

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • APRIL 2015

Liahona



**Understanding
the Savior's Sacred
Sacrifice, p. 34**

Why Being Weak Isn't a Sin, p. 20

**How to Succeed at Family
Home Evening, pp. 10, 80**



*"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?
"And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing."*

Luke 15:4-5

This photo, taken in Israel in April 2010, shows the risks a shepherd will take to rescue his sheep.



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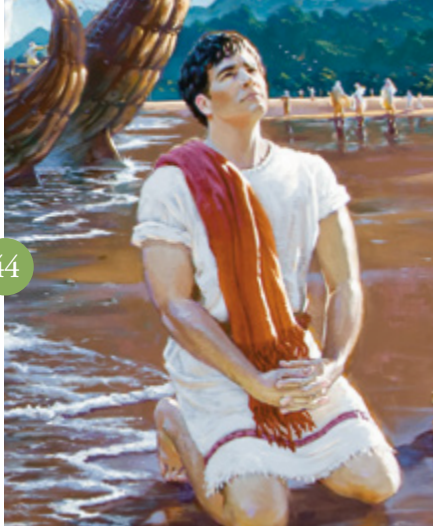
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Family Home Evening Ideas

*This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening.
The following are two ideas.*



“I Need Thee Every Hour,” page 30: Just
as the words of the hymn “I Need Thee
Every Hour” helped Pak Mi-Jung decide to
be baptized, hymns can have a powerful
impact on our lives. Think of a time that
the words of a hymn have blessed your life
and consider sharing the experience with
your family. Invite each family member to
choose a favorite hymn and tell how it has
blessed his or her life. Then sing each hymn
with your family. (You might spread this
out over a couple of weeks.)

“Prayers and Cathedrals,” page 68:
After you read this story, display pictures
of or mention the different churches in
your city and talk about these questions
with your family: What are some similar-
ities we have with other religions? How
does Heavenly Father feel about all of His
children? How should we treat people who
have different beliefs? Consider using the
article “Balancing Truth and Tolerance”
by Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles (*Liahona*, Feb. 2013,
28–35) to help answer these questions.

IN YOUR LANGUAGE

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

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By President
Thomas S.
Monson

President Monson Calls for

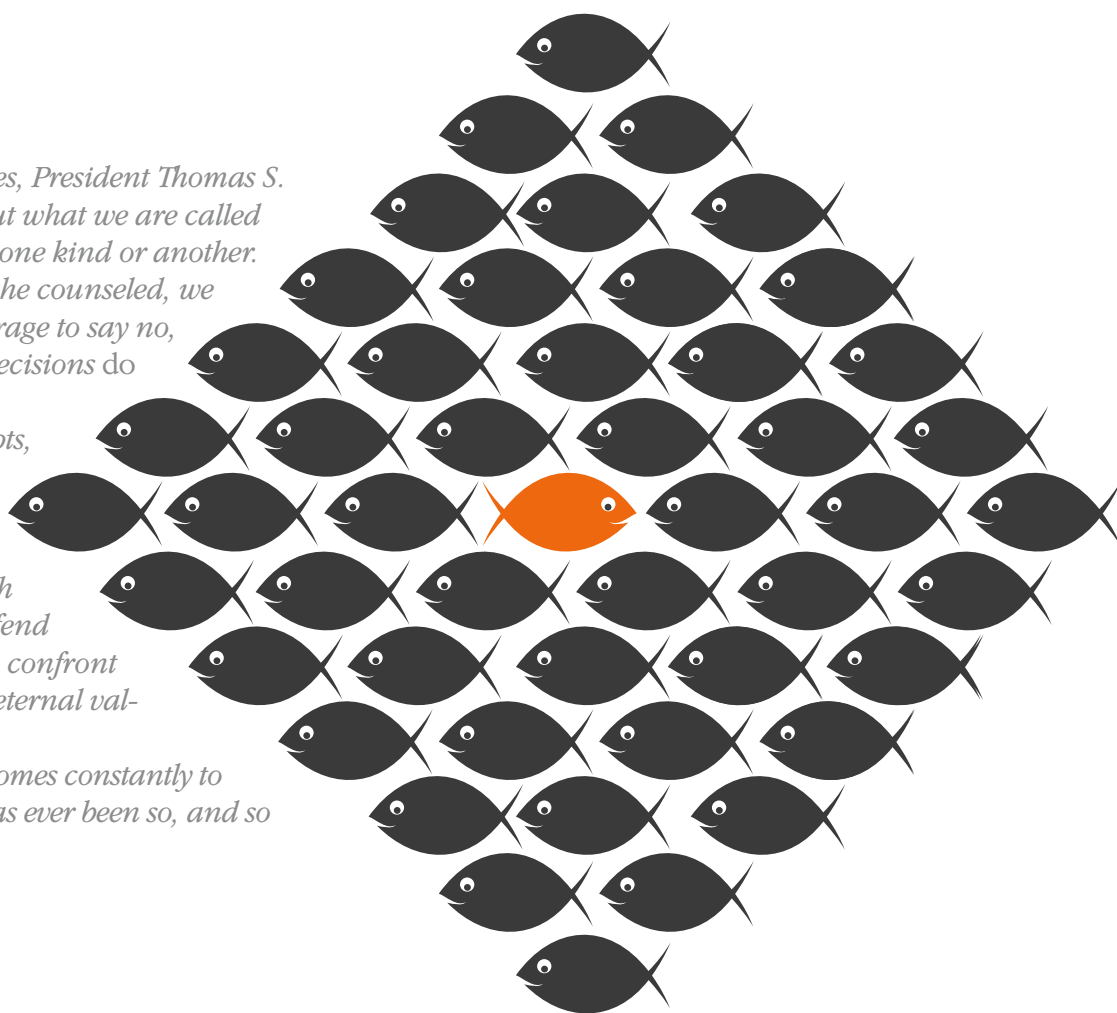
COURAGE

Scarcely an hour passes, President Thomas S. Monson has observed, but what we are called upon to make choices of one kind or another.

To make wise choices, he counseled, we need courage—"the courage to say no, the courage to say yes. Decisions do determine destiny."¹

In the following excerpts, President Monson reminds Latter-day Saints that they need courage to stand for truth and righteousness, to defend what they believe, and to confront a world that is rejecting eternal values and principles.

"The call for courage comes constantly to each of us," he said. "It has ever been so, and so shall it ever be."²



Courage Brings God's Approval

"We will all face fear, experience ridicule, and meet opposition. Let us—all of us—have the courage to defy the consensus, the courage to stand for principle. Courage, not compromise, brings the smile of God's approval. Courage becomes a living and an attractive virtue when it is regarded not only as a willingness to die manfully but also as the determination to live decently. As we move forward, striving to live as we should, we will surely receive help from the Lord and can find comfort in His words."³

Withstand with Courage

"What does it mean to endure? I love this definition: *to withstand with courage*. Courage may be necessary for you to believe; it will at times be necessary as you obey. It will most certainly be required as you endure until that day when you will leave this mortal existence."⁴

Have Courage to Stand for Truth

"[May] you have the courage to stand firm for truth and righteousness. Because the trend in society today is away from the values and principles the Lord has given us, you will almost certainly be called upon to defend that which you believe. Unless the roots of your testimony are firmly planted, it will be difficult for you to withstand the ridicule of those who challenge your faith. When firmly planted, your testimony of the gospel, of the Savior, and of our Heavenly Father will influence all that you do throughout your life."⁵

We Need Spiritual and Moral Courage

"The messages portrayed on television, in movies, and in other media [today] are very often in direct opposition to that which we want our children to embrace and hold dear. It is our responsibility not only to teach them to be sound in spirit and doctrine but also to help them stay that way, regardless of the outside forces they may encounter. This will require much time and effort on our part—and in order to help others, we ourselves need the spiritual and moral courage to withstand the evil we see on every side."⁶

May We Ever Be Courageous

"As we go about living from day to day, it is almost inevitable that our faith will be challenged. We may at times find ourselves surrounded by others and yet standing in the minority or even standing alone concerning what is acceptable and what is not. . . .

"May we ever be courageous and prepared to stand for what we believe, and if we must stand alone in the process, may we do so courageously, strengthened by the knowledge that in reality we are never alone when we stand with our Father in Heaven."⁷ ■

TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

You might ask those you teach to think of a situation in the coming week—at home, at work, at school, or at church—that will require them to act with courage. They might face a fear, endure something challenging, stand for their beliefs, or decide to obey a principle of the gospel more fully. Invite them to share their thoughts or write them down.

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, "The Three Rs of Choice," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 67, 68.
2. Thomas S. Monson, "The Call for Courage," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2004, 55.
3. Thomas S. Monson, "Be Strong and of a Good Courage," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 69.
4. Thomas S. Monson, "Believe, Obey, and Endure," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 129.
5. Thomas S. Monson, "May You Have Courage," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2009, 126.
6. Thomas S. Monson, "Three Goals to Guide You," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 118–19.
7. Thomas S. Monson, "Dare to Stand Alone," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 60, 67.

Someone Else's Sarah

By McKenzie Miller

I used to find it difficult to use my beliefs as a response to a question as simple as “Why don’t you drink coffee?” In the past I came up with excuses like “It’s too bitter” or “I don’t like the taste.”

Why was I embarrassed? Why was I so afraid to stand up for what I believe? Looking back now, I don’t understand exactly what I feared. But I do remember exactly when I stopped hiding behind excuses.

One day in my high school English class, the teacher announced that we’d be viewing an episode of a TV show I knew I shouldn’t watch. While other students cheered in excitement, my classmate Sarah raised her hand and asked if she could leave.

When the teacher asked why, Sarah responded matter-of-factly, “Because I’m Mormon and I don’t watch shows with profanity.”

Her courage to stand up in front of the class was amazing. Thanks to Sarah, I too stood up and waited outside with a clear conscience for the show to finish.

I was forever changed. I started explaining my beliefs instead of avoiding the subject. And as a result, I found confidence in myself and participated even more in Church and school activities.

I never told Sarah how much her example meant to me, but I try to emulate her example of confidence. I now realize that being a member of God’s wonderful, sacred Church is absolutely nothing to be ashamed about. I hope that I can, through my example, be someone else’s Sarah.

The author lives in Utah, USA.

CHILDREN

Courage in the Scriptures

President Monson teaches us to have courage and stand for what we believe. There are lots of examples in the scriptures of people who showed courage. Read the scripture next to each name. How did these people show courage and stand up for what they knew was right? Use the spaces to write or draw a picture of your answers.

Joseph Smith (Joseph Smith—History 1:11–17)

Daniel (Daniel 6:7, 10–23)

Samuel the Lamanite (Helaman 13:2–4; 16:1–7)

Esther (Esther 4:5–14; 5:1–8; 7:1–6)

Prayerfully study this material and seek to know what to share. How will understanding the life and roles of the Savior increase your faith in Him and bless those you watch over through visiting teaching? For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

The Attributes of Jesus Christ: Without Guile or Hypocrisy

This is part of a series of Visiting Teaching Messages featuring attributes of the Savior.

Understanding that Jesus Christ is without guile and hypocrisy will help us faithfully strive to follow His example. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: “To beguile is to deceive or lead astray. . . . A person without guile is a person of innocence, honest intent, and pure motives, whose life reflects the simple practice of conforming his [or her] daily actions to principles of integrity. . . . I believe the necessity for the members of the Church to be without guile may be more urgent now than at other times because many in the world apparently do not understand the importance of this virtue.”¹

Of hypocrisy, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said: “None of us is quite as Christlike as we know we



should be. But we earnestly desire to overcome our faults and the tendency to sin. With our heart and soul we yearn to become better with the help of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.”²

We know “we will be judged according to our actions, the desires of our hearts, and the kind of people we have become.”³ Yet as we strive to repent, we will become more pure—and “blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

Additional Scriptures

Psalm 32:2; James 3:17; 1 Peter 2:1–2, 22

Consider This

What can we learn about being without guile from little children? (See Guide to the Scriptures, “Guile.”)

NOTES

1. Joseph B. Wirthlin, “Without Guile,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 80, 81.
2. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Come, Join with Us,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 23.
3. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 1.2.1.

Faith, Family, Relief



From the Scriptures

Little children are without guile. Jesus Christ said: “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. . . . And he took [the children] up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:14, 16).

Christ also ministered to the children in the Americas after His Crucifixion. He commanded that the people bring their little children to Him and “set them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst; . . .

“ . . . [And] he wept, and the multitude bare record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. . . .

“And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes towards heaven, and . . . they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, . . . and the angels did minister unto them” (3 Nephi 17:12, 21, 24).

THE POWER OF FAITH

By Amber Barlow Dahl

If Heavenly Father were to free us from our challenges simply because we asked, He would deny us the very experiences necessary for our salvation.

One year in college, I was taking a test when my neck began to hurt. The pain didn't go away when the tension of the test had passed. I consulted with doctors and therapists and tried a variety of treatments, but still the pain continued. Over the next year, as I struggled to cope with this pain, I also struggled to increase my faith. I spent much time in prayer, I studied the scriptures, and I asked for priesthood blessings. I felt that if I just had enough faith, I would be healed.

Jesus Christ healed the sick, the blind, the lame, the leprous—"according to [their] faith" (Matthew 9:29). I knew He had the power to heal me as He had so many others during His mortal life. I concluded, therefore, that only my lack of faith kept me from being healed, so I redoubled my efforts. While I continued with physical therapy, I prayed and fasted and studied and believed. Yet my pain persisted.

The scriptures teach us that with faith we can work miracles (see Matthew 17:20), yet I could not be relieved of this minor suffering. Where was the power in my faith? Finally, I quietly accepted my situation, found ways to cope with my discomfort, and became content to

save full understanding of faith and healing for a future time.

Years later I was talking with a friend who had struggled with terrible nausea that had sent her to the hospital more than once during her first pregnancy. Erin wanted to have another baby, but she was terrified that she would have to endure the same discomforts she had faced with her first pregnancy. She told me that she had been fasting and praying and that she really believed Heavenly Father would not ask that of her a second time.

As we talked, I recalled the scripture, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). I thought of my own experience in learning to be still in the midst of affliction and urged Erin to continue to have faith but not to make that faith dependent on whether or not she experienced nausea with her next pregnancy.

As I continued to study the principle of faith, I turned to Alma's discourse on faith in which he teaches that "if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21).



RISING ABOVE TRIALS

"Is there not wisdom in [Heavenly Father] giving us trials that we might rise above them, responsibilities that we might achieve, work to harden our muscles, sorrows to try our souls? Are we not exposed to temptations to test our strength, sickness that we might learn patience, death that we might be immortalized and glorified?"

"If all the sick for whom we pray were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principle of the gospel, free agency, would be ended. No man would have to live by faith."

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball* (2006), 15.



Pondering this scripture, I discovered that faith wasn't what I thought it was. Faith, Alma teaches us, is hope in true principles. To have faith does not mean we believe our Heavenly Father will always give us what we ask for when we ask for it. Having faith that Christ would heal my neck or that He would grant Erin a nausea-free pregnancy is not having faith in true principles. However, we can have faith that Christ has the power to heal, that He is mindful of us, that He will strengthen us, and that if we endure well, we may qualify for eternal life.

The Lord promised, "Whatsoever thing ye shall ask in faith, believing that ye shall receive in the name of

Christ, ye shall receive it" (Enos 1:15). I believe the power in this promise lies in the counsel to believe "in the name of Christ." The Bible Dictionary entry on prayer teaches us: "We pray in Christ's name when our mind is the mind of Christ, and our wishes the wishes of Christ—when His words abide in us (John 15:7). We then ask for things it is possible for God to grant. Many prayers remain unanswered because they are not in Christ's name at all; they in no way represent His mind but spring out of the selfishness of man's heart."

When we ask in faith for something that is in accordance with the will of God, He will grant us according to

our desires. Heavenly Father knows us, loves us, and desires everything necessary for us to return to His presence. And sometimes that includes trials, troubles, and challenges (see 1 Peter 1:7). If Heavenly Father were to free us from our challenges simply because we asked, He would deny us the very experiences necessary for our salvation. We must learn to trust in God's plan for us and submit our will to His. As we align our desires with His desires and acknowledge our complete dependence on Him, we may qualify to receive "the end of [our] faith, even the salvation of [our] souls" (1 Peter 1:9). ■

The author lives in Oregon, USA.

FAMILY HOME EVENING— YOU CAN DO IT!

No matter what your family is like, family home evening can bless and strengthen you.

A father gets home tired after a long day at work and finds the rest of his family struggling with similar grumpy feelings. It's Monday night, and holding family home evening seems impossible. After saying a prayer for help, the father and mother decide to keep things simple. They call their family together, sing a hymn, and pray together. They give each member a small candle to light as they tell about something that inspired them recently. In a darkened room, the light of the candles represents inspiration and focuses the children's attention. As testimonies are shared, a feeling of sweet peace and love enters the home. The family ends the night grateful they held home evening.

Did you know that family home evening has been a Church program for 100 years? In April 1915, the First Presidency directed members to set aside one night each week for family prayer, music, gospel learning, stories, and activities. (See page 80 for an excerpt from the First Presidency letter.) Prophets continue to remind us of the importance of family home

evening. "We cannot afford to neglect this heaven-inspired program," President Thomas S. Monson said. "It can bring spiritual growth to each member of the family, helping him or her to withstand temptations which are everywhere."¹

Here are some attitudes to keep in mind as you make family home evening part of your week:

This applies to me. "Family home evenings are for everyone," said Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.² All of us—married or single, with children or without—can dedicate time to strengthening family and learning the gospel.

I can find time. The Church sets the example by keeping Monday nights free from Church activities. You can show the Lord and your family that you are willing to set aside time for what is most important.

I can find what works for my family. If your family is separated geographically, try a "family online evening" to talk with family members online or over the phone. Does someone have to work late? Hold a "family park evening"

near the workplace during a break. A divorced father held a "family letter evening" each Monday, writing to his children who lived far away.³ Let obstacles be a catalyst for greater creativity.

I can start this week. Family home evening can be organized according to the needs and circumstances of your home. Here are some general suggestions:

- Start and end with prayer.
- Use music, including hymns and Primary songs.
- Learn from the scriptures and modern prophets.
- Include a variety of physical activities, service projects, and gospel-centered activities from week to week.
- Have fun! Play a game or make refreshments.
- Be consistent. If you can't do it on Monday, find another day that works.

I want the blessings. Prophets have promised that if we participate in family home evening, great blessings will result: Love and obedience at





home will increase. Faith will develop in the hearts of youth. Families “will gain power to combat the evil influences and temptations” that surround them.⁴

While your family home evenings may not be perfect experiences every time, your family will be strengthened and blessed by your efforts. “Each family home evening is a brushstroke on the canvas of our souls,” Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught. “No one event may appear to be very impressive or memorable. But just as the . . . strokes

of paint complement each other and produce an impressive masterpiece, so our consistency in doing seemingly small things can lead to significant spiritual results.”⁵ ■

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “Constant Truths for Changing Times,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2005, 19.
2. L. Tom Perry, “Therefore I Was Taught,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 38.
3. See “Family Home Evening: Any Size, Any Situation,” *Ensign*, Dec. 2001, 42.
4. First Presidency, in James R. Clark, comp., *Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 6 vols. (1965–75), 4:339.
5. David A. Bednar, “More Diligent and Concerned at Home,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 19–20.

GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY

“We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities. However worthy and appropriate other demands or activities may be, they must not be permitted to displace the divinely-appointed duties that only parents and families can adequately perform.”

First Presidency letter, Feb. 11, 1999.

HE IS RISEN

An unwavering faith in Christ is the most important need of the world today.



By President David O. McKay (1873–1970)

Ninth President of the Church

David O. McKay was born on September 8, 1873. He was ordained an Apostle on April 9,

1906, at age 32, and on April 9, 1951, he was sustained as the ninth President of the Church. The following is excerpted from an address he gave at the April 1966 general conference. For the full address, see Conference Report, Apr. 1966, 55–59.

