should our attitude be about the gospel and about performing baptisms for the dead?

Scripture Chain: Baptism for the Dead

1 Corinthians D&C 128:15–18
 15:29 D&C 138:28–35
 D&C 127:5–9

“Sealed . . . for Time and for All Eternity”

31

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 131:1–4; 132:4–33.

- Why is marriage an essential part of God’s eternal plan? (See D&C 131:1–4; 1 Corinthians 11:11.)
- When a man and woman are married for time and eternity in the temple, they make a covenant with the Lord. What blessings will they receive if they are true to their covenant? (See D&C 131:1–4; 132:7, 19–24, 30–31.) What blessings can temple marriage bring in mortality?
- How can parents and other adults help youth prepare for a celestial marriage? What can we do to make our marriages eternal?

Scripture Chain: Marriage

Genesis 2:18, 24 D&C 131:1–4
 1 Corinthians D&C 132:15, 19
 11:11

“To Seal the Testimony”

32

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 135;
Our Heritage, pages 62–66.

- What are your feelings as you think about the sacrifice the Prophet and his brother Hyrum made for their testimonies of the gospel?
- According to D&C 135:3, what were some of the major achievements of the Prophet Joseph Smith during his lifetime? In what ways did the Prophet Joseph Smith do “more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it”?

Scripture Chain: Martyrs

Acts 7:54–60 D&C 98:13
Hebrews 9:15–17 D&C 135:6–7
Mosiah 17:7–10 D&C 136:34–39
3 Nephi 10:15

President Brigham Young Leads the Saints

33

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants
107:22–24; *Our Heritage*, pages 66–71.

- With the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, many people predicted that the Church would cease to exist. What did such people fail to understand about the leadership of the Church?
- After the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, how did the Saints know who was to be the next President of the Church? (See *Our Heritage*, 66–67. For other examples of continuous prophetic leadership in the Church, see the scripture chain for this lesson.)
- What were some of the trials and miracles the Saints experienced on the journey across Iowa? (See *Our Heritage*, 69–71.)

Scripture Chain: Continuous Prophetic Leadership

Joshua 1:1–5 Jacob 1:12, 18–19
2 Kings 2:8–15

Faith in Every Footstep

34

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 136;
Our Heritage, pages 71–77.

- What challenges did President Young face in leading the Saints to the Salt Lake Valley? (See *Our Heritage*, 69–74.)
- At Winter Quarters in January 1847, President Brigham Young received a revelation concerning the Saints’ westward journey. This revelation is recorded in D&C 136. How do the instructions in this revelation apply in your life?
- How do you feel when you consider the legacy of faith and sacrifice that the pioneers and other Saints have given you? How can you pass on this same kind of legacy to those who will follow you?

Scripture Chain: Journeys to Promised Lands

1 Nephi 2:19–20 D&C 136:1–2
1 Nephi 17:13–14 D&C 136:22
Ether 1:39–42

“A Mission of Saving”

35

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 4:4–7; 18:10–16; 52:40; 81:5–6; Moroni 7:45–48; *Our Heritage*, pages 77–80.

Read the account of the Martin and Willie handcart companies, on pages 77–78 of *Our Heritage*. When President Brigham Young heard of the condition of these handcart companies, he sent men to rescue them.

- What are some specific things you can do to help rescue those in need today? (See D&C 18:10–16; 52:40; 81:5–6; 3 Nephi 18:31–32.)

- What are some qualities we need in order to reach out to others? (See D&C 4:4–7; Moroni 7:45–48.)

Scripture Chain: Rescuing Those in Need

Luke 15:1–7 D&C 81:5–6
3 Nephi 18:31–32 D&C 123:12
D&C 18:10–16

“The Desert Shall Rejoice, and Blossom as the Rose”

36

Reading assignment: *Our Heritage*, pages 81–96.

On 28 July 1847, four days after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young stood on the spot where the Salt Lake Temple now stands. He struck his cane on the ground and said, “Right here will stand the temple of our God” (in Wilford Woodruff, *Deseret Evening News*, 25 July 1888, 2). Within one week, the Saints began surveying the new city, with the temple at the center of the survey.

- Why should the temple be central in our lives today?
- It took 40 years to build the Salt Lake Temple. What can we learn from the perseverance of the Saints as they built the temple?
- Read *Our Heritage*, pages 82–84. What characteristics helped the

Saints overcome the great difficulties they faced during their first years in the Salt Lake Valley? What situations in your life today might require these same characteristics?

- In what areas of the world did the Saints preach the gospel during the administrations of Presidents Brigham Young and John Taylor? (See *Our Heritage*, 84–86, 93–96.) What sacrifices did these early Saints make to share the gospel with people around the world?

Scripture Chain: Blessings of Obedience

D&C 64:34 D&C 93:1
D&C 89:18–21 D&C 130:19–21

“We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet”

37

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 21; 43:1–7;
Articles of Faith 1:9; *Our Heritage*, page 131.