If a miracle is a supernatural event whose antecedent forces are beyond man's finite wisdom, then the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most stupendous miracle of all time. In it stand revealed the omnipotence of God and the immortality of man.

The Resurrection is a miracle, however, only in the sense that it is beyond man's comprehension and understanding. To all who accept it as fact, it is but a manifestation of a uniform law of life. . . .

Establish it as a fact that Christ did take up his body and appeared as a glorified, resurrected being, and you answer the question of the ages: "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14).

Witnesses of the Resurrection

That the literal Resurrection of Christ from the grave was a reality to the disciples who knew Him intimately is a certainty. In their minds there was absolutely no doubt. They were witnesses of the fact; they knew because their eyes beheld, their ears heard, their hands felt the corporeal presence of the risen Redeemer.

Peter, the chief Apostle, on the occasion when the eleven had met to choose one to take the place of Judas Iscariot, said, "Wherefore of these men . . . must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection" (Acts 1:21–22). . . .

On another occasion Peter declared before their enemies, the very men who had put Jesus to death on the cross: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; . . . This Jesus hath

God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses"
(Acts 2:22, 32). . . .

Additional Witnesses

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stands with Peter, with Paul, with James, and with all the other early Apostles who accepted the Resurrection not only as being literally true, but as the consummation of Christ's divine mission on earth.

Eighteen hundred years after Jesus died upon the cross, the Prophet Joseph Smith declared that the risen Lord appeared to him, saying: "I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*" (Joseph Smith—History 1:17). . . .

If Joseph Smith's testimony stood alone, it would be, as Christ said of His testimony when He spoke of Himself, of no avail; but Jesus had God's testimony and that of the Apostles. And Joseph Smith had other witnesses [who] corroborated [his] testimony, the truth of which was made known by the appearance to them of the angel Moroni. . . .

. . . The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [also] proclaims the glorious vision of the Prophet Joseph Smith:

THE LIVING CHRIST

Read the testimony of Jesus Christ given by modern apostles and prophets in the *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Apr. 2000, 2–3.



world that Christ is the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world! No true follower is satisfied to accept Him merely as a great reformer, the ideal teacher, or even as the one perfect man. The Man of Galilee is—not figuratively, but *literally*—the Son of the living God. . . .

Truly Born Again

No man can sincerely resolve to apply in his daily life the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth without sensing a change in his whole being. The phrase “born again” has a deeper significance than what many people attach to it. . . . Happy is the person who has truly sensed the uplifting, transforming power that comes from this nearness to the Savior, this kinship to the living Christ. I am thankful that I know that Christ is my Redeemer. . . .

The message of the Resurrection . . . is the most comforting, the most glorious ever given to man, for when death takes a loved one from us, our sorrowing hearts are assuaged by the hope and divine assurance expressed in the words: “*He is not here; he is risen!*” [see Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6].

With all my soul I know that death is conquered by Jesus Christ, and because our Redeemer lives, so shall we. ■

Subheads altered; capitalization and punctuation standardized.

“And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!” (D&C 76:22). . . .

In the light of such unimpeachable testimonies as given by the ancient Apostles—testimonies dating from a few years subsequent to the event itself—in the light of that most marvelous revelation in this age of the living Christ, it seems difficult indeed to understand how men can still reject Him and can doubt the immortality of man.

What We Need Today

An unwavering faith in Christ is the most important need of the world today. It is more than a mere feeling. It is power that moves into action, and should be in human life the most basic of all motivating forces. . . .

If only men would “do His will,” instead of looking hopelessly at the dark and gloomy tomb, they would turn their eyes heavenward and know that Christ is risen! . . .

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints declares to all the

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE OF

"We call upon the women of the Church to stand together for righteousness. . . . I see this as the one bright shining hope in [the] world."
—President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008)



WOMEN



Do we know the power of our spiritual strength?

By Starla Averkamp Butler

Many wonderful, humble women in the Church provide dedicated service without realizing the far-reaching impact their lives have—as examples of temporal service, but also as legacies of spiritual strength. One such woman is my grandmother, Cherie Petersen. She has served faithfully in quiet callings all her life. If you asked her, she would claim that she doesn't have many talents to offer the world. However, as I have started to learn about her life, I've realized just how much her spiritual strength has affected my life.

Cherie's parents stopped attending church and divorced when she was still very young, so she grew up with a mother, Florence, who was always working. Florence had been neglected as a child, as she was raised in a boarding school while her mother, Georgia, lived a worldly life. In spite of the challenges in her upbringing, Cherie remained active in the gospel, faithfully attending church with her great-grandmother Elizabeth's family or with friends. She saw in their families what she wanted for her own. She didn't know exactly what a family should be like, but she knew what it shouldn't be, and she was determined to have her future family be different.

Cherie's husband—my grandpa Dell—once told me, “To have a testimony, you have to want it. Cherie always wanted a testimony.” Though their early years of marriage were filled with struggles, they were determined to remain strong as a family. They were less active during the first year of their marriage because of Dell's work schedule, but a call to serve in the Primary prompted Cherie to begin attending, and Dell soon joined her at church as a deacons quorum advisor. They've both been active and strong in the Church ever since. Cherie's

DAUGHTERS OF DEITY, BY KATHLEEN PETERSON, MAY NOT BE COPIED

willingness to serve and determination to raise a strong family helped my mother become the strong woman she is, and my mother's example has helped define my life, especially as I now start my own family.

As women we can have a profound spiritual influence on the lives of those around us. Indeed, Joseph Smith taught that our role is “not only to relieve the poor, but to save souls.”¹ Jesus Christ has called the women of His Church to be His disciples and to be strong spiritually. Our spiritual strength and influence are vital in the progression of the work of salvation, and we need to seek opportunities to spiritually strengthen those around us. As we do, the influence of our faith and righteousness will last far beyond what we can see.

Called to Be Disciples

Elder James E. Talmage (1862–1933) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wrote, “The world’s greatest champion of woman and womanhood is Jesus the Christ.”² Think, for example, of what He taught two of His female disciples in the New Testament, sisters Mary and Martha. The book *Daughters in My Kingdom* explains: “Luke 10 contains an account of Martha opening her home to Jesus. She served the Lord by taking care of His temporal needs, and Mary sat at the Master’s feet and absorbed His teachings.

“In an age when women were generally expected to provide only temporal service, the Savior taught Martha and Mary that women could also participate spiritually in His work. He invited them to become His disciples and partake of salvation, ‘that good part’ that would never be taken from them.”³

Like Martha, sometimes we make the mistake of thinking that the primary role of women is to offer temporal



Four generations: Elizabeth (left), holding her granddaughter Florence. Annie (center) came to Utah with her parents and is Elizabeth’s mother. Georgia (right) is Elizabeth’s daughter, but Georgia and her daughter Florence left the Church. It was faithful Elizabeth who helped her great-granddaughter Cherie and Cherie’s posterity return to the gospel.

service, such as providing meals, sewing, and cleaning for others. This service is a valuable and cherished sacrifice; however, even more than He needs sisters who can sew and cook, the Lord needs women of spiritual power whose faith, righteousness, and charity shine through in their lives. He knows that we each have so much to offer. Jesus Christ calls *all* of us to develop our spiritual strength and ability to receive and act on revelation to help move His work forward. Linda K. Burton, Relief Society general president, said to the sisters, “You have been sent to earth in this dispensation of time because of who you are and what

you have been prepared to do! Regardless of what Satan would try to persuade us to think about who we are, our true identity is that of a disciple of Jesus Christ!”⁴

The Lord knows us and our situations, and He has a work for each of us to do on this earth. No sister knows too little or has too few talents to be a spiritual force for good and bring others to Christ. With this divine potential we have the responsibility to become spiritual leaders in our homes and communities. Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles proclaimed, “Every sister in this Church who has made covenants with the Lord has a divine mandate to help save souls, to lead the women of the world, to strengthen the homes of Zion, and to build the kingdom of God.”⁵

We do not have to be in high positions or do unusual things to help those around us make choices that will lead them closer to Jesus Christ—our most important duty. Both the largest and the smallest things we do in the lives of one or two people, even just within our own family, can have a profound impact.



Women in the Work of Salvation

A beloved hymn states, “The errand of angels is given to women; and this is a gift that, as sisters, we claim.”⁶ We have much to offer in lives of those we love. Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has shared stories of how the spiritual strength of two women affected his life:

“When I was a young child, my father was not a member of the Church and my mother had become less active. . . . Some months after my eighth birthday, Grandmother Whittle came across the country to visit us. Grandmother was concerned that neither I nor my older brother had been baptized. I don’t know what she said to my parents about this, but I do know that one morning she

*“The Savior taught
Martha and Mary
that women could
participate spiri-
tually in His work.
He invited them
to become His dis-
ciples and partake
of salvation.”*

took my brother and me to the park and shared with us her feelings about the importance of being baptized and attending Church meetings regularly. I don’t remember the specifics of what she said, but her words stirred something in my heart, and soon my brother and I were baptized. . . .

“Grandmother used just the right amount of courage and respect to help our father recognize the importance of his driving us to the church for our meetings. In every appropriate way, she helped us to feel a need for the gospel in our lives.”⁷

A second source of spiritual strength was Elder Scott’s wife, Jeanene. When they were dating they began to talk about the future. Jeanene, who had grown up



BABE, BY KATHLEEN PETERSON, MAY NOT BE COPIED

in a strong missionary home, expressed her desire to marry a returned missionary in the temple. Elder Scott, who hadn't thought much about serving a mission before, was strongly impacted. "I went home, and I could think of nothing else. I was awake all night long. . . . After many prayers I made the decision to meet with my bishop and begin my missionary application."⁸ Although Jeanene gave him the guidance and prompting he needed, Elder Scott said, "Jeanene never asked me to serve a mission *for her*. She loved me enough to share her conviction and then gave me the opportunity to work out the direction of my own life. We both served missions and later were sealed in the temple. Jeanene's courage and commitment to her faith have made all the difference in our lives together. I am certain we would not

A beloved hymn states, "The errand of angels is given to women; and this is a gift that, as sisters we claim." We have much to offer in lives of those we love.

have found the happiness we enjoy without her strong faith in the principle of serving the Lord first. She is a wonderful, righteous example!"⁹

It was the spiritual influence of these women in his life that helped just one young man—Elder Scott—make some of the most important decisions in his life: to be baptized, to serve a mission, and to marry in the temple.

We can help others want to make good choices by our example, actions, words, and personal righteousness. Carole M. Stephens, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency, proclaims, "We are covenant daughters in the Lord's kingdom, and we have the opportunity to be instruments in His hands. . . . We participate in the work of salvation each day in small and simple ways—watching over, strengthening, and

teaching one another.”¹⁰ As we rely on the Spirit and press forward in sincere and humble efforts to help those around us come closer to Christ, we will be guided in what we can do and given the strength to do it, and we will feel the joy of bringing the Lord’s children unto Him.

Becoming a Spiritual Influence

Knowing our responsibility, we might ask as disciples of old, “What shall we do” (Acts 2:37) to be a spiritual influence? In a recent general conference, Sister Burton invited the sisters to imagine “some of the possible spiritual ‘help wanted’ signs related to the work of salvation:

- Help wanted: parents to bring up their children in light and truth
- Help wanted: daughters . . . , sisters . . . , aunts . . . , cousins, grandparents, and true friends to serve as mentors and offer helping hands along the covenant path
- Help wanted: those who listen to the promptings of the Holy Ghost and act on impressions received
- Help wanted: those who live the gospel daily in small and simple ways
- Help wanted: family history and temple workers to link families eternally
- Help wanted: missionaries and members to spread the ‘good news’—the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Help wanted: rescuers to find those who have lost their way
- Help wanted: covenant keepers to stand firm for truth and right
- Help wanted: true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹¹

These aren’t new things, but when we seek opportunities to participate in the work of salvation, we will improve our ability to help those around us. Elder Ballard said, “There is nothing in this world as personal, as nurturing, or as life changing as the influence of a righteous woman.”¹² As we develop our spiritual power through personal prayer and scripture study, firm obedience, and faithfully keeping our covenants, we will become that influence.

Beyond What We Can See

President Brigham Young (1801–1877) said, “Can you tell the amount of good that the mothers and daughters in Israel are capable of doing? No, it is impossible. And the good they will do will follow them to all eternity.”¹³

My grandmother’s righteous decisions have impacted her family generations past what she could see as a young woman. However, the spiritual influence of the women in my family stretches even farther back. Cherie gained much of her own spiritual strength from observing her great-grandmother (my third great-grandmother) Elizabeth. Elizabeth’s example of faith and testimony reached past two generations of inactivity to help her great-granddaughter Cherie reverse a trend of broken families and return to the Church.

As we become a spiritual strength to those around us, our influence will stretch beyond what we can see. President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) said, “We call upon the women of the Church to stand together for righteousness. They must begin in their own homes. They can teach it in their classes. They can voice it in their communities. . . .

“I see this as the one bright shining hope in a world that is marching toward self-destruction.”¹⁴

As we fulfill this command, the work of the Lord will be urged forward both in the world around us and, most importantly, in our families and the lives of those we love. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 453.
2. James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. (1916), 475.
3. *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 3–4.
4. Linda K. Burton, “Wanted: Hands and Hearts to Hasten the Work,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 122–123.
5. M. Russell Ballard, “Women of Righteousness,” *Ensign*, Apr. 2002, 70.
6. “As Sisters in Zion,” *Hymns*, no. 309.
7. Richard G. Scott, “I Have Given You an Example,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 32.
8. Richard G. Scott, “I Have Given You an Example,” 33.
9. Richard G. Scott, “I Have Given You an Example,” 33.
10. Carole M. Stephens, “We Have Great Reason to Rejoice,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 117.
11. Linda K. Burton, “Wanted: Hands and Hearts to Hasten the Work,” 124.
12. M. Russell Ballard, “Mothers and Daughters,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 18.
13. *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe (1954), 216.
14. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Standing Strong and Immovable,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 10, 2004, 20.

IT Isn't A SIN TO BE WEAK

By Wendy Ulrich

“Am I really worthy to enter God’s house? How can I be if I’m not perfect?”

“Can God really make my weakness into a strength? I’ve fasted and prayed for days to have this problem removed from me, but nothing seems to change.”

“In the mission field I lived the gospel more consistently than at any time in my life, but I have never been more aware of my shortcomings. Why, when I was being so good, did I sometimes feel so bad?”

As we ponder such questions, it is crucial to understand that while *sin* inevitably leads us away from God, *weakness*, ironically, can lead us toward Him.

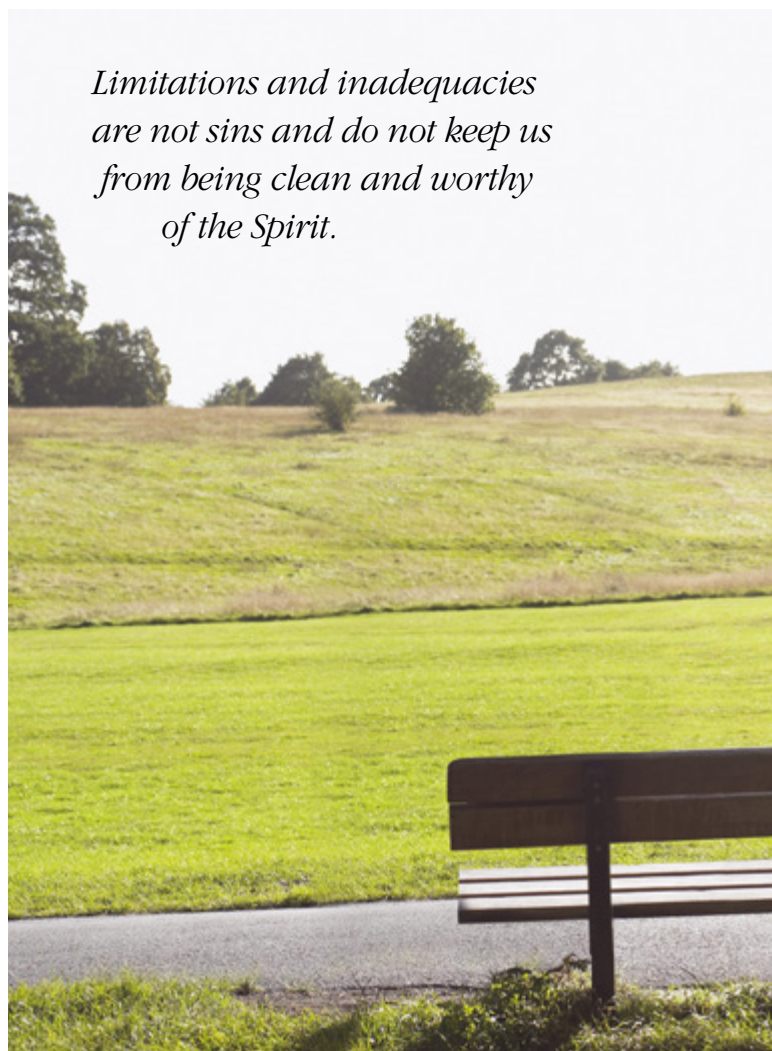
Distinguishing between Sin and Weakness

We commonly think of sin and weakness as merely different sized black marks on the fabric of our souls, different severities of transgression. But the scriptures imply that sin and weakness are inherently different, require different remedies, and have the potential to produce different results.

Most of us are more familiar with sin than we care to admit, but let’s review:

Sin is a choice to disobey God’s commandments or rebel against the Light of Christ within us. Sin is a choice to trust Satan over God, placing us at enmity with our Father. Unlike us, Jesus Christ was completely without sin and could atone for our sins. When we sincerely

Limitations and inadequacies are not sins and do not keep us from being clean and worthy of the Spirit.



TOP: PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK; BOTTOM: PHOTOGRAPH BY PHOTO/ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK



While sin inevitably leads us away from God, weakness, ironically, can lead us toward Him.



repent—including changing our mind, heart, and behavior; offering appropriate apologies or confessions; making restitution where possible; and not repeating that sin in the future—we can access the Atonement of Jesus Christ, be forgiven by God, and be clean again.

Becoming clean is essential because nothing unclean can dwell in God's presence. But if our only goal were to be as innocent as we were when we left God's presence, we would all be better off lying snugly in our cribs for the rest of our lives. Rather, we came to earth to learn by experience to distinguish good from evil, grow in wisdom and skill, live values we care about, and acquire the characteristics of godliness—progress we cannot make from the safe confines of a bassinet.

Human weakness plays an important role in these essential purposes of mortality. When



THE PROMISE OF THE ATONEMENT

"Restoring what you cannot restore, healing

the wound you cannot heal, fixing that which you broke and cannot fix is the very purpose of the atonement of Christ. . . .

"I repeat, save for the exception of the very few who defect to perdition, there is no habit, no addiction, no rebellion, no transgression, no apostasy, no crime exempted from the promise of complete forgiveness. That is the promise of the atonement of Christ."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Brilliant Morning of Forgiveness," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 19–20.

Moroni worried that his weakness in writing would cause the Gentiles to mock sacred things, the Lord reassured him with these words:

"And 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; see also 1 Corinthians 15:42–44; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10;

2 Nephi 3:21; and Jacob 4:7).

The implications of this familiar scripture are profound and invite us to

distinguish sin (encouraged by Satan) from weakness (described here as a condition "given" to us by God).

We might define weakness as the limitation on our wisdom, power, and holiness that comes with being human. As mortals we are born helpless and dependent, with various physical flaws and predispositions. We are raised and surrounded by other weak mortals, and their teachings, examples, and treatment of us are faulty and sometimes damaging. In our weak, mortal state we suffer physical and emotional illness, hunger, and fatigue. We experience human emotions like anger, grief, and fear. We lack wisdom, skill, stamina, and strength. And we are subject to temptations of many kinds.

Though He was without sin, Jesus Christ joined us fully in the condition



DISTINGUISHING SIN AND WEAKNESS

	Sin	Weakness
Definition?	Willful disobedience to God	Human limitation, infirmity
Source?	Encouraged by Satan	Part of our mortal nature
Examples?	Knowingly breaking God's commandments, believing Satan over God	Susceptibility to temptation, emotion, fatigue, physical or mental illness, ignorance, predispositions, trauma, death
Did Jesus have?	No	Yes
Our response should be?	Repentance	Humility, faith in Christ, and efforts to overcome
God's response in turn?	Forgiveness	Grace—an enabling power
Which results in?	Being cleansed from sin	Acquiring holiness, strength

of mortal weakness (see 2 Corinthians 13:4). He was born as a helpless infant in a mortal body and raised by imperfect caretakers. He had to learn how to walk, talk, work, and get along with others. He got hungry and tired, felt human emotions, and could get ill, suffer, bleed, and die. He was “in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,” subjecting Himself to mortality so He could “be touched with the feeling of our infirmities” and succor us in *our* infirmities or weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15; see also Alma 7:11–12).

We cannot simply repent of being weak—nor does weakness itself make us unclean. We cannot grow spiritually unless we *reject* sin, but we also do not grow spiritually unless we *accept* our state of human weakness, respond to it with humility and faith, and learn through our weakness to trust in God. When Moroni fretted about the weakness of his writing, God did not tell him to repent. Instead, the Lord taught him to be humble and to have faith in Christ. As we are meek and faithful, God offers grace—not forgiveness—as the remedy for weakness. Grace is an enabling power from God to do what we cannot do on our own (see Bible Dictionary, “Grace”)—the appropriate godly remedy by which He can “make weak things become strong.”

Exercising Humility and Faith

From early on in our Church experience, we are taught the essential elements of repentance, but how exactly do we foster humility and faith? Consider the following:

- **Ponder and pray.** Because we are weak, we may not recognize if we are dealing with *sin* (calling for an immediate and pervasive change of mind, heart, and behavior) or with *weakness* (calling for humble, sustained effort, learning, and improvement). How we view these things can depend on our upbringing and maturity. There may even be elements of both sin and weakness in a single behavior. Saying a sin is really a weakness leads to rationalizing instead of repenting. Saying a weakness is a sin can result in shame, blame, despair, and giving up on God's promises. Pondering and praying help us make these distinctions.
- **Prioritize.** Because we are weak, we cannot make every needed change all at once. As we humbly and faithfully tackle our human weakness a few aspects at a time, we can gradually reduce ignorance, make good patterns habitual, increase our physical and emotional health and stamina, and strengthen our trust in the Lord. God can help us know where to begin.

- **Plan.** Because we are weak, getting stronger will require more than a righteous desire and lots of self-discipline. We also need to plan, learn from mistakes, develop more effective strategies, revise our plans, and try again. We need help from scriptures, relevant books, and other people. We start small, rejoice in improvement, and take risks (even though they make us feel vulnerable and weak). We need supports to help us make good choices even when we are tired or discouraged and plans for getting back on track when we slip.
- **Exercise patience.** Because we are weak, change may take time. We don't just renounce our weakness the way we renounce sin. Humble disciples willingly do what's required, learn resilience, keep trying, and do not give up. Humility helps us have patience with ourselves and with others who are weak too. Patience is a manifestation of our faith in the Lord, gratitude for His confidence in us, and trust in His promises.

Even when we sincerely repent of our sins, obtain forgiveness, and become clean again, we remain weak. We are still subject to illness, emotion, ignorance, predispositions, fatigue, and temptation. *But limitations and inadequacies are not sins and do not keep us from being clean and worthy of the Spirit.*

Weakness to Strength

While Satan is eager to use our weakness to entice us to sin, God can use human weakness to teach, strengthen, and bless us. Contrary to what we might expect or hope,



DISTINGUISHING CONSTRUCTIVE GUILT (GODLY SORROW) AND HUMILITY FROM THE UNHELPFUL COUNTERFEIT OF SHAME

Constructive Guilt— Godly Sorrow for Sin	Faith and Humility— Christlike Meekness in Weakness	Destructive Shame— Unhelpful Counterfeit
<p style="text-align: center;">We tend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel remorse for violating our moral code. • Repent, changing our mind, heart, behavior. • Be open, confess our wrongs, make repairs. • Grow and learn. • See ourselves as inherently good, of worth. • Desire to align our behavior with our positive self-image. • Trust fully in the redemptive power of the Atonement of Christ. 	<p style="text-align: center;">We tend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel calm assurance and self-acceptance, warts and all. • Takes risks to grow and contribute. • Take responsibility for errors, desire to improve. • Learn from mistakes and try again. • Develop a sense of humor and enjoy life and others. • See our weakness as giving us common ground with others. • Be patient with others' weaknesses and flaws. • Increase in confidence in God's love and help. 	<p style="text-align: center;">We tend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel worthless, despairing. • Try to hide our weaknesses from others. • Fear being exposed. • Blame others for problems. • Avoid risk-taking, seeing failure as humiliating. • Compete and compare ourselves with others. • Become defensive and stubborn or wishy-washy. • Be sarcastic or excessively serious. • Become preoccupied with our failings or our superiority. • Fear God's rejection and disgust.

however, God does not always “make weak things become strong” unto us by eliminating our weakness. When the Apostle Paul prayed repeatedly for God to remove a “thorn in the flesh” Satan used to buffet him, God told Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:7, 9).

There are many ways the Lord makes “weak things become strong.” While He may eliminate the weakness through the dramatic cure we hope for, in my personal experience this is somewhat rare. For example, I see no evidence that God eliminated Moroni’s weakness in writing after the famous verse in Ether 12. God may also make weak things strong by helping us work around our weaknesses, gain an appropriate sense of humor or perspective about them, and improve on them gradually over time. Also, strengths and weaknesses are often related (like the strength of perseverance and the weakness of bullheadedness), and we can learn to value the strength and temper the weakness that goes with it.

There is another, even more powerful way that God makes weak things strong unto us. The Lord says to Moroni in Ether 12:37, “Because thou hast seen thy weakness thou shalt be made strong, even unto the sitting down in the place which I have prepared in the mansions of my Father.”

Here God is not offering to change Moroni’s weakness, but to change Moroni. By tackling the challenge of human weakness, Moroni—and we—can learn charity, compassion, meekness, patience, courage, long-suffering, wisdom, stamina, forgiveness, resilience, gratitude, creativity, and a host of other virtues that make us more like our Father in Heaven. These are the very qualities we came to earth to hone, the Christlike attributes that prepare us for the mansions above.

Nowhere is God’s love, wisdom, and redemptive power more evident than in His ability to turn our struggle with human weakness into the invaluable godly virtues and strengths that make us more like Him. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.





By Elder
W. Christopher
Waddell

Of the Seventy

PURE Religion

Selfless service—forgetting ourselves, responding to the needs of others, and laying down our lives in their service—has always been a characteristic of disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Matthew chapter 11 the Savior teaches us a significant lesson by what He did *not* say in response to a question raised by disciples of John the Baptist:

“Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

“And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

“The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:2–5).

Rather than offer a short doctrinal explanation describing that He was, indeed, “he that should come,” the Savior responded by way of what He did—His example of service.

In the April 2014 general conference, Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles reminded us: “We best serve our Father in Heaven by righteously influencing others and serving them. The greatest example who ever walked the earth is our Savior, Jesus Christ.”¹

Selfless service—forgetting ourselves, responding to the needs of others, and laying down our lives in their

service—has always been a characteristic of disciples of Jesus Christ. As King Benjamin taught more than 100 years before the birth of the Savior, “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17).

James reminds us that an essential aspect of “pure religion” is found in our service to others as we “visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction” (James 1:27). “Pure religion” is more than a declaration of belief; it is a demonstration of belief.

Love Your Fellow Travelers

In mid-July 1984, just weeks after my wife, Carol, and I were married in the Los Angeles California Temple, we were on our way to Utah, where I would begin my career and Carol would finish her college education. We were driving in separate cars. Between the two vehicles, we were transporting everything we owned.

About halfway to our destination, Carol pulled up alongside my car and began to motion to me. This was in the days before cell phones and smartphones, texting and Twitter. Seeing the expression on her face through her car window, I could tell she was not feeling well. She

communicated that she could continue driving, but I was worried for my new bride.

As we approached the small town of Beaver, Utah, she again pulled alongside, and I could tell she needed to stop. She was ill and could not continue. We had two cars full of clothes and wedding gifts, but unfortunately we had little money. A hotel room was out of our budget. I was not sure what to do.

Neither of us had ever been to Beaver, and not really knowing what I was looking for, we drove around for a few minutes until I saw a park. We pulled into the parking lot and found a tree with some shade, where I laid out a blanket so Carol could rest.

A few minutes later another car drove into the nearly empty parking lot and parked next to our two cars. A woman, about the age of our mothers, got out of her car and asked if anything was wrong and if she could help. She mentioned that she had noticed us as she drove by and felt she should stop. When we explained our situation, she immediately invited us to follow her home, where we could rest as long as we needed to.

We soon found ourselves on a comfortable bed in a cool basement bedroom of her home. Just as we had settled, this wonderful sister mentioned that she had a number of errands to run and that we would be left alone for a few hours. She told us that if we were hungry, we were welcome to anything we could find in the kitchen, and that if we left before she returned home, to please close the front door.

After getting some much-needed sleep, Carol felt better and we continued our trip without stopping by the kitchen. When we left, the kind woman had not yet returned home. To our chagrin, we didn't make note of the address and have never properly thanked our own good Samaritan, who stopped along the way and opened her home to strangers in need.

As I reflect upon this experience, the words of President Thomas S. Monson, who embodies the Savior's admonition to "go and do likewise" (see Luke 10:37) as much as any mortal, come to mind: "We cannot truly love God if we do not love our fellow travelers on this mortal journey."²

Wherever we encounter "fellow travelers"—on the road or in our homes, on the playground or in our schools, in the workplace or at church—as we seek, see, and act, we will become more like the Savior, blessing and serving along the way.

Seek

Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:

"Unlike our precious Savior, we surely cannot atone for the sins of mankind! Moreover, we certainly cannot bear all mortal sicknesses, infirmities, and griefs (see Alma 7:11–12).

"However, on our smaller scale, just as Jesus has invited, we can indeed strive to become 'even as [He is]' (3 Nephi 27:27)."³

As we seek to become even as He is, with a sincere desire to bless "our fellow travelers," we will be provided opportunities to forget self and lift others. These opportunities may often be inconvenient, testing our true desire to become more like the Master, whose greatest service of all, His infinite Atonement, was anything but convenient. "Nevertheless," He states, "glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men" (D&C 19:19).

Sincerely seeking to be more like the Savior will allow us to see what we may not otherwise see. Our good Samaritan lived close enough to the Spirit to respond to a prompting and approach a stranger in need.

See

To see with spiritual eyes is to see things as they truly are and to recognize needs we may not have otherwise noticed. In the parable of the sheep and goats, neither those who were "blessed" nor those who were "cursed" had recognized the Savior in those who were hungry, thirsty, naked, or in prison. They responded to their reward by asking, "When saw we thee?" (See Matthew 25:34–44).

Only those who had seen with spiritual eyes, recognizing the need, acted and blessed those who suffered. Our good Samaritan recognized the need as she saw with spiritual eyes.

Act

We may see needs around us but feel inadequate to respond, assuming that what we have to offer is not sufficient. As we seek to become even as He is and as we see needs in our fellow travelers through spiritual eyes, we must trust that the Lord can work through us, and then we must act.

Entering the temple, Peter and John encountered a man “lame from his mother’s womb” who asked them for alms (see Acts 3:1–3). Peter’s response is an example and an invitation to each of us:

“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

“And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up” (Acts 3:6–7).

We may act by giving our time and talents, a kind word, or a strong back. As we seek and see, we will be placed in circumstances and situations where we can act and bless. Our good Samaritan acted. She took us to her home and provided us with what she had. In essence she said, “Such as I have give I thee.” It was exactly what we needed.

President Monson has taught these same principles:

“Each of us, in the journey through mortality, will travel his own Jericho Road. What will be your experience? What will be mine? Will I fail to notice him who has fallen among thieves and requires my help? Will you?

“Will I be one who sees the injured and hears his plea, yet crosses to the other side? Will you?

“Or will I be one who sees, who hears, who pauses, and who helps? Will you?

“Jesus provided our watchword, ‘Go, and do thou likewise.’ When we obey that declaration, there opens to our eternal view a vista of joy seldom equaled and never surpassed.”⁴

As we become more like the Savior by seeking, seeing, and acting, we will come to know the truthfulness of King Benjamin’s words: “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17). ■

NOTES

1. Richard G. Scott, “I Have Given You an Example,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 35.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “Love—the Essence of the Gospel,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 91.

3. Neal A. Maxwell, “Apply the Atoning Blood of Christ,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 22.
4. Thomas S. Monson, “Your Jericho Road,” *Ensign*, May 1977, 91.

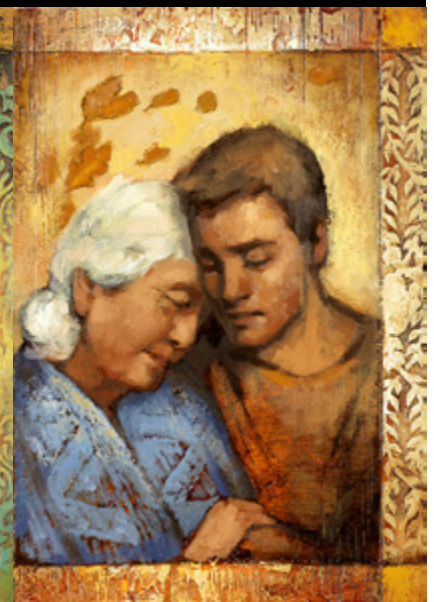
SEEK SINCERELY



SEE WITH SPIRITUAL EYES



ACT AND BLESS





함께 합소서
Need That Every Hour

신소프신
우루슬하

없기되소

음

“I Need Thee

EVERY HOUR” *Pak Mi-Jung’s two children quickly accepted the gospel, but she didn’t think she could make the commitment to be baptized.*

By Jonathan H. Westover

One pleasant Sunday afternoon on my mission in the Korea Seoul West Mission, my companion, Elder Ricks, and I were saying good-bye to members after church and were about to set out proselyting when the ward mission leader introduced us to a small, solemn 12-year-old boy, Kong Sung-Gyun, who had attended church that day and wanted to learn more about the gospel.

Of course we were excited about the prospect of teaching him, though we did not typically teach children so young. We immediately called his home to seek his parents’ permission, and I talked briefly with his mother, Pak Mi-Jung. I was pleasantly surprised when she said she was pleased her son was looking into attending church and that she would be happy to have us come and teach him.

Unexpected Investigators

The next evening we arrived at Sung-Gyun’s home, and we were surprised to discover that Mi-Jung also wanted us to teach her daughter, Kong Su-Jin. Since we were strangers in her home, Mi-Jung wanted to sit in on the lessons too. Of course we were happy to teach as many as wanted to listen!

After they had served us some simple refreshments, we sat

down together and began to get to know each other. Elder Ricks and I shared a little about our families and why we were serving a mission, and then Mi-Jung told us about the recent trials and hardships her family had been through, including her son’s battle with cancer. He had successfully gone through radiation treatments, and the cancer was in remission, but the doctors warned them that the cancer could still return. Of course this took a big toll on their family. They were a working-class family, and their father worked extremely hard to provide the simple necessities for his family.

My heart was heavy as I learned of the many trials and hardships in their lives. However, while life was not easy for them, their family was extremely close and relied heavily on each other. We left their home that evening having gotten to know this very special family much better and having had the opportunity to share a simple gospel message of love and hope with them.

Elder Ricks and I went back to teach several more times in the following weeks, each time experiencing the same warmth and generosity we had experienced on our first visit. When the topic of baptism came up, the children were both eager to join the Church. Additionally, their mother, Mi-Jung, was supportive of her children’s desires. However,

though our teachings resonated with her, she personally did not feel that she could make and keep the kind of commitments that joining the Church required. She also did not feel that it would be appropriate for her to get baptized without her husband, whom we had yet to meet. But, she was more than willing to continue to meet with us and also wanted to join her children each week in attending church.

As we continued to teach in their home, we met Mi-Jung's husband, Kong Kuk-Won—a humble, gracious, and generous man. He joined us for the final few discussions and instantly believed everything we taught, including principles and teachings others often find difficult, like tithing and the Word of Wisdom. The father's only obstacle was that he had to work at the airport every Sunday and was unable to attend church with the rest of his family. Despite his busy work schedule, he and his wife arranged to attend their children's baptisms the following Sunday afternoon, and it was a wonderful occasion!

Following the children's baptisms, we continued to meet frequently in the family's home. We held family home evenings, shared scriptures and uplifting experiences, and introduced them to many ward members and helped them to get integrated into the ward. However, despite the continued gospel experiences and the regular Sunday attendance of the children and their mother, Kuk-Won and Mi-Jung were no closer to setting their own baptismal date. We just continued to love and support them the best we knew how.

As the months went by, Elder Ricks was transferred, and my new companion, Elder Minor, was an elder straight from the missionary training center. He was full of faith, energy, and excitement, and I honestly had a difficult time keeping up with him! After meeting with Kuk-Won and Mi-Jung on a few occasions, Elder Minor approached me and asked whether or not my previous companion and I had fasted with them. We had not. In fact, I was a bit embarrassed to admit that the thought had not even occurred to me! So we met with this loving family and suggested a fast. I was amazed to discover that after learning of fasting from us, they had already been periodically fasting on their own, both for the health of their son and for a change in work schedule



The Spirit was strong in the room as we completed the final verse. Mi-Jung looked me right in the eyes and said, "I need to get baptized."

that would allow Kuk-Won to attend church with his family. We asked if we might join them in their family fast, and soon their faithful prayers were answered: Kuk-Won's work schedule was changed. While we thought this was the only thing keeping them from getting baptized, Mi-Jung still did not feel ready to get baptized.

An Inspired Idea

On one visit to their home, Elder Minor had another inspired idea. After we shared a scripture message, he pulled out his pocket-sized hymnbook and asked if we could sing with them. Though we had sung together with their family

on previous occasions, I had never seen Mi-Jung join in the singing and just assumed that she did not like singing or was uncomfortable because the music was new to her. Elder Minor asked her if she had a favorite hymn, and to my astonishment, she got choked up and replied that she loved singing hymns and that ever since she was a little girl, her favorite hymn had been “I Need Thee Every Hour” (*Hymns*, no. 98). We asked if she would sing that hymn with us, and she tearfully agreed. Soon we were singing a four-part harmony, with Kuk-Won and his children singing the melody, Mi-Jung singing alto, Elder Minor singing tenor, and me singing bass.

The Spirit was as strong in the room as we had ever felt. As we sang the third verse, emotion overcame her, and her voice dropped out as we continued:

*I need thee every hour,
In joy or pain.
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.
I need thee, oh, I need thee;
Ev'ry hour I need thee!
Oh, bless me now, my Savior;
I come to thee!*

As we completed the fourth and final verse, she was sobbing. As her husband tried to comfort her, she was eventually able to compose herself. She looked me right in the eyes and said, “I need to get baptized.”

The baptismal service for Kong Kuk-Won and Pak Mi-Jung that following Sunday afternoon was a truly joyous occasion! Their children, Sung-Gyun and Su-Jin, participated in the program, and numerous local members attended to show their support for the newest convert family in their ward. And

Elder Minor and I provided a special musical number: “I Need Thee Every Hour.”

Eventually I finished my mission and returned home. After a year at Brigham Young University, I returned to South Korea for a summer internship, and each weekend I made a point of visiting the many special friends and families I had met while serving on my mission. After a few weeks, I made my way back to meet with this special family. Upon arriving at their home, I noticed that someone was missing—their son, Sung-Gyun. With tears in her eyes, Mi-Jung broke the news to me: their son’s cancer had come out of remission, and at age 14 he had lost the battle.