- Why do we need a living prophet today? What are some roles of the President of the Church? (See the scripture chain for this lesson.) as you have followed the counsel of the prophet?
- Read D&C 21:4–6. What do these verses teach about our responsibility to listen to the President of the Church? How have you been blessed

Scripture Chain: Roles of the Prophet

Mosiah 8:13–18	D&C 21:1–5
Mosiah 13:33	D&C 43:2–3
D&C 1:38	D&C 68:3–4
D&C 20:21–26	D&C 107:91–92

“In Mine Own Way”

38

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 38:30; 42:30–31, 42; 58:26–28; 104:13–18; *Our Heritage*, pages 108–9, 111–14.

- What does it mean to be self-reliant in spiritual things? How can you become more self-reliant in spiritual things?
- What does it mean to be self-reliant in temporal things? How can you become more self-reliant in temporal things?
- What can you do to become more self-reliant in your finances? What practices have helped you avoid debt or get out of debt?
- Read D&C 42:30–31; 44:6; 52:40; 56:16; 88:123; 104:18. What do these verses teach about caring for those in need? What is the Lord’s “own way” of providing for the poor? (See D&C 104:13–18.) How are you blessed when you give to others who are in need?

Scripture Chain: Importance of Work

2 Thessalonians 3:10–12	D&C 56:17
D&C 42:42	D&C 58:27
	D&C 88:124

“The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn to Their Fathers”

39

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 2; 110:13–16; 138; Joseph Smith—History 1:37–39; *Our Heritage*, pages 98–99, 101–2, 105–7.

- On 3 April 1836 in the Kirtland Temple, the prophet Elijah appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. What was Elijah’s purpose in visiting Joseph and Oliver? (See D&C 110:13–16; see also D&C 2; Joseph Smith—History 1:38–39.)
- In 1894 President Wilford Woodruff received a revelation from the Lord about genealogical work (*Our*

Heritage, 101). What does this revelation teach about families? How does the revelation help fulfill the prophecy about turning the hearts of the children to their fathers?

- In October 1918, President Joseph F. Smith received a revelation about the redemption of the dead (see Doctrine and Covenants 138). What do you learn from this revelation?
- In April 1998, President Gordon B. Hinckley announced a goal to have

100 temples in operation by the end of the century. How has this increase in temple construction affected you? How can having more temples affect those who have died without receiving the gospel?

Scripture Chain: Temple Work for the Dead

1 Peter 4:6	D&C 138:32–34
D&C 2	Joseph Smith—
D&C 110:13–16	History 1:38–39

Finding Joy in Temple and Family History Work 40

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage participation in temple and family history work. Come to class prepared to discuss ways to be more involved in doing family history work.

- What are some things you have done to participate in temple and family history work?
- One way to participate in temple and family history work is to hold a current temple recommend and attend the temple often. What blessings can you receive through holding a temple recommend and attending the temple?
- How does keeping a journal or

a personal history help you participate in family history?

- How can you become more involved in temple work for your kindred dead?

Scripture Chain: Importance of Record Keeping

Malachi 3:16–18	Moses 6:5–8, 46
D&C 85:9	Abraham 1:31
D&C 128:7	

“Every Member a Missionary” 41

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants 1:4–5, 30; 65; 109:72–74; 123:12; *Our Heritage*, pages 116–17, 124–25.

- Read D&C 1:30. In what ways is the Church coming out of obscurity throughout the world?
- Read D&C 1:4–5 and 88:81. What do these passages teach about our responsibility to share the gospel?
- What can you do to assist in missionary work? What are some ways you can share the gospel with others as part of your daily life?
- What can you do to strengthen new converts? How have you seen members do this effectively?

Continuing Revelation to Latter-day Prophets

42

Reading assignment: D&C 1:38; 68:1–4; 84:109–10; 107:25, 34, 93–98; 132:8; **Official Declaration 2** (pages 293–94 in the *Doctrine and Covenants*); *Our Heritage*, pages 117–19, 125–27.

The members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are latter-day prophets, seers, and revelators. They continue to receive revelation to guide the Church. This lesson discusses a few examples of continuing revelation to guide the Church.

- Read *Our Heritage*, pages 117–19. Why is it important to understand that Church auxiliaries, programs, and activities exist to support the family? How have Church organizations and activities strengthened your family?
- Read Official Declaration 2. How has this revelation been a blessing to the

Church? What can we learn from the process President Kimball went through before receiving this revelation? (See *Our Heritage*, 126.)

- What are the responsibilities of the Seventy? (See D&C 107:25, 34.) Read D&C 107:93–97. How does the creation of additional Quorums of the Seventy comply with the instructions in this revelation?

Scripture Chain: Following the Prophet

D&C 1:38 D&C 43:2–3
D&C 21:4–6 D&C 112:20
D&C 28:2–7

“Take upon You My Whole Armor”

43

Reading assignment: Study the scripture passages listed in the following questions and in the scripture chain. Also review the pamphlet *For the Strength of Youth* (34285).