As I tried to express my heartfelt condolences to their family and also process the deep sorrow and pain I was feeling, Kuk-Won assured me that they knew everything would be OK. They loved the gospel, attended church faithfully, and looked forward to the day when their family might be sealed together for eternity in the Seoul Korea Temple. Despite the heartache and loss they felt, they knew they would again see Sung-Gyun and be reunited. Mi-Jung also told me that singing hymns daily helped her and her family find the strength to cope with the loss of her beloved son and feel the accompanying peace the Spirit brings.

As I left their home that evening, I reflected again on the words of Mi-Jung’s favorite hymn. I am grateful that Heavenly Father blessed this amazing family with peace after Sung-Gyun’s passing, and I am especially grateful for the Spirit’s role in Mi-Jung’s personal conversion and for the faith and hope their family held for the eternal blessings of the temple. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

HYMNS CONSOLE THE MOURNING

“Some of the greatest sermons are preached by the singing of hymns. Hymns move us to repentance and good works, build testimony and faith, comfort the weary, console the mourning, and inspire us to endure to the end.”

*“First Presidency Preface,”
Hymns, ix.*



**By President
Boyd K. Packer**
President of the
Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

The Savior's Selfless and Sacred Sacrifice

*The Lord is always there.
He has suffered and paid the penalty
if you are willing to accept Him
as your Redeemer.*

We all live on spiritual credit. In one way or another, the account builds and builds. If you pay it off as you go, you have little need to worry. Soon you begin to learn discipline and know that there is a day of reckoning ahead.

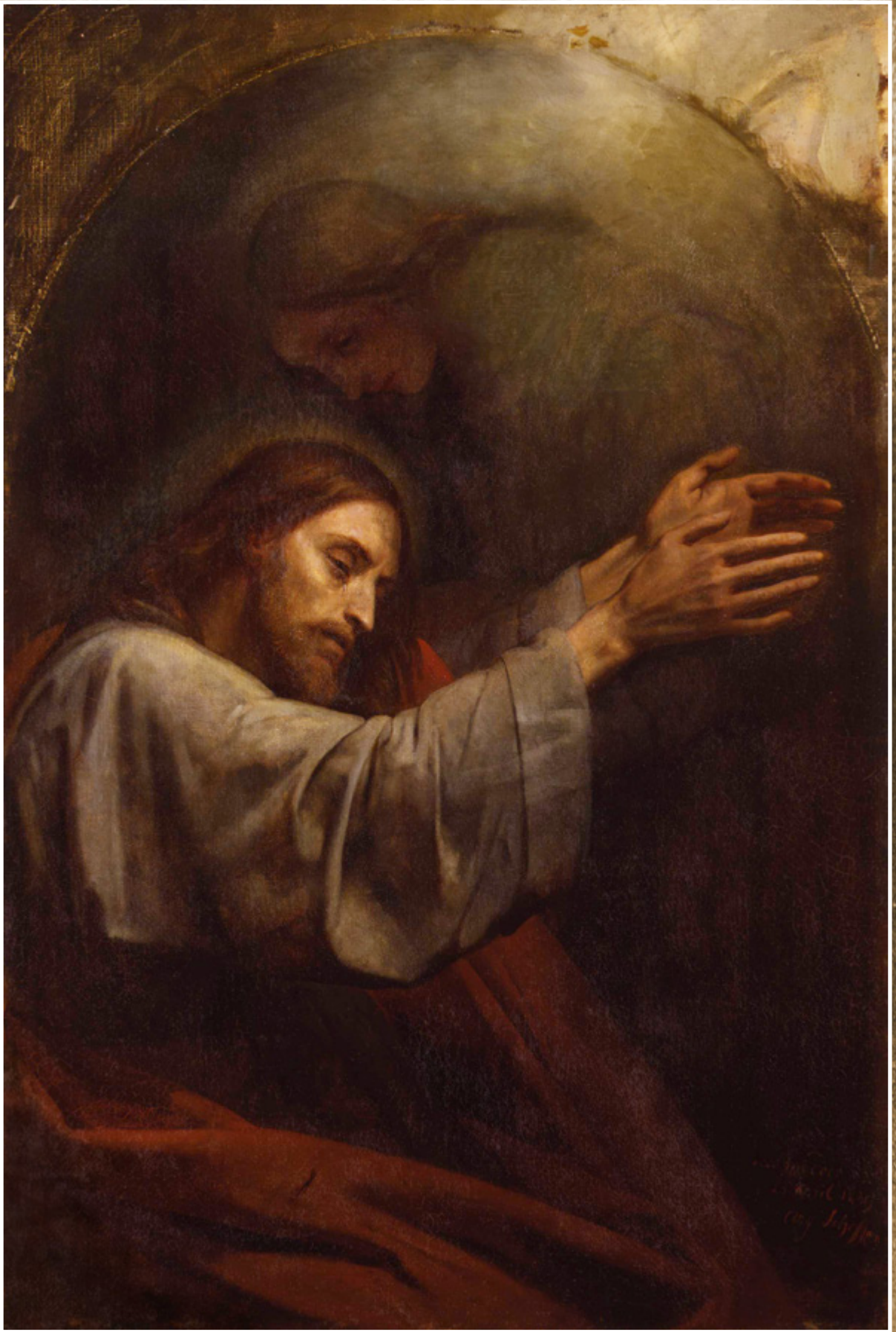
Learn to keep your spiritual account paid off at regular intervals rather than allowing it to collect interest and penalties.

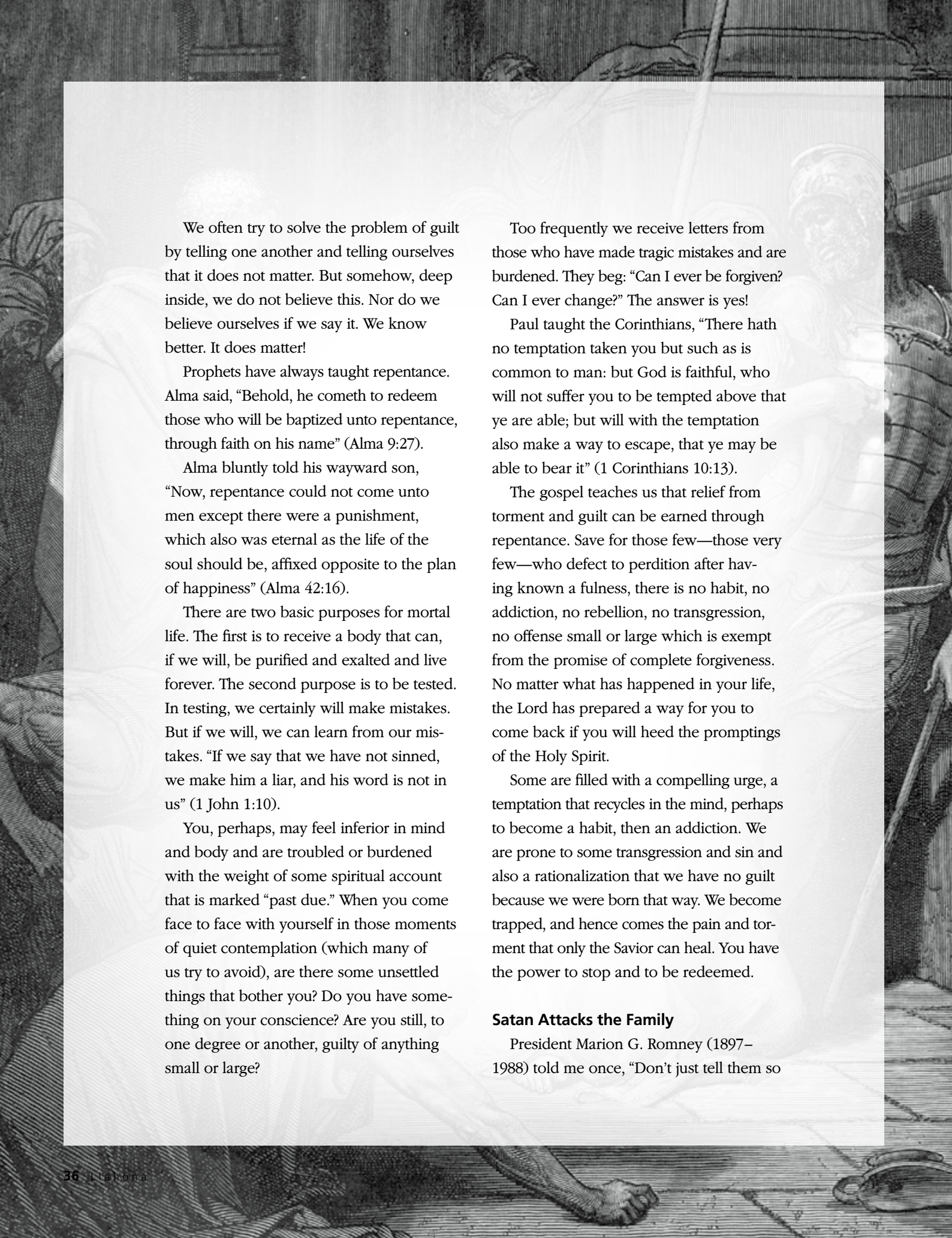
Because you are being tested, it is expected that you will make some mistakes. I assume that you have done things in your life that you regret, things that you cannot



even apologize for, much less correct; therefore, you carry a burden. It is time now to use the word *guilt*, which can stain like indelible ink and cannot easily be washed away. A stepchild of guilt is disappointment, regret for lost blessings and opportunities.

If you are struggling with guilt, you are not unlike the people of the Book of Mormon of whom the prophet said, “Because of their iniquity the church had begun to dwindle; and they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy and in the spirit of revelation; and the judgments of God did stare them in the face” (Helaman 4:23).





We often try to solve the problem of guilt by telling one another and telling ourselves that it does not matter. But somehow, deep inside, we do not believe this. Nor do we believe ourselves if we say it. We know better. It does matter!

Prophets have always taught repentance. Alma said, “Behold, he cometh to redeem those who will be baptized unto repentance, through faith on his name” (Alma 9:27).

Alma bluntly told his wayward son, “Now, repentance could not come unto men except there were a punishment, which also was eternal as the life of the soul should be, affixed opposite to the plan of happiness” (Alma 42:16).

There are two basic purposes for mortal life. The first is to receive a body that can, if we will, be purified and exalted and live forever. The second purpose is to be tested. In testing, we certainly will make mistakes. But if we will, we can learn from our mistakes. “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:10).

You, perhaps, may feel inferior in mind and body and are troubled or burdened with the weight of some spiritual account that is marked “past due.” When you come face to face with yourself in those moments of quiet contemplation (which many of us try to avoid), are there some unsettled things that bother you? Do you have something on your conscience? Are you still, to one degree or another, guilty of anything small or large?

Too frequently we receive letters from those who have made tragic mistakes and are burdened. They beg: “Can I ever be forgiven? Can I ever change?” The answer is yes!

Paul taught the Corinthians, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

The gospel teaches us that relief from torment and guilt can be earned through repentance. Save for those few—those very few—who defect to perdition after having known a fulness, there is no habit, no addiction, no rebellion, no transgression, no offense small or large which is exempt from the promise of complete forgiveness. No matter what has happened in your life, the Lord has prepared a way for you to come back if you will heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Some are filled with a compelling urge, a temptation that recycles in the mind, perhaps to become a habit, then an addiction. We are prone to some transgression and sin and also a rationalization that we have no guilt because we were born that way. We become trapped, and hence comes the pain and torment that only the Savior can heal. You have the power to stop and to be redeemed.

Satan Attacks the Family

President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988) told me once, “Don’t just tell them so

that they can understand, tell them so that they cannot misunderstand.”

Nephi said: “For my soul delighteth in plainness; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding” (2 Nephi 31:3).

So listen up! I will speak plainly as one called and under obligation to do so.

You know that there is an adversary. The scriptures define him in these terms: “That old serpent, who is the devil, . . . the father of all lies” (2 Nephi 2:18). He was cast out in the beginning (see D&C 29:36–38) and denied a mortal body. He has now sworn to disrupt “the great plan of happiness” (Alma 42:8) and become an enemy to all righteousness. He focuses his attacks on the family.

You live in a day when the scourge of pornography is sweeping across the world. It is hard to escape it. Pornography is focused on that part of your nature through which you have the power to beget life.

To indulge in pornography leads to difficulties, divorce, disease, and troubles of a dozen kinds. There is no part of it that is innocent. To collect it, view it, or carry it around in any form is akin to keeping a rattlesnake in your backpack. It exposes you to the inevitable spiritual equivalent of the serpent’s strike with its injection of deadly venom. One can easily understand, with the world being what it is, that you can almost innocently be exposed to it, read it, or view it without realizing the terrible consequences. If that describes you, I warn you to stop it. Stop it now!

The Book of Mormon teaches that all “men



There has been only One in all the annals of human history who was entirely sinless, qualified to answer for the sins and transgressions of all mankind.

are instructed sufficiently that they know good from evil” (2 Nephi 2:5). That includes you. You know what is right and what is wrong. Be very careful not to cross that line.

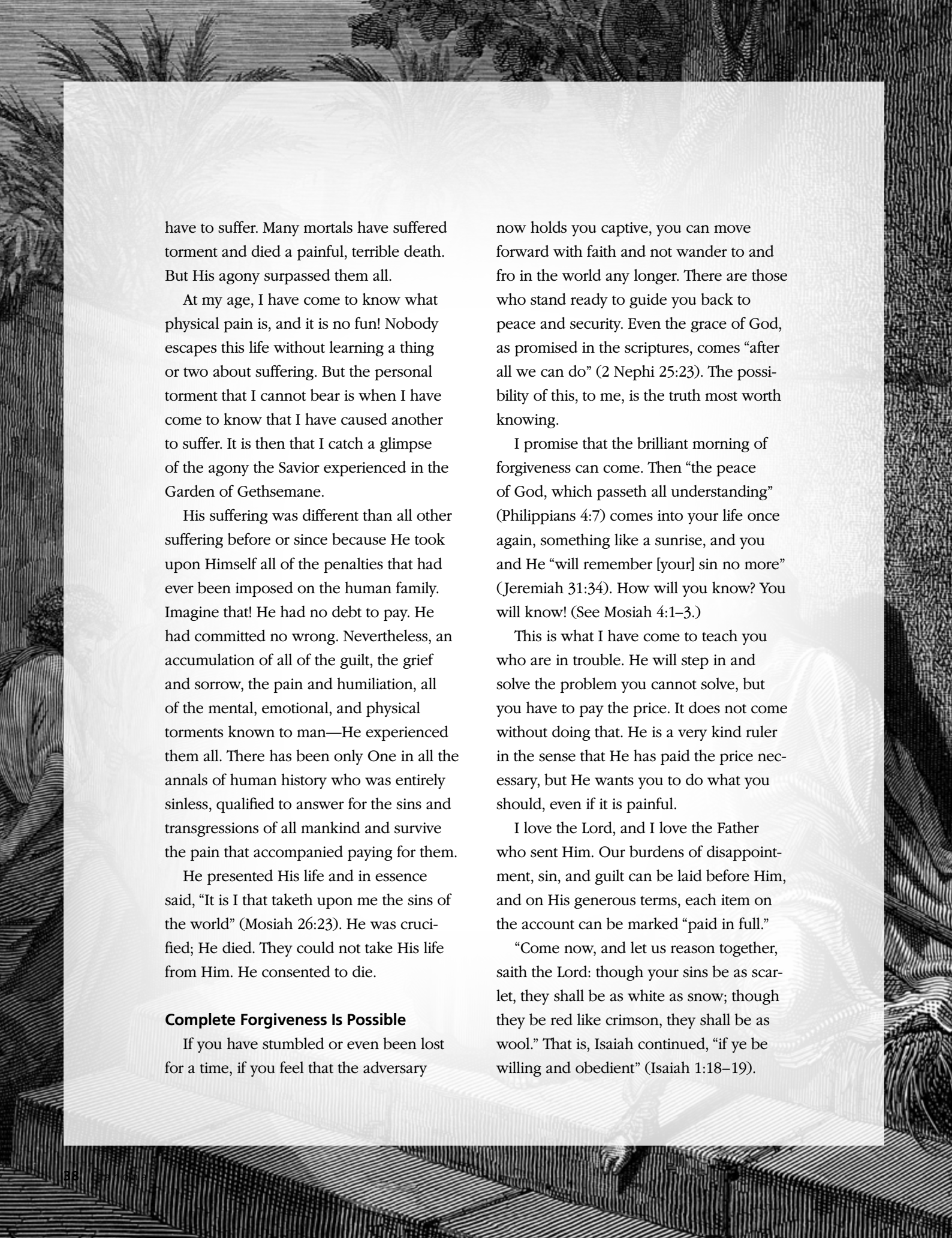
Although most mistakes can be confessed privately to the Lord, there are some transgressions that require more than that to bring about forgiveness. If your mistakes have been grievous, see your bishop. Otherwise, ordinary confession, quietly and personally, will do. But remember, that great morning of forgiveness may not come all at once. If at first you stumble, do not give up. Overcoming discouragement is part of the test. Do not give up. And as I have counseled before, once you have confessed and forsaken your sins, do not look back.

The Savior Suffered for Our Sins

The Lord is always there. He has suffered and paid the penalty if you are willing to accept Him as your Redeemer.

As mortals, we may not, indeed cannot, understand fully *how* the Savior fulfilled His atoning sacrifice. But for now the *how* is not as important as the *why* of His suffering. Why did He do it for you, for me, for all of humanity? He did it for the love of God the Father and all mankind. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

In Gethsemane, Christ went apart from His Apostles to pray. Whatever transpired is beyond our power to know! But we do know that He completed the Atonement. He was willing to take upon Himself the mistakes, the sins and guilt, the doubts and fears of all the world. He suffered for us so that we would not



have to suffer. Many mortals have suffered torment and died a painful, terrible death. But His agony surpassed them all.

At my age, I have come to know what physical pain is, and it is no fun! Nobody escapes this life without learning a thing or two about suffering. But the personal torment that I cannot bear is when I have come to know that I have caused another to suffer. It is then that I catch a glimpse of the agony the Savior experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane.

His suffering was different than all other suffering before or since because He took upon Himself all of the penalties that had ever been imposed on the human family. Imagine that! He had no debt to pay. He had committed no wrong. Nevertheless, an accumulation of all of the guilt, the grief and sorrow, the pain and humiliation, all of the mental, emotional, and physical torments known to man—He experienced them all. There has been only One in all the annals of human history who was entirely sinless, qualified to answer for the sins and transgressions of all mankind and survive the pain that accompanied paying for them.

He presented His life and in essence said, “It is I that taketh upon me the sins of the world” (Mosiah 26:23). He was crucified; He died. They could not take His life from Him. He consented to die.

Complete Forgiveness Is Possible

If you have stumbled or even been lost for a time, if you feel that the adversary

now holds you captive, you can move forward with faith and not wander to and fro in the world any longer. There are those who stand ready to guide you back to peace and security. Even the grace of God, as promised in the scriptures, comes “after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23). The possibility of this, to me, is the truth most worth knowing.

I promise that the brilliant morning of forgiveness can come. Then “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) comes into your life once again, something like a sunrise, and you and He “will remember [your] sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34). How will you know? You will know! (See Mosiah 4:1–3.)

This is what I have come to teach you who are in trouble. He will step in and solve the problem you cannot solve, but you have to pay the price. It does not come without doing that. He is a very kind ruler in the sense that He has paid the price necessary, but He wants you to do what you should, even if it is painful.

I love the Lord, and I love the Father who sent Him. Our burdens of disappointment, sin, and guilt can be laid before Him, and on His generous terms, each item on the account can be marked “paid in full.”

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” That is, Isaiah continued, “if ye be willing and obedient” (Isaiah 1:18–19).