- Read D&C 76:25–29 and Moses 4:3. Who were the leaders of the two forces involved in the War in Heaven, and what were their objectives? How are we involved in a similar conflict on the earth today? (See D&C 76:29; Moses 4:4.)
- Read D&C 27:15–18. What is the Lord’s armor described in these verses? What can you do to put on the “whole armor” of God?
- What is the Lord’s law of chastity? (See D&C 42:22–24; 59:6; 63:16.) How are we blessed as we live the law of chastity? (See D&C 121:45–46.)
- Read D&C 42:21; 51:9; 97:8. Why is it important to be honest in all aspects of your life? What does it mean to be honest with the Lord? What does it mean to be honest with yourself?

- What is the Lord’s commandment concerning how we use His name? (See D&C 63:60–62; 136:21.) What kinds of language should we avoid? What kind of language would the Lord like us to use? (See D&C 52:16; 136:24; Ephesians 4:29.)

Scripture Chain: The Whole Armor of God

Romans 13:12 2 Nephi 1:23
Ephesians 6:11–17 D&C 27:15–18

Being Good Citizens

44

Reading assignment: D&C 58:21–22, 26–28; 98:4–10; 134; Articles of Faith 1:12; *Our Heritage*, pages 133–34.

Church leaders have encouraged us to be good citizens and to strengthen our communities and nations. There are many ways to be good citizens. These include participating in government or political processes, obeying the law, and serving in our communities.

- What are the purposes of civil governments? (See D&C 134:1, 6–8, 11.) What can you do as a citizen to help fulfill these purposes of government?
- What is our responsibility regarding the laws of the land? (See D&C 58:21–22; 98:4–6; 134:5–6; Articles of Faith 1:12.) How can parents,

teachers, and leaders teach children to obey the laws of the land?

- How should we treat public servants such as law-enforcement officers and other civil officials? (See D&C 134:3, 6.) How can you show your appreciation for their efforts?
- Read D&C 58:27. How can you become “anxiously engaged” in good causes in the community?

Scripture Chain: Being a Responsible Citizen

Matthew 22:21 D&C 134:1
1 Timothy 2:1–2 Articles of Faith 1:12
D&C 58:21–22

“The Family Is Ordained of God”

45

Reading assignment: “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” (pages 25–26 of this study guide).

- Read the title, subtitle, and first two paragraphs of the proclamation on the family. What is happening in our own families, communities, and nation that suggests a need for this counsel and warning from God’s prophets?
- Read the third paragraph of the proclamation. What does this paragraph teach about the purpose

of mortal life? How can your earthly experience help you in your eternal progression?

- Read the sixth paragraph of the proclamation. What can married couples do to strengthen their love for each other? How are children blessed when they have parents who love and care for each other?

- What can we do as individuals and families to promote stronger families in our own communities?

Scripture Chain: Importance of Teaching Children

Isaiah 54:13 D&C 68:25
 1 Nephi 1:1 D&C 93:40
 Mosiah 4:14–15

“Zion—The Pure in Heart”

46

Reading assignment: Doctrine and Covenants

57:1–3; 64:33–43; 97:8–28; 105:1–12; Moses 7:12–19, 61–63, 68–69;
 Articles of Faith 1:10; *Our Heritage*, pages 37–38, 145–46.

- What are some of the uses of the word *Zion* in the scriptures? (For some examples, see 2 Samuel 5:6–7; 1 Kings 8:1; Hebrews 12:22–23; D&C 45:66–67; 57:1–2; 82:14; 97:21; Articles of Faith 1:10; Moses 7:19. Note that this lesson will focus on Zion as the society that is established by people who have become pure in heart through the gospel of Jesus Christ.)
- What characterized the Zion of Enoch’s time? (See Moses 7:12–19.) Why was their city called Zion? (See Moses 7:18.) What does it mean to be “of one heart and one mind”?
- Why were the early Saints unable to build the city of Zion? (See D&C 101:6–8; 105:1–12.) What can we learn from their experience that can help us build Zion today?
- Read D&C 82:14–15. What did the Lord command in these verses? What are some specific things

you should do to build Zion?

Think of some of the most meaningful teachings you remember from this year’s study of the Doctrine and Covenants and Church history. Some ways to help remember could include looking back through this study guide, reviewing scripture chains, recalling favorite stories from *Our Heritage*, or leafing through the Doctrine and Covenants to see passages you have marked.

Take a few minutes to write about these meaningful teachings in your journal. Write down what you have learned from these teachings about how to build Zion.

Scripture Chain: “Zion—The Pure in Heart”

Matthew 5:8 D&C 100:16
 D&C 50:28 D&C 101:17–18
 D&C 97:21

THE FAMILY

A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

*The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

In the premortal realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshiped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an heir of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the

sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

We declare the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another, to observe the commandments of God and to be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love

and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

We warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable

before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

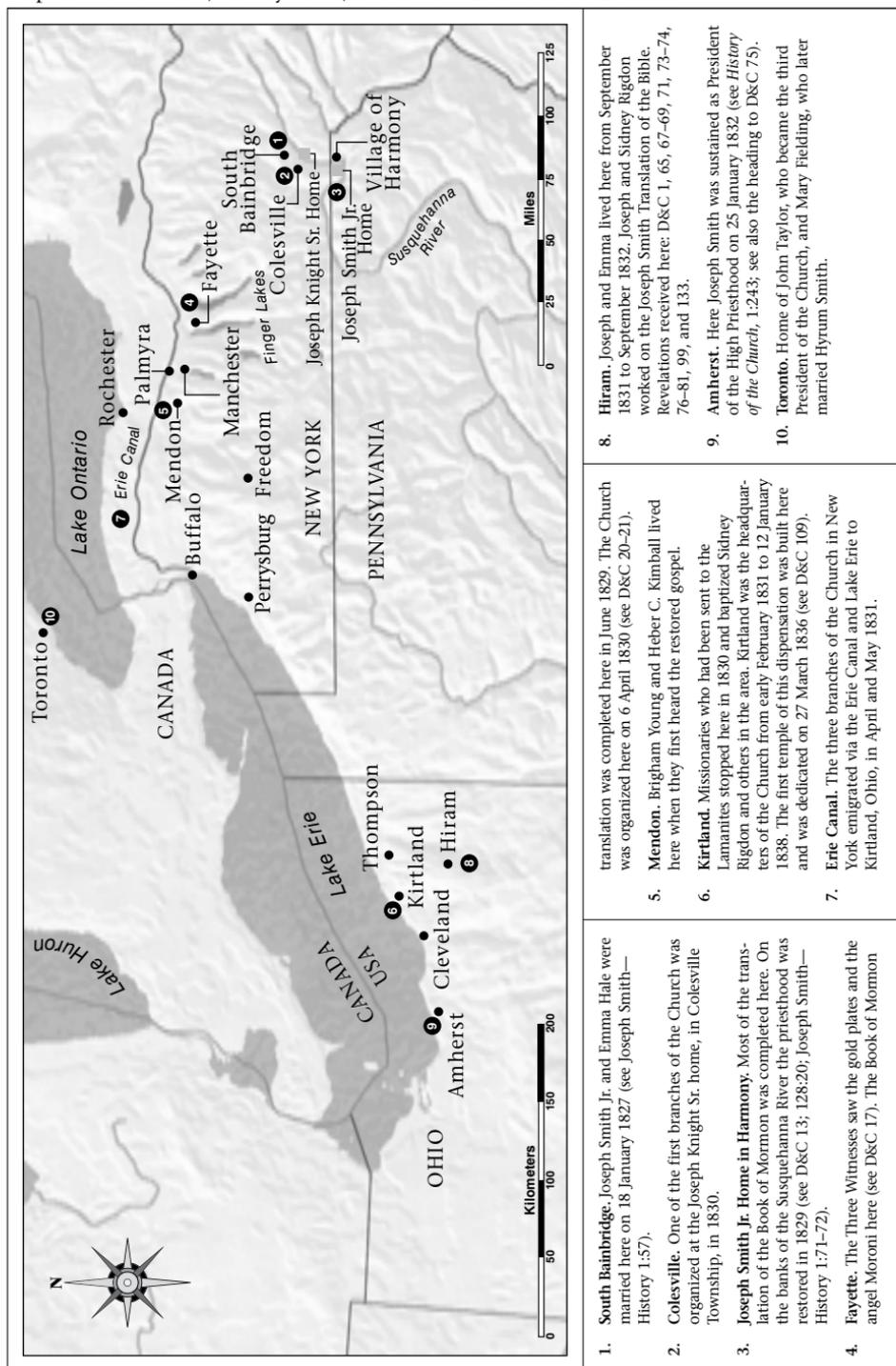
This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the general Relief Society meeting held 23 September 1995 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Church History Chronology