Come unto Him

The scripture “learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God” (Alma 37:35) is an invitation attended by the promise of peace and protection from the adversary. “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Do not expect that all will go smoothly throughout your life. Even for those who are living as they should, it sometimes will be just the opposite. Meet each of life’s challenges with optimism and surety, and you will have the peace and faith to sustain you now and in the future.

For those who do not yet have all of the blessings you feel you want and need to have, I firmly believe that no experience or opportunity essential for redemption and salvation will be denied you who live faithfully. Remain worthy; be hopeful, patient, and prayerful. Things have a way of working out. The gift of the Holy Ghost will guide you and direct your actions.

If you are one of those struggling with guilt, disappointment, or depression as a result of mistakes you have made or blessings that have not yet come, read the reassuring teachings found in the hymn “Come unto Jesus”:

*Come unto Jesus, ye heavy laden,
Careworn and fainting, by sin oppressed.
He’ll safely guide you unto that haven
Where all who trust him may rest.*



*Our burdens of
disappointment,
sin, and guilt can
be laid before the
Lord, and on His
generous terms,
each item on
the account
can be marked
“paid in full.”*

*Come unto Jesus; He’ll ever heed you,
Though in the darkness you’ve gone astray.
His love will find you and gently lead you
From darkest night into day.*

*Come unto Jesus; He’ll surely hear you,
If you in meekness plead for his love.
Oh, know you not that angels are near you
From brightest mansions above?¹*

I claim, with my Brethren the Apostles, to be a special witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. That witness is reaffirmed each time I feel within myself or in others the cleansing effect of His sacred sacrifice. My witness, and that of my Brethren, is true. We know the Lord. He is no stranger to His prophets, seers, and revelators.

I understand that you’re not perfect, but you are moving along that road. Have the courage. Know that any person who has a body has power over one who has not.² Satan is denied a body; so if ever you are confronted with temptations, know that you outrank all those temptations if you will exercise the agency given to Adam and Eve in the garden and passed on to this very generation.

If you look forward with hope and desire to do that which the Lord would have you do—that is all that is expected. ■

From a devotional address, “Truths Most Worth Knowing,” delivered at Brigham Young University on Nov. 6, 2011. For the full text in English, go to speeches.byu.edu.

NOTES

1. See “Come unto Jesus,” *Hymns*, no. 117.

2. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 211.

SING YOUR FAVORITE HYMN

I had just given birth to our daughter, Rebekah. My labor had been intense, and I was exhausted.

When Rebekah was placed in my arms, I had the overwhelming feeling that I should sing my favorite hymn, “I Am a Child of God” (*Hymns*, no. 301). My initial response was, “No, I’m too tired. I’ll sing it to her later.” But then the thought came again. So, though I was exhausted, I began singing the first verse. My husband and my mother joined me.

When we finished the song, I felt a special feeling in the room. Even the doctor, who until that point had been professional and rather aloof, had tears streaming down her face. She thanked us for singing such a beautiful song. She said that in all the years she had been delivering

babies, she had never felt as she did at that moment.

I reflected on that experience and wondered if I should find a recording of the hymn and give it to her. Unfortunately, I became busy with life and forgot about it.

Then the day arrived for my postpartum checkup. As the doctor walked into the room, her face lit up, and she gave me a hug. She said she hadn’t been able to get that song out of her mind and had even tried to find the music on the Internet so she could sing it to her family. That’s when the Holy Ghost reminded me that I should have gotten a copy of the music for her. I promised her that within the week I would be back with the music.

That night I

prayed for help to find the arrangement of the song that would be best for her. The next afternoon I ordered a CD that features the song. When it arrived in the mail a few days later, I couldn’t wait to give it to her.

She was thrilled to receive it and thanked me for the gift. She told me that she wasn’t sure why, but this song was very important for her to share with her family. As we continued to talk, I shared with her not only my love for the song but also my testimony of the simple truths it teaches.

As I drove home that day, I felt the love of our Heavenly Father for one of His daughters—my doctor. He knows and loves her, and He wants her to understand that she too can return to live with Him once more. ■

Angela Olsen Center, Ohio, USA

When we finished the song, the doctor, who until that point had been professional and rather aloof, had tears streaming down her face.



Why would Heavenly Father not “always” watch over us and warn us?



HIS PROMISE OF ALWAYS

As I sat in sacrament meeting pondering the prayer on the bread, the words kept repeating themselves in my mind: “that they may always have his Spirit to be with them” (Moroni 4:3; D&C 20:77).

“Always,” it said—not just at certain times. Why, then, several months earlier, had my husband and I not been prompted regarding how to protect our 11-year-old son before he was killed in a bicycle-automobile accident? Why would Heavenly Father not “always” watch over us and warn us?

I had been taught in Primary and believed that the Holy Ghost would protect us. He would use the still, small voice to watch over, guide, and warn us of danger. This thought had been in my mind since Ben had

passed away. I missed him very much, and my heart ached for understanding and peace.

Where was my warning voice? Where was the Holy Ghost? I felt that we were doing our best to be righteous. We paid our tithing, attended our meetings, and served whenever we were asked. We were far from perfect, but we held family home evening and scripture study. We were trying.

About this time I was sitting in a Relief Society class when the teacher told a story of a close relative. While waiting at a stoplight, the relative had felt a distinct impression to stay where she was as the light turned green. She heeded the prompting, and almost immediately a large truck came barreling through the intersection, running a red light. Had she not heard and obeyed that voice, she and her children might have been hurt or even killed.

This story hit me hard, but as I sat in my chair in tears preparing to stand and leave the room, a great comfort washed over me. I felt peace that the Holy Ghost had indeed been with me. In my case He had not been there as a warning voice but as a comforter.

From the time of Ben’s accident, I had felt strength beyond my own and had been comforted by my Heavenly Father’s love. I lacked understanding at times of why certain things happen, but I had never doubted His love.

I have faith that God understands all things and will never leave me comfortless. The Holy Ghost plays many roles in our lives. He can protect us, but He also guides us, comforts us, teaches us, and provides understanding and other blessings.

I learned that Heavenly Father does keep His promises. He had “always” been with me. ■

Robyn Casper, Utah, USA



I noticed two boys about five and seven years old running through the store parking lot with tears streaming down their faces.

THE SPIRIT WHISPERED TO ME

“Hey, guys! Come back!” a frantic voice called out.

I turned to notice two boys about five and seven years old running through the store parking lot with tears streaming down their faces. The salesman looked concerned as he called to them.

As I turned back toward my car, the Spirit whispered, “You can be of help here.” The whisper was quiet yet so clear that a moment later I was running through the parking lot toward the boys.

I found the older one standing by a brown minivan. I approached and knelt beside him.

“Hi. My name is Christina. Are you OK?”

At my words, he cried harder and hid his face in his arm. The salesman and the other boy joined us.

“I think they only speak French,” the salesman told me. “We just found

them running through the store, lost.”

I repeated my introduction to the children in French. French was my first language, but I hadn’t spoken it since I was adopted into an English-speaking family as a small child. Normally, my French is poor. At that moment though, it was neither clumsy nor stilted. The words were clear in my mind and my voice as I comforted the boys.

Between sobs, the older boy explained in a quick torrent of words that he and his brother could not find their parents anywhere in the store and had run outside looking for them. As I listened, I became vaguely aware of how amazing it was that I was not only conversing freely in French but also readily understanding and consoling two frightened children.

“They’ve lost their parents and want to wait for them here at their car,” I told the salesman. The little boy told

me the names of his parents, which I gave to the salesman so he could page them. A few minutes later the boy spotted his father coming out of the store and ran to meet him.

As I followed the boy to his father, I found that I could no longer manage even a good-bye in French. I tried in vain to say anything the boys could understand, but I could say nothing more than a few random words. Finally, I resorted to English, saying to the boy, “Bye. It was nice to meet you.”

As I left the boys with their parents, I was full of gratitude. Heavenly Father had worked through me to comfort two of His little ones. I was humbled that the Lord could magnify my limited abilities to fulfill His purposes. I was grateful to witness what can happen as we offer ourselves to Him when called upon, even in the most unlikely of settings. ■

Christina Albrecht Earhart, Washington, USA

WE MUST GO TO THE TEMPLE NOW!

One Sunday morning a recently baptized member was introduced to the ward. Her name was Lydia. She won our hearts at once.

Lydia was older and blind from years of battling diabetes. She quickly came to know ward members by their voices and footsteps. She would say our names and shake our hands, and we never alluded to the fact that she was blind.

After the required year's wait, Lydia met with the bishop and the stake president to receive her temple recommend. In Relief Society one Sunday, she pulled me down beside her and exclaimed, "The stake president told me I must go to the temple as soon as possible. Will you take me?"

It was the first week of December—busy times were upon all of us. I tried to make the usual excuses and said, "Couldn't we wait until January?"

"No, we must go now!"

"The stake president told me I must go to the temple as soon as possible," Lydia said. "Will you take me?"

A group of women from the ward went to the temple every month, so I approached them about making the trip with Lydia. They were also very busy. But Lydia, with tears in her eyes, again told us the stake president had told her to go as soon as possible.

At that we all agreed to make the 150-mile (241 km) trip the following week. On the way, we filled the van with the chatter and friendship of eight women. Lydia was overjoyed by her temple experience and the blessing of receiving her endowment.

The first week of January, Lydia's condition worsened and she entered the hospital for emergency care. A week

later she was gone. But Lydia went with the eternal blessings she had received in the temple just a few weeks earlier.

Later I related to the stake president the story of our trip and told him how impressed I was that he had felt prompted to tell Lydia she must go to the temple immediately.

"I really didn't mean she must go now," he responded. "I always tell new recommend holders to go to the temple soon. The Spirit spoke to Lydia, not me!"

Lydia taught us all to listen to the Spirit and to act upon it immediately. I am thankful for her reminder to listen to the still, small voice. ■

Mary Holmes Ewen, California, USA





By Elder
Anthony D. Perkins
Of the Seventy

GO FORTH IN Faith

You young adults are now living in what has been called “the Decade of Decision.”

You are making many of the most important choices of your life, such as “going to the temple, serving a mission, getting an education, selecting an occupation, and choosing a companion and being sealed for time and for all eternity in the holy temple.”¹

I speak particularly to those who are struggling with one or more of these important decisions—some perhaps almost paralyzed from fear of making the wrong decision or needing reinforcement to remain confident in a decision made previously.

Four lessons of inspired decision making by Nephi, if applied, can reduce your fears and increase your confidence to move forward.

1. Obey the Commandments

The last verse of Nephi’s sacred record encapsulates his life: “For thus hath the Lord commanded me, and I must obey” (2 Nephi 33:15).

Nephi’s faith in and love for the Savior is exemplified in his obedience to God’s commandments. He prayed (see 1 Nephi 2:16). He read the scriptures (see 1 Nephi 22:1). He sought and followed direction from a living prophet (see 1 Nephi 16:23–24). Such obedience permitted the Holy Ghost to powerfully accompany Nephi throughout his life and yielded ongoing personal revelation.

You too must stay close to the Lord by keeping God’s commandments. I testify that consistent obedience to small things such as reading the scriptures, praying daily, attending Church meetings, heeding the counsel

Four lessons of inspired decision making by Nephi can reduce your fears and increase your confidence to move forward.

of living prophets, and serving others will qualify you for the Spirit—and the revelation it brings.

Perfection is not a prerequisite to personal revelation. The prerequisite is daily repentance (see Romans 3:23). If your repentance is sincere



Nephi's faith in and love for the Savior is exemplified in his obedience to God's commandments.

and thorough (see D&C 58:42–43), the cleansing power of the Atonement will bring the Spirit to guide you in the weighty decisions of life.

2. Move Forward in Faith

Put yourself in Nephi's sandals. Your father tells you the Lord has commanded your family to leave your wealth and depart for the wilderness. Wouldn't you like to know about your journey and destination?

I suppose Nephi would have been thrilled had the Lord clearly revealed his future. But that is not how God worked with Nephi, and it is not how He will work with you.

As Nephi's family traveled through the wilderness, instructions came to him only "from time to time" (1 Nephi 16:29; 18:1). Viewing his life's journey with certainty up front would not have provided him the soul-stretching and faith-forming experiences that helped him become a more Christlike man.

If you are waiting for God to reveal what academic major to pursue,

whom to marry, what job to accept, where to live, whether to go to graduate school, and how many children to bear, you will likely never leave your apartment. I testify that personal revelation will come only "from time to time."

Our Heavenly Father wants us to grow, and that includes developing our ability to weigh facts, render judgments, and make decisions. But He also invites us to bring our decisions to Him in prayer (see D&C 9:7–9). Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught that answers to our prayers come "in one of *three* ways."²

Confirming Assurance

"First," Elder Scott said, "you can feel the peace, comfort, and assurance that confirm that your decision is right."³ My wife, Christy, and I have found that assurance for critical life-affecting decisions can be communicated through the scriptures, often after temple worship.

For example, after much pondering and praying, we decided to abandon our new dream home in Texas, accept a job transfer, and move with six young children to Beijing, China. But we desperately desired spiritual confirmation for such a momentous move. Divine assurance did come to us—in the temple—as we read these words in the Doctrine and Covenants: "It is my will that you should . . . tarry not many days in this place; . . . think

TO REDUCE FEARS AND INCREASE CONFIDENCE

1. Obey the commandments.
2. Move forward in faith.
3. Live in the present.
4. Draw on the strength of others.





Nephi would have been thrilled had the Lord clearly revealed his future. But that is not how God worked with Nephi, and it is not how He will work with you.

procrastinate any longer and must act. I have learned that, as Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught, “we will get promptings of the Spirit when we have done everything we can, when we are out in the sun working rather than sitting back in the shade praying for direction on the first step to take.”⁶

As with Nephi, the Spirit will in due time confirm or warn of your chosen path.

3. Live in the Present

Nephi’s commitment on the journey to the promised land stands in stark contrast to that of his brothers Laman and Lemuel. They made the decision to go, but their hearts never left Jerusalem. Nephi was fixing his broken bow to hunt for food and mining ore to build a ship while his brothers seem to have been lounging in a tent.

Today the world has many Lamans and Lemuels. But the Lord needs committed men and women like Nephi. You will experience greater progress in life when you wholly commit to your decisions and strive to excel in your current circumstances even while you have an eye open to the future.

Nephi exemplifies the wise counsel of President Thomas S. Monson: “Daydreaming of the past and longing for the future may provide comfort but will not take the place of living in the present. This is the day of our opportunity, and we must grasp it.”⁷

not of thy property. Go unto the eastern lands” (D&C 66:5–7).

The voice of Jesus Christ in the scriptures, accompanied by powerful feelings from the Holy Ghost, confirmed that our decision to move to China was right.

Unsettled Feeling

The second way Heavenly Father answers prayers is through an “unsettled feeling, the stupor of thought, indicating that your choice is wrong.”⁴

After my mission to Taiwan, I thought international law would be a good career choice. As Christy and I considered that possible future, we understood that five more years of expensive education lay ahead.

The U.S. economy was in a deep recession and our funds were limited, so we reasoned that joining the Air Force ROTC would be a wise choice to pay for my schooling. But as I took the required tests and filled out the paperwork, we just could not get comfortable making that commitment. No stupor of thought or dark feelings

came—only an absence of peace.

That seemingly illogical financial decision was inspired, in part, because I would have been a horrible lawyer!

Divine Trust

God answers prayers a third way: no response. “When you are living worthily and your choice is consistent with the Savior’s teachings and you need to act,” Elder Scott said, “proceed with trust.”⁵

Nephi’s final attempt to obtain the brass plates illustrates how we should proceed with divine trust. He recorded:

“I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.

“Nevertheless I went forth”
(1 Nephi 4:6–7).

Moments will arrive during your decade of decision when you cannot

4. Draw on the Strength of Others

Even after we have sought the Spirit, moved forward with our decision, and are wholly committed to it, doubts may still arise and cause us to question our decision. In such circumstances a trusted family member or friend can provide counsel and strength to stay the course. I suggest that along his journey, Nephi's bride became his trusted anchor.

An appreciation for Nephi's wife came to me while visiting the Church History Museum. I was transfixed by a



painting there of Nephi lashed to the mast of a ship, soaked to the skin in a driving storm.⁸

At Nephi's side were his wife and one of his children. She was experiencing the same storm and challenges as Nephi, but her eyes were defiant and her strong arms were protectively wrapped around his shoulders. In that moment I realized that I too was blessed to have a loyal spouse offering strength in my times of trial. I hoped that I was a similar strength to her.

Brethren, preserving and enhancing the spiritual strength you developed (or will yet develop) as a missionary or in other righteous service is your best asset in becoming a desirable husband and father. Sisters, spiritual sensitivity, faith, and courage to follow Jesus Christ are

among your best qualities as a wife and mother.

I invite you to become the type of person your current or future spouse can draw on for wise counsel and strength. A virtuous man and a worthy woman, sealed for time and all eternity in the temple, can do difficult things as equal partners.

I promise that if you will apply the lessons learned from Nephi and modern prophets about making decisions, you will be led along with personal revelation "from time to time." As you progress through your decade of decision, may you, as did Nephi, have the faith to say:

"I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.

"Nevertheless I went forth" (1 Nephi 4:6–7). ■

From a devotional address, "Nevertheless I Went Forth," delivered at Brigham Young University on Feb. 4, 2014. For the full address in English, go to speeches.byu.edu.

NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, "To the Aaronic Priesthood: Preparing for the Decade of Decision," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2007, 48.
2. Richard G. Scott, "Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2007, 10; emphasis in original.
3. Richard G. Scott, "Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer," 10.
4. Richard G. Scott, "Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer," 10.
5. Richard G. Scott, "Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer," 10.
6. Dallin H. Oaks, "In His Own Time, in His Own Way," *Ensign*, Aug. 2013, 24; *Liahona*, Aug. 2013, 26.
7. Thomas S. Monson, "In Search of Treasure," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2003, 20.
8. See *Helpmeet*, by K. Sean Sullivan, in "The Book of Mormon: A Worldwide View," *Ensign*, Aug. 2000, 39; *Liahona*, Dec. 2000, 37.

A trusted family member or friend can provide counsel and strength to stay the course.



SEEK HIM

“Why seek ye the living among the dead?
He is not here, but is risen.”

(Luke 24:5-6.)



BECAUSE OF JOSEPH

Discover six ways your life is (or can be) different because of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

By Ted Barnes

Priesthood Department

Joseph Smith died over 170 years ago. He lived only 38 years, spending most of that time in places so obscure that you probably won't find them on any but the most detailed maps. And you're probably familiar with a lot of things he did in his life. But have you thought about how they affect you personally? While those ways are too numerous to count, you might start with these six.

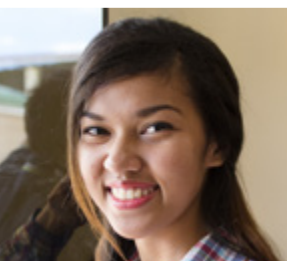
Because of Joseph Smith:

1. You understand who God and Jesus Christ really are.

Even if it wasn't for Joseph Smith, you might still believe in God the Father and in Jesus Christ. You could have the testimonies of the Bible. But think of how much deeper and richer your understanding is because of what Joseph Smith restored—the bold, confirming witnesses of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. For example, you know something that most of the world doesn't: that the risen Savior appeared in the Americas—proving, in His words, that He is not only “the God of Israel, [but also] the God of the whole earth” (3 Nephi 11:14).

Think of how your testimony of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ is strengthened by the powerful witness of prophets like Nephi, Alma, and Moroni—not to mention Joseph Smith himself, who declared: “He lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God” (D&C 76:22–23). In a day when faith in God and Jesus Christ is being challenged and often abandoned, what a blessing it is to have this additional light!