<p>1805, December 23 Joseph Smith born to Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith in Sharon, Vermont (see Joseph Smith—History 1:3–4).</p>	<p>1830, December to 1831, January The Lord commanded the Saints to gather to Ohio (see D&C 37; 38:31–32).</p>	<p>1838, April 26 Name of the Church specified by revelation (see D&C 115:4).</p>
<p>1820, Early Spring Joseph Smith received the First Vision in a grove of trees near his home in the state of New York (see Joseph Smith—History 1:15–20).</p>	<p>1831, July 20 Site for the city of Zion (the New Jerusalem) in Independence, Missouri, revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith (see D&C 57; Articles of Faith 1:10).</p>	<p>1838, December 1 to 1839, April 16 The Prophet Joseph Smith and others imprisoned at Liberty Jail in Liberty, Missouri (see D&C 121–23).</p>
<p>1823, September 21–22 Joseph Smith visited by the angel Moroni and told of the Book of Mormon record. Joseph viewed the gold plates buried in a nearby hill (Cumorah) (see Joseph Smith—History 1:27–54).</p>	<p>1833, March 18 Sidney Rigdon and Frederick G. Williams set apart as Counselors in the Presidency of the Church and given the keys of the kingdom (see the headings to D&C 81 and 90; see also D&C 90:6).</p>	<p>1840, August 15 Baptism for the dead publicly announced by the Prophet Joseph Smith.</p>
<p>1827, September 22 Joseph Smith obtained the gold plates from Moroni at the Hill Cumorah (see Joseph Smith—History 1:59).</p>	<p>1833, November 7 Saints began fleeing from mobs in Jackson County, Missouri, across the Missouri River and into Clay County, Missouri.</p>	<p>1841, October 24 Elder Orson Hyde dedicated Palestine for return of the children of Abraham.</p>
<p>1829, May 15 John the Baptist conferred the Atonic Priesthood on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in Harmony, Pennsylvania (see D&C 13; Joseph Smith—History 1:71–72).</p>	<p>1834, May 5 Joseph Smith left Kirtland, Ohio, for Missouri as the leader of Zion's Camp to bring relief to Saints expelled from Jackson County.</p>	<p>1842, March 17 Female Relief Society organized in Nauvoo, Illinois.</p>
<p>1829, May Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received the Melchizedek Priesthood from Peter, James, and John near the Susquehanna River between Harmony, Pennsylvania, and Colesville, New York (see D&C 128:20).</p>	<p>1835, February 14 The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles organized in Kirtland, Ohio (see D&C 107:23–24).</p>	<p>1842, May 4 First full temple endowments given in Nauvoo, Illinois.</p>
<p>1829, June Translation of the Book of Mormon completed. The Three Witnesses and the Eight Witnesses shown the gold plates (see 2 Nephi 11:3; 27:12–13; D&C 17).</p>	<p>1835, February 28 The organization of the First Quorum of the Seventy commenced in Kirtland, Ohio.</p>	<p>1844, June 27 Joseph and Hyrum Smith martyred at Carthage Jail in Carthage, Illinois (see D&C 135).</p>
<p>1830, March 26 First printed copies of the Book of Mormon available in Palmyra, New York.</p>	<p>1835, August 17 The Doctrine and Covenants accepted as a standard work of the Church in Kirtland, Ohio.</p>	<p>1846, February 4 Nauvoo Saints began crossing the Mississippi River to move west. Some Saints sailed from New York City for California on the ship <i>Brooklyn</i>.</p>
<p>1830, April 6 Organization of the Church in Fayette Township, New York.</p>	<p>1836, March 27 The Kirtland Temple dedicated (see D&C 109).</p>	<p>1846, July 16 Mormon Battalion mustered into United States service in Iowa.</p>
<p>1830, September–October First missionaries called to preach to the Lamanites (Native Americans) (see D&C 28; 30; 32).</p>	<p>1836, April 3 Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple (see D&C 110:1–10). Moses, Elias, and Elijah appeared and conveyed priesthood keys (see D&C 110:11–16).</p>	<p>1847, April President Brigham Young's pioneer company left Winter Quarters on the journey west (see D&C 136).</p>
	<p>1837, July 19 Elder Heber C. Kimball and six others arrived in Liverpool, England, on the first overseas mission.</p>	<p>1847, July 24 President Brigham Young entered the Salt Lake Valley.</p> <p>1847, December 27 Brigham Young sustained as President of the Church.</p> <p>1848, May–June Crickets in the Salt Lake Valley devastated the crops. The fields were saved from complete destruction as flocks of seagulls consumed the crickets.</p> <p>1849, December 9 Sunday School organized by Richard Ballantyne.</p>