2. You know that you are a child of God—and so is everyone else.

Perhaps the most important truth Joseph Smith restored was the truth about our relationship with God.¹ He is literally our Father. Have you ever stopped to think about the things that flow from that fact? It changes the way you see yourself: regardless of what the world thinks of you, you know that you are a beloved child of God, with His qualities inside you. It changes the way you see others: suddenly everyone—*everyone*—is your brother or sister. It changes the way you look at life itself: all of its joys and trials are part of Heavenly Father's plan to help you become like your Him. Not bad for something you sing about in Primary!²



3. Your family can be eternal.

Why are so many people confused about the importance of marriage and family? Maybe because they don't know the doctrine, restored through Joseph Smith, that marriage and family are ordained of God and are meant to be eternal (see D&C 49:15; 132:7). These aren't just man-made traditions that our society has outgrown—they're part of the eternal order of heaven. And thanks to the priesthood keys and temple ordinances that were restored through Joseph Smith, your eternal family can start here on earth.



4. You have access to the priesthood and its blessings.

Because God restored His priesthood through Joseph Smith, you can be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. You can seek priesthood blessings of healing, comfort, and guidance. You can make sacred covenants that bind you to God. And you can renew your covenants every week when you partake of the sacrament. Through the ordinances of the priesthood, the power of God enters your life (see D&C 84:20–21). None of this would be possible without the work accomplished through Joseph Smith.



5. You are free from addiction to harmful substances.

Or at least you can be if you obey the revelation Joseph received back in 1833—long before tobacco was clinically proven to cause lung cancer and alcohol was linked to liver disease. When you have a prophet revealing the wisdom of God, why wait for the wisdom of the world to catch up? The Word of Wisdom shows that God cares not only about our spirits but also about our bodies (see D&C 89). After all, as the revelations to Joseph Smith demonstrated, having a body makes us more—not less—like our Father in Heaven, who also has a body of flesh and bones (see D&C 130:22).

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

THINGS TO PONDER FOR SUNDAY

- How can I strengthen my testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith?
- How can I better show gratitude for the living prophet through my words and actions?

THINGS YOU MIGHT DO

- In church, with your family and friends, or on social media, share how the Prophet Joseph Smith has influenced your life.
- Just as Joseph Smith did, ask Heavenly Father your questions. Take time to kneel in prayer and ask Him for guidance. Afterward, wait and listen for ideas or feelings. Record your thoughts in your journal.
- Read the talk “Joseph Smith” by Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles from the October 2014 general conference. Make a plan to apply the two ideas he gives on building and sharing your testimony of Joseph Smith.



6. You can know the truth for yourself through the Holy Ghost.

When young Joseph stepped into the Sacred Grove in 1820, the common belief among many churches was that revelation was a thing of the past. Joseph's First Vision proved that wrong. The heavens are open—and not just to prophets. Anyone with a question can receive an

answer through humble, diligent seeking (see D&C 42:61; 88:63). For example, you can find out for yourself that Joseph Smith was God's prophet the same way Joseph found out: by asking God Himself.

This list is only a start. What would you add? How is your life different because of Joseph Smith? ■

NOTES

1. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 37–44.
2. See “I Am a Child of God,” *Hymns*, no. 301.

“The living prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet...”

“... God’s revelation to Adam did not instruct Noah how to build the Ark. Noah needed his own revelation. Therefore, the most important prophet, so far as you and I are concerned, is the one living in our day and age to whom the Lord is currently revealing His will for us. Therefore, the most important reading we can do is any of the words of the prophet ... contained each month in our Church magazines. Our marching orders for each six months are found in the general conference addresses, which are printed in the [*Liahona*] magazine...”

“Beware of those who would pit the dead prophets against the living prophets, for the **living prophets always take precedence.**” ■

*From President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994),
“Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet”
(Brigham Young University devotional, Feb. 26, 1980),
2, speeches.byu.edu.*

Share Your Ideas

What does it mean to you to sustain the living prophets? Share your ideas with family and friends, on social media, or at youth.lds.org.



THE SAVIOR'S EXAMPLE OF *Obedience*

*His example sets the pattern for
all of us to follow.*

“**O**f all the lessons we learn from the life of the Savior, none is more clear and powerful than the lesson of obedience,” taught Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the April 2014 general conference. The Savior’s example teaches us not only *why* obedience to Heavenly Father is important but also *how* we can be obedient. As you review the following examples from His ministry, think about how they might set a path for you to follow in your life.

“**I SEEK NOT
MINE OWN WILL,
BUT THE WILL
OF THE
FATHER
WHICH HATH
SENT ME.**”

(John 5:30; see also
John 6:38; 8:28–29; 14:31)



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Elder Hales said, “Jesus taught us to obey in simple language that is easy to understand: ‘If ye love me, keep my commandments’ [John 14:15], and ‘Come, follow me’ [Luke 18:22].”

What will you do today to be more obedient?



2

1. Although Jesus was without sin, he submitted to baptism “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:13-17; see also 2 Nephi 31:4-7; John 3:5).

2. At the age of 12, when Joseph and Mary found Jesus teaching in the temple, He “was subject unto them,” and obediently returned home with them (see Luke 2:42-51).

3. Though He asked if the cup could pass from Him, He submitted to the suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane (see Matthew 26:36-44; Luke 22:39-54).

4. He kept the Sabbath and attended services in the synagogue (see Luke 4:16-44).

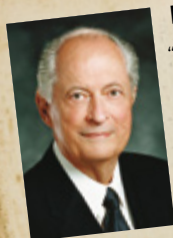
5. Jesus submitted to be judged of men that the Father’s work and glory might come to pass (see Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:53; Moses 1:39).

6. He finished His work by allowing wicked men to crucify Him (see Matthew 27:35; John 10:17-18; Galatians 1:3-5).



3

BECAUSE OUR SAVIOR WAS OBEDIENT



“Because our Savior was obedient, He atoned for our sins, making possible our resurrection and preparing the way for us to return to our Heavenly Father, who knew we would make mistakes as we learned obedience in mortality. When we obey, we accept His sacrifice, for we believe that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws, ordinances, and commandments given in the gospel.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2014, 35.



1



6



7

YOUTH

“THROUGHOUT
[CHRIST’S]
MINISTRY,
‘HE **SUFFERED**
TEMPTATIONS
BUT GAVE [THEM]
NO HEED’

[D&C 20:22].”

—Elder Robert D. Hales

8



9



4



5



7. Always obedient to His Father, Jesus went to the spirit world and organized the missionary work there (see 1 Peter 3:18–20; 4:6).

8. Jesus was tempted by Satan, but He did not yield (see Matthew 4:1–11; D&C 20:22).

9. He continues to do the Father’s will and direct the Church (see Joseph Smith—History 1:16–17; D&C 19:2, 24).

OUR SPACE



FIREFIGHTERS AND THE ARMOR OF GOD

It was a calm day at my job as a volunteer firefighter, so I decided to read the Book of Mormon. When one of my co-workers saw me reading, he asked if I knew how we could put on the armor of God in modern times. As we were talking, the alarm sounded. There was a fire in a nearby store.

We quickly put on our firefighting gear and went straight there. The flames were huge, and as we approached the store, something exploded in our direction. The flames engulfed us. The explosion disoriented my co-worker and me for a few seconds. But thanks to our equipment and protective clothing, we suffered no injury.

When we returned to the station after fighting the fire, I asked my co-worker if he remembered his question about the armor of God. He said he did, and I explained that the armor of God is like our protective firefighting gear. We must always wear it so we can withstand the powerful attacks of the adversary. If we keep the commandments, we will be blessed with the protective power of the armor of God, and the Holy Ghost will be our guide. ■

Fernando de la Rosa Marrón, Mexico



MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:7. “THE LORD SEETH NOT AS MAN SEETH; FOR MAN LOOKETH ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART.”

Before I joined the Church, I had always viewed myself as an ordinary person with ordinary abilities. I felt that I had nothing of value to offer. I was afraid to show people who I was because of the fear of being rejected and hurt. I thought that everyone around me was stronger, smarter, and better than me.

But all of these perspectives changed when I became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I learned that we are all children of God and we inherited divine qualities. I now understand that there isn't any competition on who is smarter, richer, or better looking. In the Lord's eyes, we are all on equal footing, and He is the one who judges—not based on our physical traits but on our obedience and desire to follow the path He has set. ■

Joan Azucena, Philippines

WILL YOU WORK ON SUNDAY?

When I was 15 years old, I gained a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and was so happy to join the Church. At the time, I was working to help support my family. Not long after I was baptized, however, I lost my job.

I needed to find a new job soon because my family depended on me, but every job I applied for required that I work on Sundays. I turned down many job offers because I knew that I needed to be at church on Sundays (see D&C 59:9–10).

After two months of searching, I still hadn't found a job. My mom was not a member of the Church, and although she believed in God, she was very angry that I was passing up so many jobs.

One night she looked at me with tears in her eyes and asked, “Why is God letting this happen to us when you are so faithful in doing what is right?”

I replied, “Mom, I don't know why this is happening to us, but I do know that I am doing the right

thing, and I know that God will bless us for it.”

The next morning someone offered me a considerable amount of money to spend two days moving some heavy cargo from one house to another. The work was strenuous, but when I received the money, I went straight home and offered a prayer of gratitude. I soon found a good job that allowed me to take Sundays off, and I haven't been unemployed since.

I am glad that I chose to keep the Sabbath day holy. There are many challenges in life, but I know that if we strive to be strong despite those challenges, the Lord will bless us. ■

Sahil Sharma, India





By Elder Neil L. Andersen

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

HOW TO BE WISE

In today's information tidal wave, we desperately need wisdom—wisdom to **sort through and discern** how to apply what we are learning.

Let's remember:

1. We must seek after wisdom.
2. Wisdom is multidimensional and comes in different sizes and colors.
3. Wisdom gained early brings enormous blessings.
4. Wisdom in one area may not be transferable to another.
5. Wisdom of the world, while in many cases very valuable, is most valuable when it humbly bows to the wisdom of God.

The scriptures describe two types of wisdom: the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God. The wisdom of the world has both a positive and a negative component. In the darkest description, it could be described as a partial truth, mixed with intelligence and manipulation, to achieve selfish or evil purposes.

There is another kind of wisdom of the world that is not nearly so sinister. In fact it is very positive. This wisdom is consciously acquired through **study, reflection, observation, and hard work**. It is very valuable and helpful in the things we do. To good and decent people, it comes as we experience our mortality.

More importantly, the wisdom that brings success in the world must be willing to step behind the wisdom of God and not think that it can substitute for it.

Not all wisdom is created equal. We need to learn that when there is conflict between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God, we must **yield our will to the wisdom of God**.

I suggest you take some of the issues facing you. Put a line down the middle of a paper. List the wisdom of the world on the left side and the wisdom of God on the right side. Write the issues in conflict one with another.

What choices are you making?

In section 45 of the Doctrine and Covenants, which speaks of the events leading up to the Second Coming of the Savior, the Lord again tells the story of the ten virgins and then leaves us with these words: "For they that are wise, and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be

hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day" (see D&C 45:57).

Let us **seek after the wisdom of God**. There is much we can learn right now about wisdom. I promise you that the Lord's blessings will attend you as you seek for wisdom, the wisdom of God. He is so anxious to impart His wisdom to us. And if we will be obedient and prayerful and seek after it, it will come. ■

From a Brigham Young University–Idaho commencement address given on April 10, 2009.

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

"There are always two possibilities to choose. You can choose what you want. But you should decide wisely. I can say that choosing the Lord can help you through each day and having the Holy Spirit by your side can help you through each situation. Choosing the wrong side can lead to an unhappy feeling, a feeling that will seem like happiness for a short time but afterward you will see the consequences and you will bitterly regret the decision you have made. Stay on the Lord's side! It's not always easy, but it's worth doing!"

Samuel J., Austria

TO THE POINT



Is it OK to go to **dances**
or **parties** where I know
bad stuff will be going on, in
order to be a **good example**?

Ask yourself: “What kind of example do I really think I’m going to be setting in that situation?” If you intend to go someplace where there might be drugs or alcohol, immodest dress, music with suggestive lyrics, or lewd dancing, how will you show people how much fun they can have without those things? What would the people around you likely be thinking—“Isn’t that a great example of faith and standards?” or “Why did that person even come?” In most cases, you’ll be a much better example by not going at all, because you won’t be deliberately and knowingly exposing yourself to temptation. ■

How much influence does **Satan** have over my thoughts?

Our Heavenly Father ensures that we have moral agency, the ability to choose good or evil. He won’t force us to do good, and the devil can’t force us to do evil (see *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 214).

So, when it comes to your thoughts, the devil has only as much influence as you’re willing to give him. The Prophet Joseph Smith said, “Satan cannot seduce us by his enticements unless we in our hearts consent and yield” (*Teachings*:

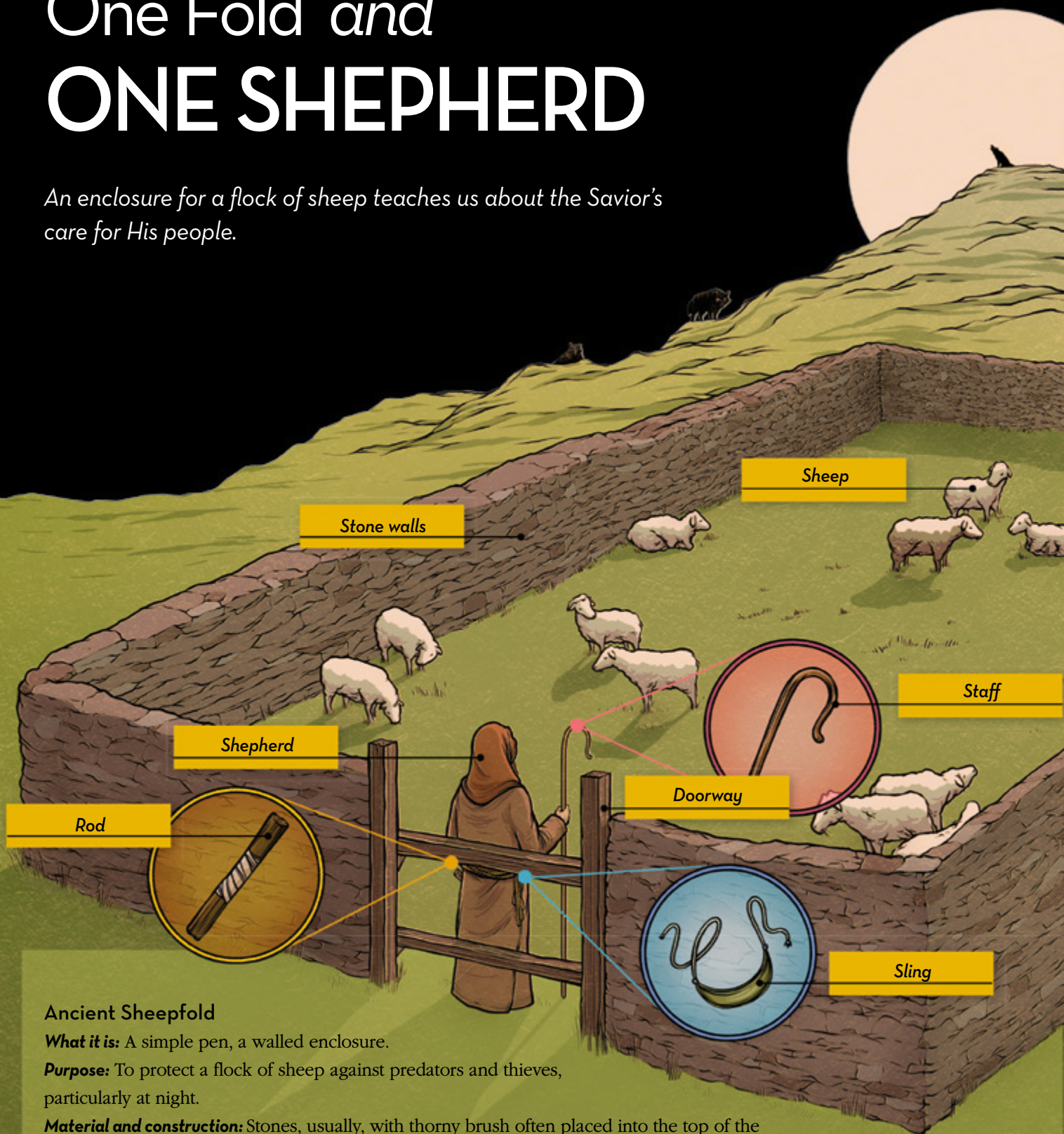
Joseph Smith, 213). He also said, “The devil has no power over us only as we permit him” (214).

In addition, the scriptures tell us that “there is none else save God that knowest thy thoughts and the intents of thy heart” (D&C 6:16), so Satan doesn’t actually know what you’re thinking. He can only offer temptations and enticements. But if you choose to follow them, he

gains greater power over you and the temptations get stronger. By the same token, if you resist evil and choose good, you will be strengthened and blessed. ■

One Fold *and* ONE SHEPHERD

An enclosure for a flock of sheep teaches us about the Savior's care for His people.



Ancient Sheepfold

What it is: A simple pen, a walled enclosure.

Purpose: To protect a flock of sheep against predators and thieves, particularly at night.

Material and construction: Stones, usually, with thorny brush often placed into the top of the walls. Thick thorn bushes were also often used to make a fence for a temporary makeshift sheepfold. Caves sometimes served as a sheepfold, with small rock or brush barriers placed in front of them.

BIBLE FACTS

- Sheep were very valuable for their meat, milk, fat, wool, skins, and horns and were a primary sacrificial animal.
- In Israel, wolves, hyenas, panthers, and jackals are among predators that would target sheep. In ancient times, lions and bears also inhabited the region (see 1 Samuel 17:33-37).
- Shepherds used a staff to lead the sheep and a rod and a sling to defend them.
- A shepherd led his sheep to food and water during the day (see Psalm 23:1-2) and back to the fold at night. The shepherd would count the sheep as they returned, searching for strays if any were missing. He would then lie in the doorway of the fold to protect them.
- Jesus Christ called Himself the Good Shepherd (see John 10:11-15) because He laid down His life for us. He also compared Himself to the door of the sheepfold (see John 10:1-9) because it is through Him that we receive spiritual nourishment, rest, peace, salvation, and exaltation.
- The Apostle Paul compared the Church to a flock of sheep (see Acts 20:28).

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HABBEIN; DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER, BY HENRICH HOFMANN



OTHER SHEEP

The Savior spoke of “other sheep . . . which are not of this fold” (John 10:16), meaning the Nephites and Lamanites, who had been led away from the house of Israel (see 3 Nephi 15:14-24). He also spoke of visiting the lost tribes of Israel (see 3 Nephi 15:20; 16:1-3).

What We Can Learn

Sheepfolds are:

Where the flock gathers. As Church members, we share a bond of unity through our faith and our covenants, as well as through literally gathering together. President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, has taught: “The joy of unity [Heavenly Father] wants so much to give us is not solitary. We must seek it and qualify for it with others. It is not surprising then that God urges us to gather so that He can bless us. He wants us to gather into families. He has established classes, wards, and branches and commanded us to meet together often. In those gatherings, . . . we can pray and work for the unity that will bring us joy and multiply our power to serve” (“Our Hearts Knit as One,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 69).

A place of safety and rest. In Jesus Christ we “find rest unto [our] souls” (Matthew 11:29). His Church is “a defense, and . . . a refuge” (D&C 115:6). And as President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has taught, “We find safety and security for ourselves . . . in honoring the covenants we have made and living up to the ordinary acts of obedience required of the followers of Christ” (“These Things I Know,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 7).

Guarded by the shepherd. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who saves us. He suffered and died so that we might overcome sin and death and return to our Heavenly Father. As we come unto Christ and are obedient to His commandments, He blesses, guides, and protects us both individually and as His covenant people. ■

“How can I become comfortable enough to talk to my bishop about issues or concerns?”

You may feel nervous to talk to your bishop about things you’re struggling with, and that’s normal. We often get nervous before new experiences or before talking with an adult.

But your bishop is called of God. He was called because he’s a committed disciple of Jesus Christ. He will do his best to be kind and understanding. His goal is to help you come to the Savior so you can find peace. Initially, you might feel embarrassed to talk to him about your questions or sins, but he will not think less of you. In fact, he’ll be glad that you have a desire to improve. And he will keep your conversations confidential.

You don’t have to carry your burdens alone. Your bishop can help you find answers to your questions and, if needed, help you repent and overcome, through Christ’s Atonement, feelings of guilt, despair, or unworthiness.

As you talk to your bishop, you will feel his love for you. Even though he’s responsible for the whole ward or branch, his main focus is the well-being of the young men and young women. You’re not bothering him by asking for help.

You can pray to Heavenly Father for strength and courage to talk to your bishop. He has authorized your bishop to help you and your bishop is eager to do so. If you go with an open heart and a desire to be better, you will find that you leave his office feeling so much better than you did before.

He Will Not Think Less of You

The bishop of your ward is given authority to guide you through the steps of repentance. Sometimes turning to your bishop is the only way for you to fully repent through the Savior. When I needed to talk to my bishop, he helped me find the Savior and overcome the deepest wound I have ever had. Your bishop wants to help you. His calling is to take care of you, and he will not think less of you because of something you need to see him for.

Madison D., age 18, Utah, USA

Your Bishop Is Willing to Help

I used to feel uncomfortable in interviews, but I eventually realized that my bishop was always willing to help me solve my problems. Trust your bishop; he is a shepherd and the ward is his flock.

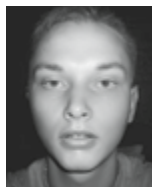
Jaime R., age 19, Cochabamba, Bolivia



He Will Not Betray Your Trust

I have come to know that a bishop is probably the most trustworthy adult a teenager could seek help from. He would never betray your trust—everything you share with him stays in his office. Sometimes it is so hard to share your problems, but talking face-to-face with someone who loves and cares and wants the best for you makes it a lot easier.

Nicole S., age 18, Idaho, USA



You Can Rely on Him

Your bishop or branch president is a true servant of the Lord.

You can rely on him for guidance as you seek inspiration from the Holy Ghost and the scriptures. You must understand that the bishop is there to help and that he is led by God.

Stanislav R., age 19, Donetsk, Ukraine



Remember That He Loves You

If you have something you really want to discuss with the bishop, it may be easier to chat with him about school and other general things first. If you're nervous because you need to talk to him about repentance issues, just remember that he loves you. You don't need to be nervous about what he'll think of you, because why would he look down on you for wanting to be closer to Christ?

Ashley D., age 17, Arizona, USA



Pray to Know

Ask yourself why you feel uncomfortable talking to the bishop.

Do you think he won't be able to help solve your problems? Pray to know that the bishop loves you and has been called to help you.

Adam H., age 13, California, USA

Even If You Make a Mistake

It can be hard and embarrassing to confess things to your bishop, but when you walk out of that office, you will feel relieved, and you will know that Heavenly Father loves you. He wants you to be happy, even if you make a mistake.

Amanda W., age 16, Utah, USA

He Is Here to Help

The bishop is the shepherd of your ward. Remember that he will do his best to help you and he has the power of God on his side. If you feel afraid, you can pray for strength to be able to talk to your bishop. In the end, you'll be glad you went to him—and it will be worth it.

Samuel H., age 14, Idaho, USA

For more information on this topic, see C. Scott Grow, "Why and What Do I Need to Confess to My Bishop?" New Era, Oct. 2013, 28; Liahona, Oct. 2013, 59.



CONFIDE IN HIM

"Seek counsel from your priesthood leaders, especially your

bishop. He knows the standards, and he knows what to teach you. Seek opportunities to be with him. You can expect him to ask pointed, searching questions. Trust him. Confide in him. Ask him to help you understand what the Lord expects from you. Make a commitment to live according to the Church's standards of morality. A meaningful relationship with an adult leader is vital to help you keep morally clean and worthy."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Purity Precedes Power," Ensign, Nov. 1990, 37.

UPCOMING QUESTION

"I get made fun of at school for being LDS. I know I need to stand up for what I believe in, but it's so hard! How do I become brave enough to tell those people to stop?"

Submit your answer and, if desired, a high-resolution photograph by May 1, 2015, at liahona.lds.org, by email to liahona@ldschurch.org, or by mail (see address on page 3).

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

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.

Ellie knew who her hero was, but she was too afraid to say it.

Who Is

By Charlotte Mae Sheppard

Based on a true story

*"Stand by your conscience, your honor, your faith;
stand like a hero" (Children's Songbook, 158).*

Ellie bit her thumbnail nervously. Miss Fitz was going down the rows of desks and asking each student a question, one by one.

"Who is your hero?" Miss Fitz asked Jeremy.

Jeremy didn't waste a moment answering. "My dad!" he said proudly.



ILLUSTRATION BY VALERIO FABBRETTI

Your Hero?

Miss Fitz smiled. “And yours, Sarah?”

Her answer came just as quickly. “Abraham Lincoln.”

Ellie felt her heart thumping as Miss Fitz continued down the row of students. They had been talking about heroes all day, and now everyone was supposed to say who their hero was—in front of the whole class!

Amber and Justin said their moms were their heroes. Walter said his was his grandfather. A few other students said theirs was a king or a president.

Only a few students were left before Miss Fitz would reach Ellie. She had to think of a hero—and fast.

Ellie looked down at her shoes, embarrassed. Coming up with a hero wasn't the real problem. She already

knew who her hero was. It was Jesus Christ. He had healed the sick, raised the dead, and paid the price for everyone's sins. He was the greatest hero who ever lived! She was just too afraid to say it.

Ellie bit her thumbnail again at the thought of telling the whole class that Jesus Christ was her hero. What if Jeremy laughed at her? What if Sarah and Amber whispered about her at recess?

Of course she knew Jesus Christ was her hero. But that didn't mean everyone else had to know too.

Miss Fitz stopped right in front of Ellie's desk and smiled. “And who is your hero, Ellie?”

Ellie glanced from the row of students beside her up to Miss Fitz. “Abraham Lincoln,” she whispered.

Miss Fitz beamed. “Good!” she said as she walked to the next student in the row.

As soon as she was gone, Ellie's shoulders dropped in relief. Thank goodness that was over. The last thing she needed was for everyone in class to know that her hero was—

“Jesus Christ,” a voice said.

Ellie's eyes widened as she slowly looked over. There—only a little farther down the row—sat a small boy with rumpled hair. He was skinny and shy, and he always sat at the back of the classroom. Ellie didn't even know his name. She couldn't remember him ever saying a single word—until now.

A few students turned to stare at the boy, but he didn't notice them. He just looked up at Miss Fitz and spoke again. “My hero is Jesus Christ.”

Miss Fitz smiled brightly and continued down the row. But Ellie looked at the boy in amazement. She had been afraid to tell everyone about her hero, but he hadn't. He didn't even go to her church! But he knew how important it was to stand as an example of Jesus Christ, even when it was hard.

Ellie smiled at the boy. She wouldn't be afraid to say who her hero was anymore. After all, she had two of them now. ■

The author lives in California, USA.



Prayers and Cathedrals

By McKelle George

Based on a true story

"Ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Dani looked up but still couldn't see the top of the beautiful cathedral. People who belonged to a different church came here. Dani didn't understand why her family was visiting this church on a Friday, but Dad said they were going to something called Evensong.

"What's that?" Dani asked.

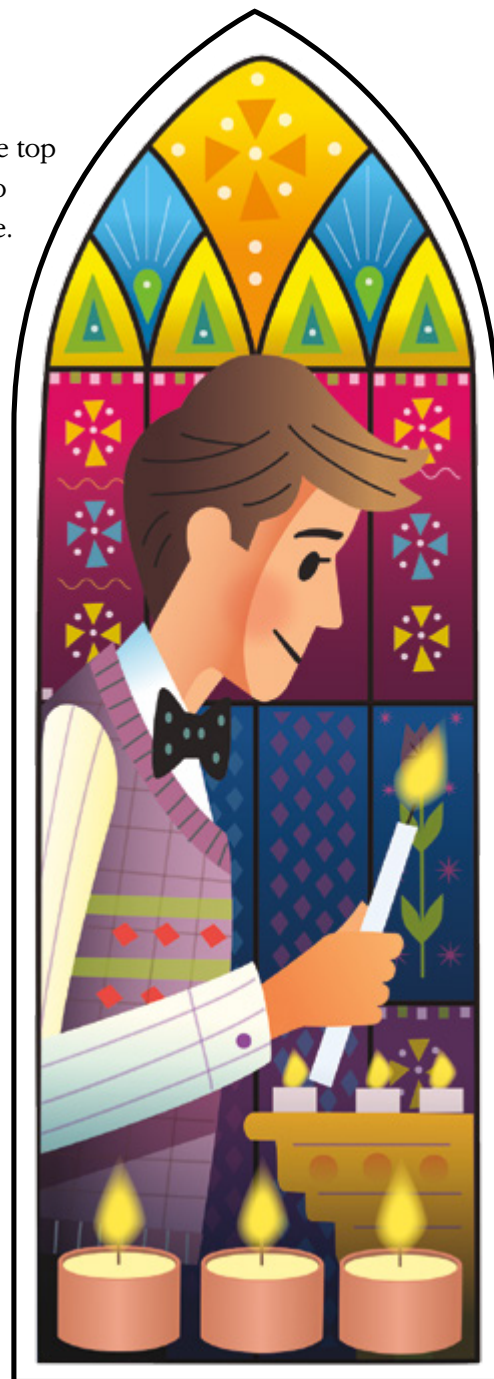
"It's a meeting where people sing, read scriptures, and pray together," Dad said. "Like a big family at the end of the day."

Dani liked how that sounded. She and her family were visiting England. Last Sunday they went to a ward in a city called York. In Primary all the kids knew the same scriptures and songs Dani did. She knew the ward she visited was part of Jesus's true Church, just like her ward at home.

But this cathedral was very different from what she was used to. She noticed a small table filled with candles. Dani watched a boy light a candle.

"Why are you lighting candles?" Dani asked him.

The boy smiled. "I light a candle when I pray for special things. As long as the flame burns, I hope the



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT GREER



"We should love all people, be good listeners, and show concern for their sincere beliefs."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Loving Others and Living with Differences," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2014, 27.

prayer will continue to be heard by God."

They looked like regular candles to Dani. She was a little confused, but she wanted to be polite. She smiled at the boy.

Dani and her family sat down, and soon Evensong started. She saw the same boy a few rows away. Then she realized she didn't know any of the songs everyone was singing. When they prayed, they read out of a little book. Everything seemed different than what she was used to.

But the music was beautiful, even if it wasn't familiar. Then a man got up to read the scriptures. He was wearing robes, instead of a suit and tie like Dani's bishop. But as he started reading, Dani realized she knew this story! He was reading about Jesus healing the 10 lepers.

"Dad," Dani whispered, "I love this story."

Dad smiled. "Me too."

Then the man in robes said a prayer. He asked God to bless those who were sick and in need. Just like Dani did! He also asked a special blessing on leaders of his church. Dani remembered how her family always asked Heavenly

Father to bless President Thomas S. Monson and his counselors.

A warm feeling came into Dani's heart. She knew Heavenly Father was telling her He loved *all* His children and heard *all* their prayers, even if they went to a different church and didn't have the fulness of the gospel.

As they got up to leave, Dad checked his phone. He looked sad as he read his messages. "Sister Monson passed away," he said.

"Oh no!" Dani said a quick prayer in her heart that President Monson would be OK.

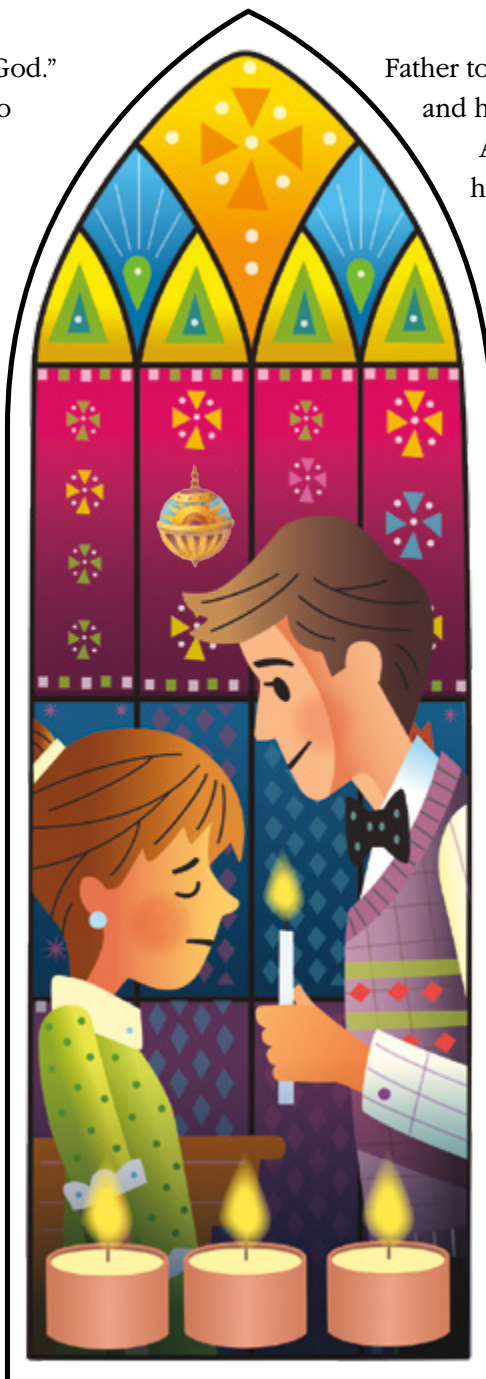
"Are you all right?" someone asked. It was the boy from before. He had heard Dani, and he seemed worried.

"Sister Monson passed away," Dani said. "She was the wife of our prophet, President Monson."

"I'm sorry," he said kindly. "I'll light a candle for him."

Dani smiled and thanked him. She thought it was nice of the boy to say a special prayer for President Monson. She knew Heavenly Father would hear the prayer she said in her heart and the prayer the boy said too. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.





By Elder
Russell M. Nelson

Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

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

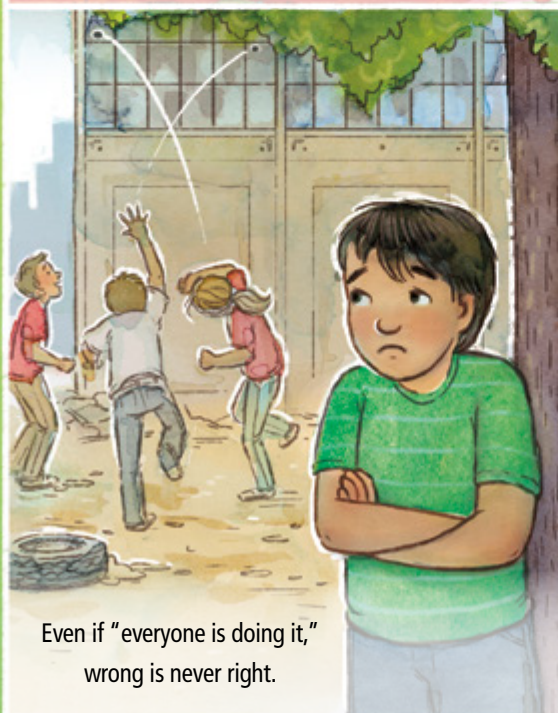
Why is being **OBEDIENT** so important?



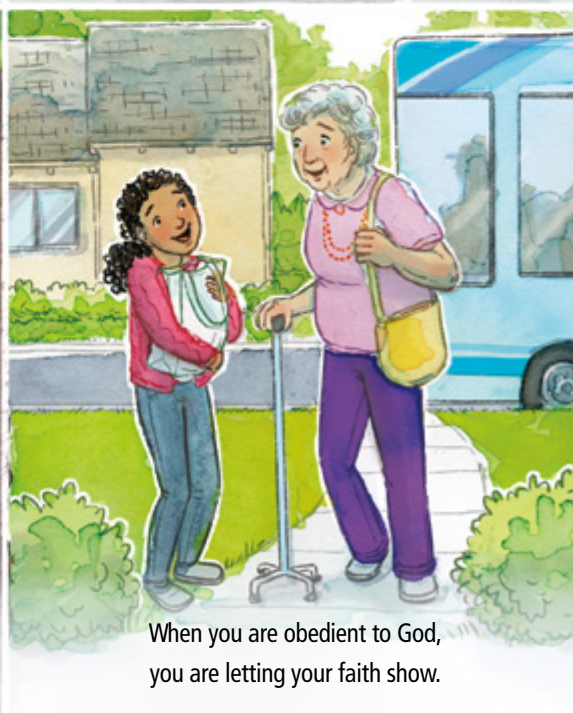
Keeping the commandments
brings blessings, every time!



Breaking the commandments brings
a loss of blessings, every time!



Even if "everyone is doing it,"
wrong is never right.



When you are obedient to God,
you are letting your faith show.

“This is the day
which the Lord
hath made;
we will rejoice
and be glad in it.”

—Psalm 118:24



Jesus Heals a Leper



By Erin Sanderson

Think about a time when you were sick. Did someone do something kind to help you feel better?

In the New Testament we read about how Jesus showed kindness to people who were sick. One day a man with a painful skin disease called leprosy went to Jesus. He knew that Jesus had the power to heal everyone who was sick. He believed that Jesus could heal him. Jesus touched the leper and said, “Be thou clean” (Mark 1:41). As soon as Jesus had spoken, the man was healed.

We can follow in Jesus’s footsteps by being kind and loving to others who are sick or sad. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

You can use the scripture figures on page 74 to tell the story from Mark 1:40–42. Then you could read Jude 1:22 and plan how to do something as a family to make a difference in someone’s life. Maybe you could serve someone in secret!

Song: “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” (*Children’s Songbook*, 57)

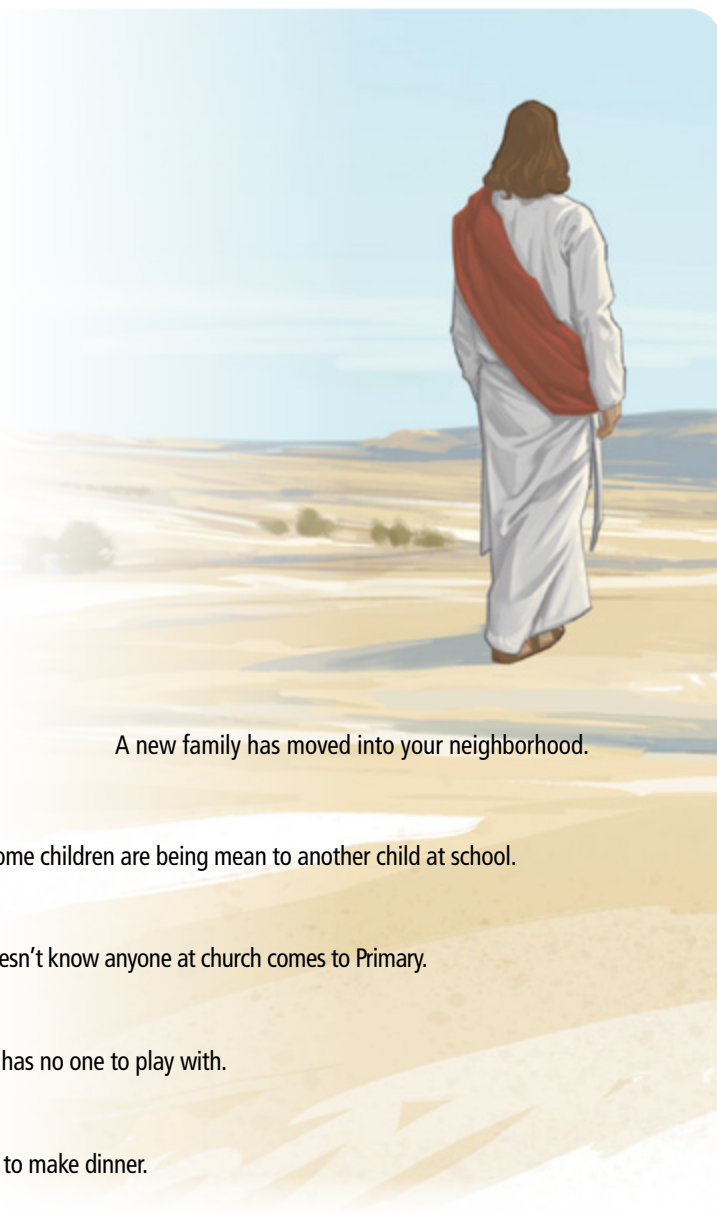
Scriptures: Mark 1:40–42

Videos: Go to Biblevideos.org to watch “Jesus Heals a Lame Man on the Sabbath” and “Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind.”