<p>1850, June 15 <i>Deseret News</i> began publication in Salt Lake City.</p> <p>1856, October Willie and Martin handcart companies detained by early snowstorms. Found by rescue party from the Salt Lake Valley.</p> <p>1869, November 28 Young Ladies' Retrenchment Association organized, forerunner of the Young Women program.</p> <p>1875, June 10 Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association organized, forerunner of the Young Men program.</p> <p>1877, April 6 St. George Utah Temple dedicated. President Brigham Young received revelation to set in order the priesthood organization and stakes of Zion.</p> <p>1878, August 25 Aurelia Spencer Rogers held the first Primary meeting in Farmington, Utah.</p> <p>1880, October 10 John Taylor sustained as President of the Church. The Pearl of Great Price accepted as a standard work.</p> <p>1883, April 14 Revelation given to President John Taylor on the organization of the Seventy.</p> <p>1889, April 7 Wilford Woodruff sustained as President of the Church.</p> <p>1890, October 6 "Manifesto" sustained in general conference, ending the practice of entering into plural marriage (see Official Declaration 1).</p> <p>1893, April 6 President Wilford Woodruff dedicated the Salt Lake Temple after 40 years of construction.</p> <p>1898, September 13 Lorenzo Snow became President of the Church.</p> <p>1899, May 17 President Lorenzo Snow received revelation in St. George, Utah, prompting him to emphasize tithing.</p> <p>1901, October 17 Joseph F. Smith became President of the Church.</p>	<p>1918, October 3 President Joseph F. Smith received the vision of the redemption of the dead (see D&C 138).</p> <p>1918, November 23 Heber J. Grant became President of the Church.</p> <p>1936, April Church Security Program instituted to assist the poor during the Great Depression; became Church welfare program. This program grew out of a revelation received previously by President Heber J. Grant.</p> <p>1941, April 6 Assistants to the Twelve first called.</p> <p>1945, May 21 George Albert Smith became President of the Church.</p> <p>1951, April 9 David O. McKay sustained as President of the Church.</p> <p>1961, September 30 Under the direction of the First Presidency, Elder Harold B. Lee announced that all Church programs were to be correlated through the priesthood to strengthen families and individuals.</p> <p>1964, October Observance of family home evening emphasized.</p> <p>1970, January 23 Joseph Fielding Smith became President of the Church.</p> <p>1971, January New Church magazines—<i>Ensign</i>, <i>New Era</i>, and <i>Friend</i>—commenced publication.</p> <p>1972, July 7 Harold B. Lee became President of the Church.</p> <p>1973, December 30 Spencer W. Kimball became President of the Church.</p> <p>1975, October 3 President Spencer W. Kimball announced reorganization of the First Quorum of the Seventy.</p> <p>1976, April 3 Two revelations added to the Pearl of Great Price. In 1981 they were moved to become D&C 137 and 138.</p>	<p>1978, September 30 Revelation granting the priesthood to every worthy male member regardless of race or color sustained by the Church (see Official Declaration 2).</p> <p>1979, September LDS edition of King James Bible with study aids published.</p> <p>1981, September New editions of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price published.</p> <p>1984, June Area Presidencies inaugurated, with members called from the Seventy.</p> <p>1985, November 10 Ezra Taft Benson became President of the Church.</p> <p>1989, April 1 Second Quorum of the Seventy reorganized.</p> <p>1994, June 5 Howard W. Hunter became President of the Church.</p> <p>1995, March 12 Gordon B. Hinckley became President of the Church.</p> <p>1995, April 1 Announcement of a new leadership position to be known as an Area Authority.</p> <p>1995, September 23 President Gordon B. Hinckley read "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," from the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, at a general Relief Society meeting.</p> <p>1997, April 5 Area Authorities to be ordained Seventies. Third, Fourth, and Fifth Quorums of the Seventy organized.</p> <p>1997, October 4 President Gordon B. Hinckley announced plans to build smaller temples.</p> <p>1997, November Church membership reached 10 million.</p> <p>1998, April 5 President Gordon B. Hinckley announced goal of having 100 temples in service in the year 2000.</p>
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Map 1: The New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio Area of the United States

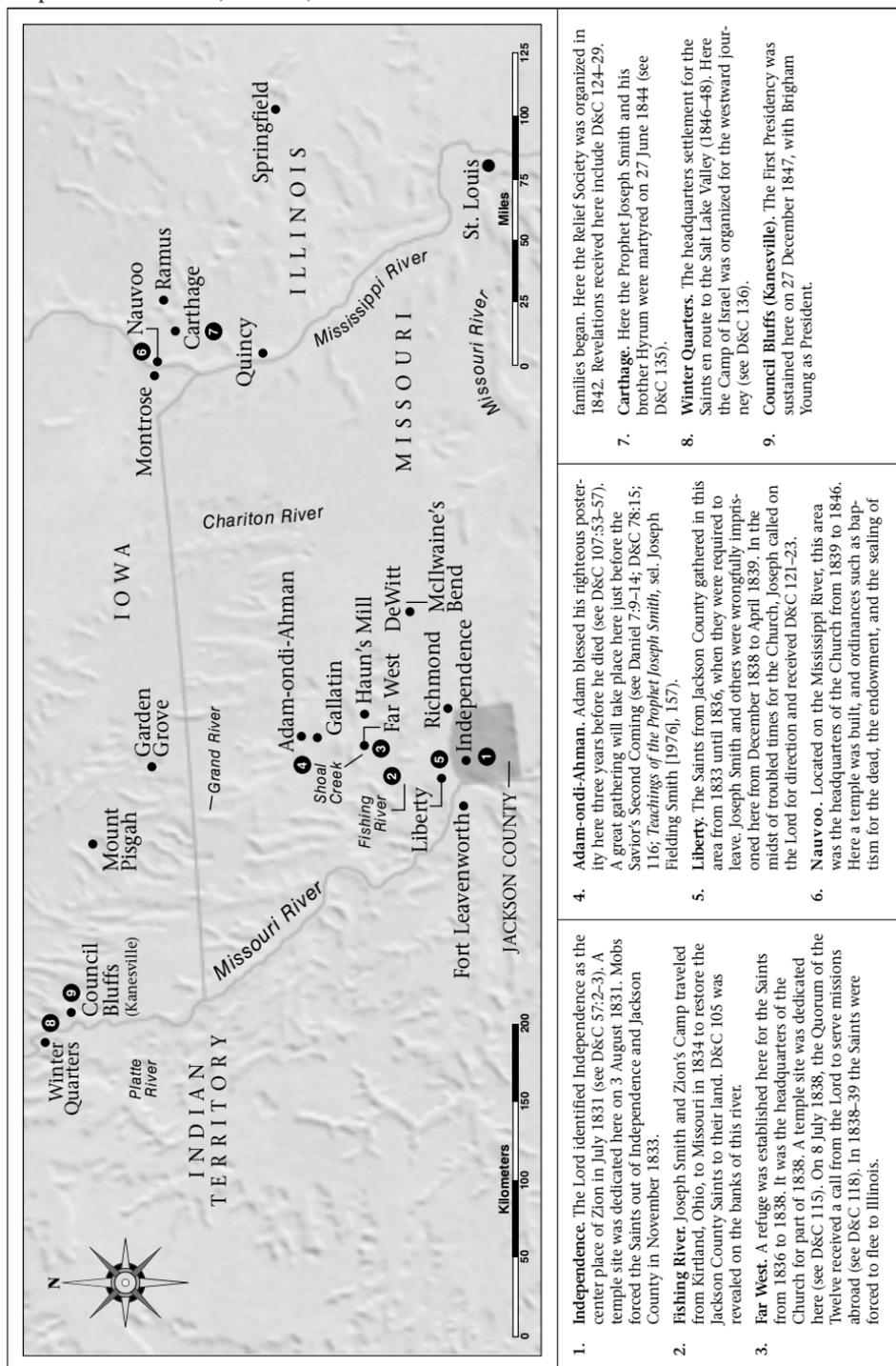


1. **South Bainbridge.** Joseph Smith Jr. and Emma Hale were married here on 18 January 1827 (see Joseph Smith—History 1:57).
2. **Colesville.** One of the first branches of the Church was organized at the Joseph Knight Sr. home, in Colesville Township, in 1830.
3. **Joseph Smith Jr. Home in Harmony.** Most of the translation of the Book of Mormon was completed here. On the banks of the Susquehanna River the priesthood was restored in 1829 (see D&C 13; 128:20; Joseph Smith—History 1:71–72).
4. **Fayette.** The Three Witnesses saw the gold plates and the angel Moroni here (see D&C 17). The Book of Mormon

5. **Mendon.** Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball lived here when they first heard the restored gospel.
6. **Kirtland.** Missionaries who had been sent to the Lamanites stopped here in 1830 and baptized Sidney Rigdon and others in the area. Kirtland was the headquarters of the Church from early February 1831 to 12 January 1838. The first temple of this dispensation was built here and was dedicated on 27 March 1836 (see D&C 109).
7. **Erie Canal.** The three branches of the Church in New York emigrated via the Erie Canal and Lake Erie to Kirtland, Ohio, in April and May 1831.

8. **Hiram.** Joseph and Emma lived here from September 1831 to September 1832. Joseph and Sidney Rigdon worked on the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible. Revelations received here: D&C 1, 65, 67–69, 71, 73–74, 76–81, 99, and 133.
9. **Amherst.** Here Joseph Smith was sustained as President of the High Priesthood on 25 January 1832 (see *History of the Church*, 1:243; see also the heading to D&C 75).
10. **Toronto.** Home of John Taylor, who became the third President of the Church, and Mary Fielding, who later married Hyrum Smith.

Map 2: The Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa Area of the United States



1. **Independence.** The Lord identified Independence as the center place of Zion in July 1831 (see D&C 57:2-3). A temple site was dedicated here on 3 August 1831. Mobs forced the Saints out of Independence and Jackson County in November 1833.

2. **Fishing River.** Joseph Smith and Zion's Camp traveled from Kirtland, Ohio, to Missouri in 1834 to restore the Jackson County Saints to their land. D&C 105 was revealed on the banks of this river.

3. **Far West.** A refuge was established here for the Saints from 1836 to 1838. It was the headquarters of the Church for part of 1838. A temple site was dedicated here (see D&C 115). On 8 July 1838, the Quorum of the Twelve received a call from the Lord to serve missions abroad (see D&C 118). In 1838-39 the Saints were forced to flee to Illinois.

4. **Adam-ondi-Ahman.** Adam blessed his righteous posterity here three years before he died (see D&C 107:53-57). A great gathering will take place here just before the Savior's Second Coming (see Daniel 7:9-14; D&C 78:15; 116; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, ed. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 157).

5. **Liberty.** The Saints from Jackson County gathered in this area from 1833 until 1836, when they were required to leave. Joseph Smith and others were wrongfully imprisoned here from December 1838 to April 1839. In the midst of troubled times for the Church, Joseph called on the Lord for direction and received D&C 121-23.

6. **Nauvoo.** Located on the Mississippi River, this area was the headquarters of the Church from 1839 to 1846. Here a temple was built, and ordinances such as baptism for the dead, the endowment, and the sealing of

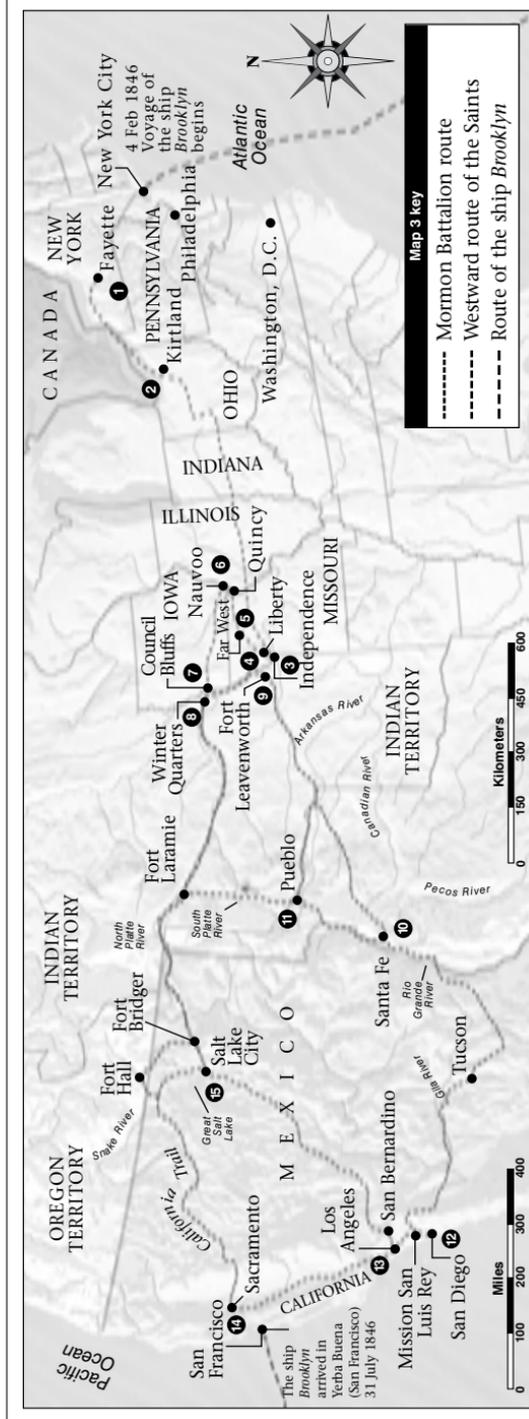
families began. Here the Relief Society was organized in 1842. Revelations received here include D&C 124-29.

7. **Carthage.** Here the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were martyred on 27 June 1844 (see D&C 135).

8. **Winter Quarters.** The headquarters settlement for the Saints en route to the Salt Lake Valley (1846-48). Here the Camp of Israel was organized for the westward journey (see D&C 136).

9. **Council Bluffs (Kanesville).** The First Presidency was sustained here on 27 December 1847, with Brigham Young as President.

Map 3: The Westward Movement of the Church



- Fayette.** The Prophet Joseph Smith left Fayette for Kirtland, Ohio, in January 1831. The three New York branches followed in April and May 1831 under the Lord's command to gather (see D&C 37–38).
- Kirtland.** The headquarters of the Church from early February 1831 to 12 January 1838, when the Prophet moved to Far West, Missouri.
- Independence.** The Lord identified Independence as the center place of Zion in July 1831 (see D&C 57:2–3). Mobs forced the Saints from here in November 1833.
- Liberty.** The Saints from Jackson County gathered in this area from 1833 until 1836, when they were required to leave.
- Far West.** A refuge was established here for the Saints from 1836 to 1838. It was the headquarters of the Church for part of 1838. In 1838–39 the Saints were forced to flee to Illinois.

- Nauvoo.** The headquarters of the Church from 1839 to 1846. About two years after the martyrdom of the Prophet and his brother Hyrum, the Saints moved west.
- Council Bluffs (Kanesville).** The pioneers arrived here in June 1846. Members of the Mormon Battalion departed on 21 July 1846 under Lieutenant Colonel James Allen.
- Winter Quarters.** The headquarters settlement for the Saints en route to the Salt Lake Valley (1846–48). The vanguard company under the direction of President Brigham Young departed in April 1847.
- Fort Leavenworth.** The Mormon Battalion was outfitted here before starting the march west in August 1846.
- Santa Fe.** Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cooke commanded the Mormon Battalion as it marched from here on 19 October 1846.

- Pueblo.** Three sick detachments from the Mormon Battalion were ordered to recuperate in Pueblo, where they spent the winter of 1846–47 with Saints from Mississippi. These parties entered the Salt Lake Valley in July 1847.
- San Diego.** The Mormon Battalion finished its 2,000-mile march here on 29 January 1847.
- Los Angeles.** The Mormon Battalion was discharged here on 16 July 1847.
- Sacramento.** Some discharged battalion members worked here and at Sutter's Mill farther east on the American River, where they helped discover gold.
- Salt Lake Valley.** President Brigham Young arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on 24 July 1847.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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