FOLLOWING IN JESUS'S FOOTSTEPS

With your family, role-play how you could show love for others in these situations. Make up some of your own situations!



A new family has moved into your neighborhood.

Some children are being mean to another child at school.

A visitor who doesn't know anyone at church comes to Primary.

Your younger brother or sister has no one to play with.

The baby is crying, and your mother is trying to make dinner.

A person in your ward or branch is sick and can't leave the house.

LEARN MORE: THE GOSPELS

The New Testament has four special books called the Gospels, which were written by some of Jesus's disciples. The Gospels tell about when Jesus Christ lived on the earth. The story about healing the leper is in three of the Gospels. It is in Mark 1:40–42 and also in Matthew 8:2–4 and Luke 5:12–14.

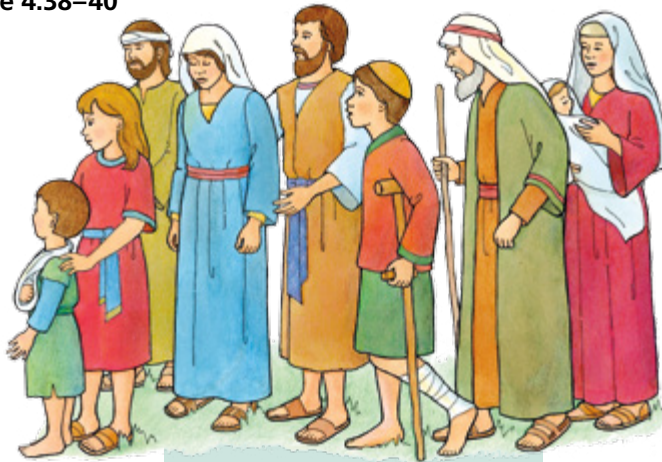
SCRIPTURE TIP: WORD SEARCH

In Mark 1:41 the word *compassion* is used. Sometimes there are big words in the Bible that you might not understand. When you find a word you don't know, you can use the Guide to the Scriptures to help you! For example, you can look up "Compassion" to find out what it means and to find other scriptures that use it. What other words can you look up in the story about Jesus healing the man with leprosy?

Jesus Heals the Sick

Mark 1:40–42; Luke 4:38–40

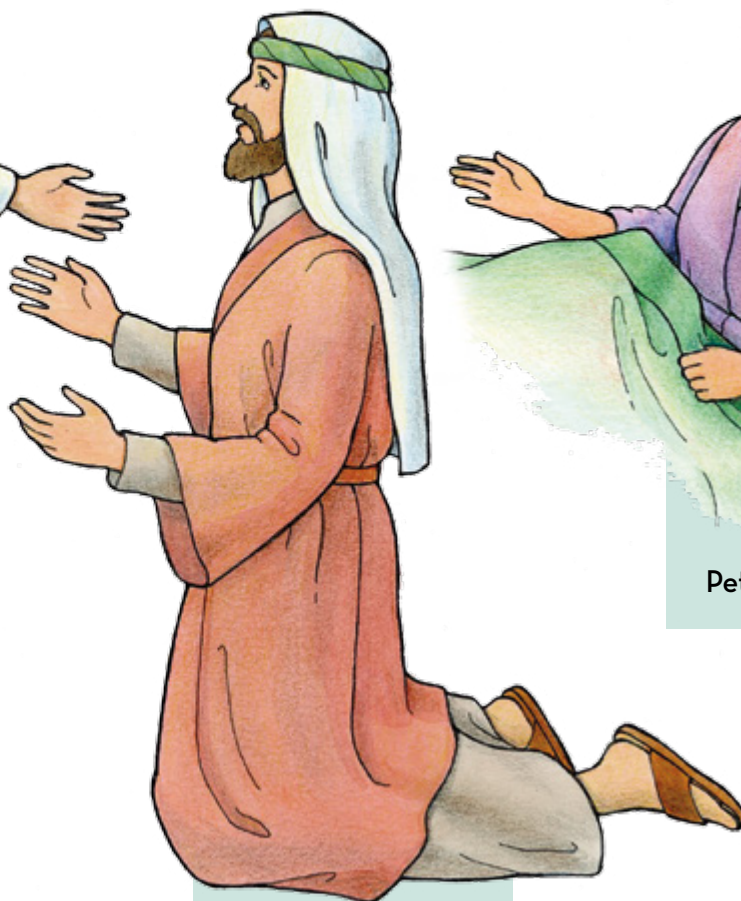
Glue this page to heavy paper or cardboard. Then cut out the figures and attach them to craft sticks or paper bags. Use them to help act out stories from the New Testament. *You can print more copies at liahona.lds.org.*



Crowd



Jesus Christ



Leper

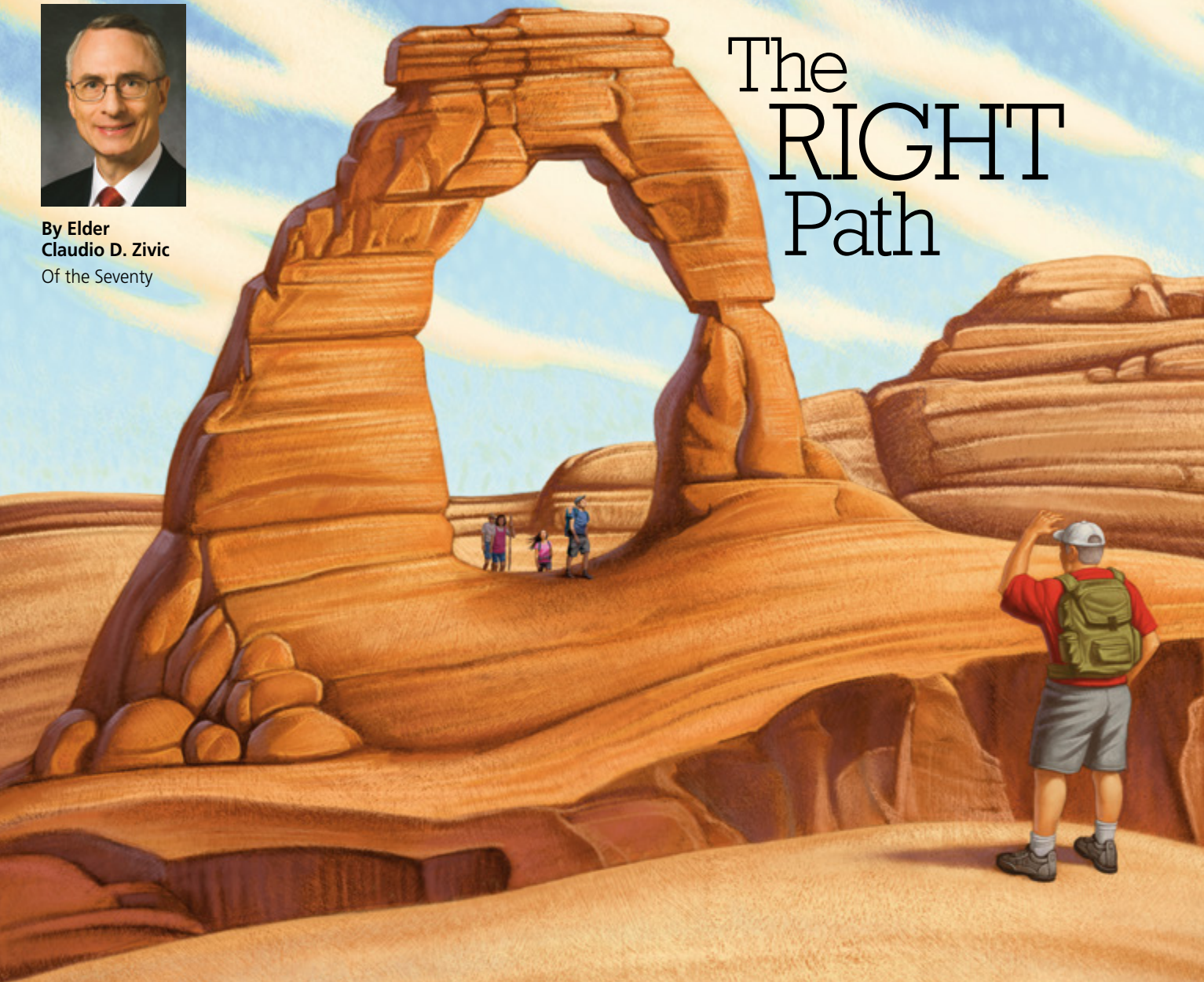


Peter's Mother-in-Law



By Elder
Claudio D. Zivic
Of the Seventy

The RIGHT Path



*“Hear the words of that God who made you”
(D&C 43:23).*

Many years ago my family and I visited Arches National Park in Utah, USA. One of the most beautiful and famous arches in the park is Delicate Arch, and we decided to climb the mountain to reach it.

We started enthusiastically, but soon the others wanted to rest. I wanted to get there sooner, so I went on alone. Without paying attention to the path I should take, I began following a man who seemed to know where he was going.

The path became harder to climb. I was sure my family could not have made it. Suddenly I saw Delicate

Arch, but to my surprise, I couldn’t reach it. The path I had taken didn’t lead to the arch.

I was frustrated and turned back. I waited impatiently until I met my group again. They told me they had followed the signs showing the right way and, with care and effort, had reached Delicate Arch. Unfortunately, I had taken the wrong way. What a lesson I learned!

Don’t lose sight of your pathway to eternal life with your Heavenly Father. Follow the gospel principles and commandments you learn, and you will be on the right path to live with Him forever. ■

From “Let’s Not Take the Wrong Way,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2014, 39–41.

I Know That Jesus Loves Me

By Jane McBride Choate

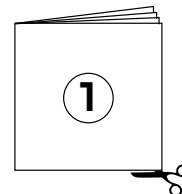
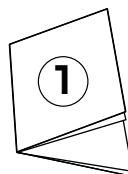
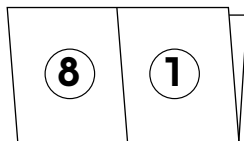
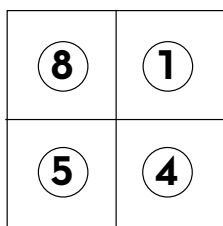
Based on a true story

Laney was trying very hard to be reverent in church. But she was tired, and her legs felt wiggly.

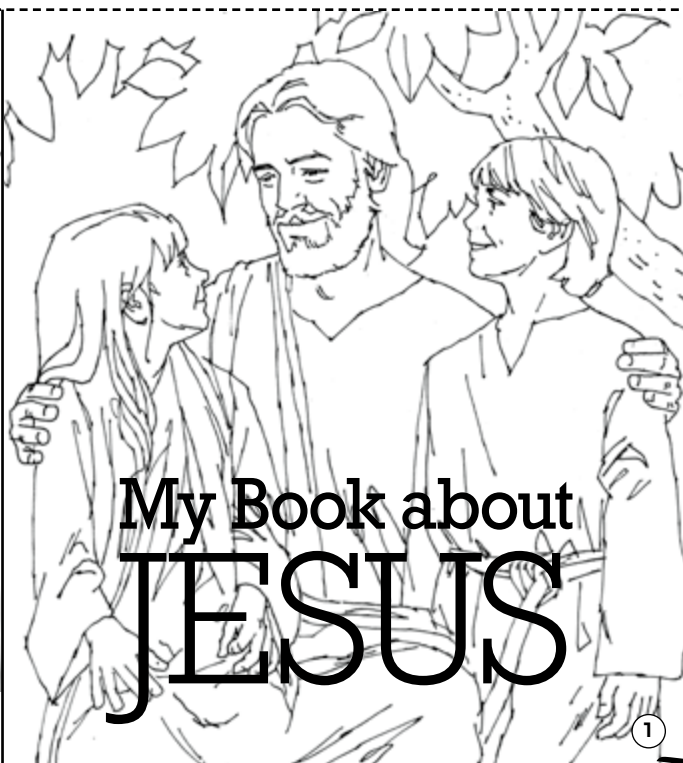
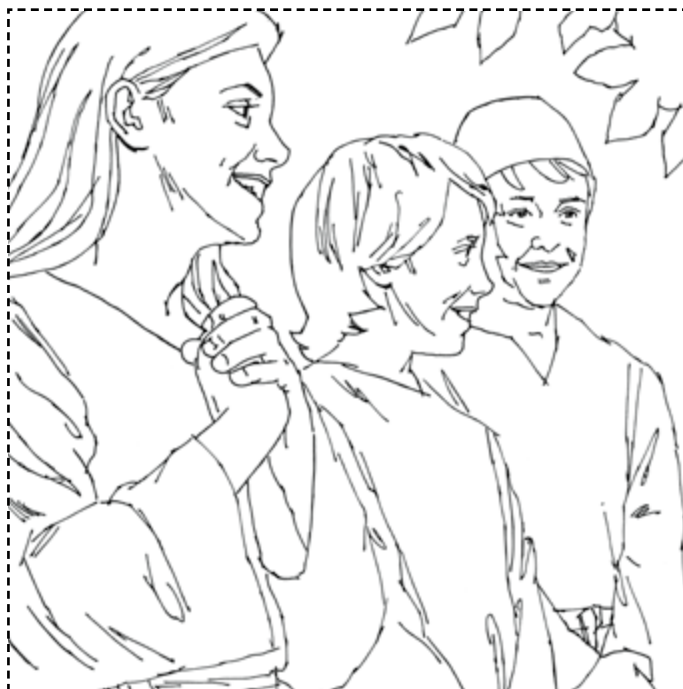


After the sacrament was over, Laney opened her book about Jesus. She found the picture of Jesus with the little children. It made her feel peaceful and happy inside.

Story continues on page 79.



1.



My Book about JESUS

2. Fold

4. Cut

8

"I Know That My Savior Loves Me"
By Tami Jeppson Creamer and Derena Bell

1

5

*I did not touch Him or sit on His knee,
yet, Jesus is real to me.*

4

*The love that He felt for His
little ones I know He feels for me.*



3. Fold



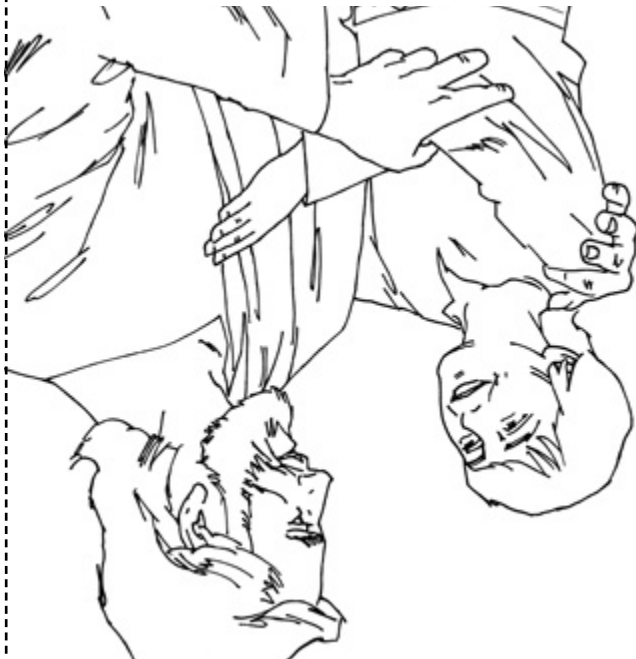
**A long time ago in a beautiful place,
children were gathered 'round Jesus.**

2



**My heart I give to Him.
I know that my Savior loves me.**

7



**He blessed and taught as they felt of His love.
Each saw the tears on His face.**

3



I know He lives! I will follow faithfully.

6

Fold

Fold



After sacrament meeting was over, Laney asked Mommy, “Why is it easier to be reverent when I look at my book about Jesus?”

“I think it’s because it reminds you how much Jesus loves you,” Mommy said.

Laney nodded.
“Do you think Jesus knows that I love Him too?” she asked.

Mommy gave Laney a hug.
“Yes, I’m sure He does.” ■



The author lives in Colorado, USA.

This month marks 100 years since the First Presidency encouraged members to have family home evening. The following excerpt comes from the First Presidency letter introducing family home evening. It was released in April 1915 and printed in the Improvement Era in June 1915 (pages 733–34). Capitalization and punctuation have been modernized.

Dear Brethren and Sisters:
We counsel the Latter-day Saints to observe more closely the commandment of the Lord given in the 68th section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

“And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion . . . that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents; . . .

“And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord” [see D&C 68:25–28].

The children of Zion should also observe more fully the commandment of the Lord given to ancient Israel and reiterated to the Latter-day Saints:

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” [Exodus 20:12].

These revelations apply with great force to the Latter-day Saints, and it is required of fathers and mothers in this Church that these commandments shall be taught and applied in their homes.

To this end we advise and urge the inauguration of a “home evening”

throughout the Church, at which time fathers and mothers may gather their boys and girls about them in the home and teach them the word of the Lord. They may thus learn more fully the needs and requirements of their families, at the same time familiarizing themselves and their children more thoroughly with the principles of the

100 YEARS OF Family Home Evening



gospel of Jesus Christ. This home evening should be devoted to prayer, singing hymns, songs, instrumental music, scripture reading, family topics, and specific instruction on the principles of the gospel and on the ethical problems of life, as well as the duties and obligations of children to parents, the home, the Church, society, and the nation. For the smaller children, appropriate recitations, songs, stories, and games may be introduced. Light

refreshments of such a nature as may be largely prepared in the home might be served.

Formality and stiffness should be studiously avoided, and all the family should participate in the exercises.

These gatherings will furnish opportunities for mutual confidence between parents and children,

between brothers and sisters, as well as give opportunity for words of warning, counsel, and advice by parents to their boys and girls. They will provide opportunity for the boys and girls to honor father and mother and to show their appreciation of the blessings of home so that the promise of the Lord to them may be literally fulfilled and their lives be prolonged and made happy. . . .

We . . . encourage the young people to remain at home that evening and use their energies in making it instructive, profitable, and interesting.

If the Saints obey this counsel, we promise that great blessings will result. Love at home and obedience to parents will increase. Faith will be developed in the hearts of the youth of Israel, and they will gain power to combat the evil influences and temptations which beset them.

Your brethren,
JOSEPH F. SMITH
ANTHON H. LUND
CHARLES W. PENROSE
First Presidency ■

INSIGHTS



How can I make family home evening a priority?

“While you are working to strengthen your family and cultivate peace, remember . . . weekly family home evening. Be cautious not to make your family home evening just an afterthought of a busy day. Decide that on Monday night your family will be together at home for the evening. Do not let employment demands, sports, extracurricular activities, homework, or anything else become more important than that time you spend together at home with your family. The structure of your evening is not as important as the time invested. The gospel should be taught both formally and informally. Make it a meaningful experience for each member of the family.”

Also in This Issue

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

GO FORTH IN **Faith**

These four insights from Nephi's life can give you confidence in your own decision making.



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FOR YOUTH



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BECAUSE OF **JOSEPH**

How is your life different because of the Prophet Joseph Smith? Consider these six ways.

FOR CHILDREN

I KNOW THAT JESUS LOVES ME

Make your own booklet to help you be reverent during church.



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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS