EW E 12015

4 TOOLS AND COUNTLESS BLESSINGS

p. 11

DISCOVERING WHO YOU REALLY ARE

p. 34

PUTTING A TIME MACHINE TO GOOD USE

p. 8

Saucr's LASTWEEK



p. 24

THE

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THE MONTHLY YOUTH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

April 2015 · Volume 45 · Number 4

▼ IN EVERY ISSUE

2 THE MESSAGE

Look to God Each Day

As we seek and receive divine bread daily, our faith and trust in God and His Son grow.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson

29 MORMONAD He Understands

30 SUNDAY LESSON HELP Because of Joseph*

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

41 TO THE POINT

Going to parties or dances where bad things happen; Satan's influence on thoughts.

42 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

"How can I become comfortable enough to talk to my bishop about issues or concerns?'

44 COME, FOLLOW ME

The Apostasy and the Restoration*

Use these cards to help you prepare for Sunday lessons on the Apostasy and Restoration.

- 45 THE EXTRA SMILE
- 46 INSTANT MESSAGES

A music escape plan; scripture study at Scout camp; finding peace despite persecution.

48 FROM CHURCH LEADERS

How to Find Out for Yourself

A personal testimony is essential if we are to safely navigate the sometimes treacherous paths through life.

President Thomas S. Monson

49 CONFERENCE POSTER

Joseph Smith*

Elder Neil L. Andersen

* Check out this article for support for this month's Sunday lesson theme.



Cover: The Savior's Last Week, p. 24

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- 24 The Savior's Last Week This Easter, learn more about the Savior's Atonement by studying the events of His last week.
- 28 Gentle Jesus, Pure and Fair Sheet music for a new song about Jesus Christ.
- 33 Sacrifice Comes as a Blessing

This young woman was so excited about her weekend plans-until her mother reminded her of something.

34 Coming to Know Who You Really Are

I received a witness in my youth that has been the foundation of everything I've done since.

Elder James J. Hamula

- 37 Better Than a Loaf of Bread One young man's motivation to do FamilySearch indexing changed dramatically after he started doing it.
- 38 Missionary Moment: Talking about Prophets

Now is a great time to talk to your friends about what it means to have living prophets.

40 The Living Prophet

The most important prophet, so far as you and I are concerned, is the one living in our day and age.

President Ezra Taft Benson

▼ FEATURES

- **6** Thrust in Your Sickle Find out what a harvesting tool teaches us about being effective member missionaries.
- 8 The Stake Center Time Machine

A service project in Arizona transported some youth and their new friends into the past.

Four Tools That Bring Promised Blessings

Learn more about four habits that have been promised to protect and bless us in simple and marvelous ways.

20 Talk It Over

Don't put off talking about challenges and problems with those who care about and can help you. 23 We Learned, We Planned, We Served

One Aaronic Priesthood quorum focused on service in order to become more Christlike.



EACH DAY

By providing a daily sustenance, one day at a time, God is trying to teach us faith.



By Elder D. Todd Christofferson Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

ncluded in the Lord's Prayer is the petition "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) or "Give us day by day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3). I believe that we would all readily acknowledge that we have needs each day that we want our Heavenly Father's help in dealing with. For some, on some days, it is quite literally bread—that is, the food needed to sustain life that day. It could also be spiritual and physical strength to deal with one more day of chronic illness or a painfully slow rehabilitation. In other cases it may be less tangible needs, such as things related to one's obligations or activities in that day—teaching a lesson or taking a test, for example.

Jesus is teaching us, His disciples, that we should look to God each day for the bread the help and sustenance—we require in that particular day.

The Lord's invitation to seek our daily bread at our Heavenly Father's hand speaks of a loving God, aware of even the small, daily needs of His children and anxious to

assist them, one by one. He is saying that we can ask in faith of that Being "that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given" (James 1:5). That is, of course, tremendously reassuring, but there is something at work here that is more significant than just help in getting by day to day. As we seek and receive divine bread daily, our faith and trust in God and His Son grow.

Looking to God Daily for Our Needs Nurtures Faith

You will remember the great exodus of the tribes of Israel from Egypt and the 40 years in the wilderness before entering their promised land. This massive host of well over a million people had to be fed. Certainly that number in one location could not long subsist on hunting game, and their seminomadic lifestyle at the time was not conducive to raising crops or livestock in any sufficient quantity. Jehovah solved the challenge by miraculously providing their daily bread from heaven manna. Through Moses, the Lord instructed

the people to gather enough manna each day for that day, except on the day before the Sabbath, when they were to gather enough for two days (see Exodus 16:19-29).

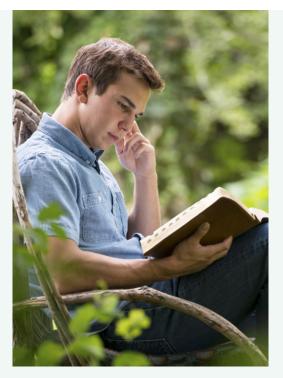
By providing a daily sustenance, one day at a time, Jehovah was trying to teach faith to a nation that over a period of some 400 years had lost much of the faith of their fathers. He was teaching them to trust Him, to "look unto [Him] in every thought; doubt not, fear not" (D&C 6:36). He was providing enough for one day at a time. Except for the sixth day, they could not store manna for use in any succeeding day or days. In essence, the children of Israel had to walk with Him today and trust that He would grant a sufficient amount of food for the next day on the next day, and so on. In that way He could never be too far from their minds and hearts.

Trust in the Lord-Solutions May Come over Time

Some time before I was called as a General Authority, I faced a personal economic challenge that persisted for several years. At times this challenge threatened the welfare of my family and me, and I thought we might be facing financial ruin. I prayed for some miraculous intervention to deliver us. Although I offered that prayer many times with

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great sincerity and earnest desire, the answer in the end was "No." Finally I learned to pray as the Savior did: "Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). I sought the Lord's help with each tiny step along the way to a final resolution.

There were times when I had exhausted all my resources, when I had nowhere or no one to turn to at that moment. More than once I fell down before my Heavenly Father, begging in tears for His help. And He did help. Sometimes it was nothing more than a sense of peace, a feeling of assurance that things would work out. I might not see how or what the path would be, but He gave me to know that, directly or indirectly, He would open a way. Circumstances might change, a new and helpful idea might come to mind, some unanticipated income or other resource might appear at just the right time. Somehow there was a resolution.

Though I suffered then, as I look back now, I am grateful that there was not a quick solution to my problem. The fact that I was forced to turn to God for help almost daily over an

extended period of years taught me truly how to pray and get answers to prayer and taught me in a very practical way to have faith in God. I came to know my Savior and my Heavenly Father in a way and to a degree that might not have happened otherwise or that might have taken me much longer to achieve. I learned that daily bread is a precious commodity. I learned that manna today can be as real as the physical manna of biblical history. I learned to trust in the Lord with all my heart. I learned to walk with Him day by day.

Work through Large Problems in Small, **Daily Bites**

Asking God for our daily bread, rather than our weekly, monthly, or yearly bread, is also a way to focus us on the smaller, more manageable bits of a problem. To deal with something very big, we may need to work at it in small, daily bites. Sometimes all we can handle is one day (or even just part of one day) at a time. Let me give you a nonscriptural example.

In the 1950s my mother survived radical cancer surgery, but difficult as that was, the surgery was followed by dozens of painful radiation treatments in what would now be considered rather primitive medical conditions. She recalls that her mother taught her something during that time that has helped her ever since: "I was so sick and weak, and I said to her one day, 'Oh, Mother, I can't stand having 16 more of those treatments.' She said, 'Can you go today?' 'Yes.' 'Well, honey, that's all you have to do today.' It has helped me many times when I remember to take one day or one thing at a time."

As you ask in prayer for your daily bread, consider thoughtfully your needs—both what you may lack and what you must protect against. As you retire to bed, think about the successes and failures of the day and what will make the next day a little better. And thank your Heavenly Father for the manna He has placed along your path that sustained you through the day. Your reflections will increase your faith in Him as you see His hand helping you to endure some things and to change others. You will be able to rejoice in one more day, one more step toward eternal life.

Jesus Christ Is the Bread of Life

Above all, remember that we have Him of whom manna was a type and symbol, the very Bread of Life, the Redeemer.

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. . . .

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

"I am that bread of life" (John 6:35, 47-48).

I bear you my witness of the living reality of the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, and of the infinite power and reach of His Atonement. Ultimately, it is His Atonement, His grace, that is our daily bread. We should seek Him daily, to do His will each day, to become one with Him as He is one with the Father (see John 17:20–23). I bless you that as you seek it from Him, your Heavenly Father will grant you your daily bread. **NE**

From a Church Educational System fireside given on January 9, 2011.



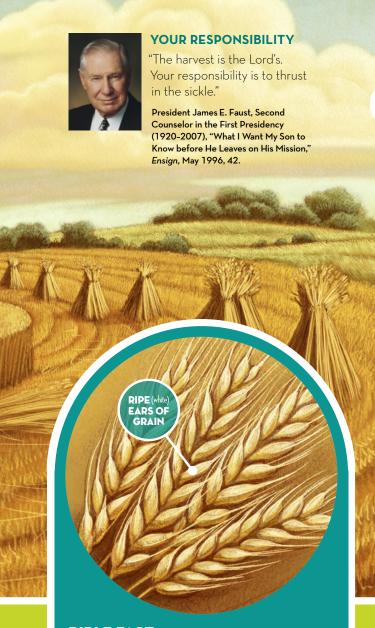


and most common agricultural tools around the world. Its invention coincides with the Agricultural Revolution in the Neolithic Age, when people discovered that they could cultivate and harvest grains from wild grasses (such as barley and wheat). It has a curved blade for cutting down stalks of grains.

The earliest sickles were made of jawbones or other curved bones, wood, or clay and had flint or other sharpened stones set into a groove. Later, sickle blades were made of brass, copper, iron, and other metals and then set into handles made of wood or other material. The blades needed to be kept sharp for the tool to be effective.

A sickle's blade bunches the grass stems in its curve, allowing the reaper to slice and catch the bunch at the same time, making for an efficient way of collecting the grain-bearing grasses.

HANDLE



BIBLE FACT

After the Savior Jesus Christ spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well, testifying to her that He was the Messiah (see John 4:7-26), He spoke to His Apostles of "fields ... white already to harvest" (John 4:35). ("White" was a way of saying the grain was ripe.) The woman told the people of her city about the Savior, leading to the conversion of many in that place (see John 4:28-30, 39-42). So, in speaking of the fields that were white, the Savior was helping His Apostles see just how many people were ready to hear and accept the message of His gospel, including people they may have overlooked.

or behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul.

Doctrine and Covenants 4:4.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN

A sickle is:

A TOOL. People use tools in order to do things that would otherwise be impossible or much more difficult. We have many available tools (including social media, the Internet, and just opening our mouths) to share messages about the gospel of Jesus Christ and invite people to learn more about it. We just need to use them.

SHARP. As a boy on a farm, Elder Kevin R. Duncan of the Seventy learned that a sickle needs to be kept sharp to be effective. "On the farm, we kept a file on hand to sharpen our sickle every day. In missionary work and indeed in all areas of life, we need to keep our spiritual sickles sharp so that we can achieve our own best potential. Reading scriptures daily, praying, and keeping all other commandments help us stay sharp and useful" ("Abandoned Seeds in Rocky Places," *New Era*, July 2014, 18).

COMMON. To participate in the harvest, people needed a sickle. Fortunately, sickles were relatively easy to make and quite common. When it comes to sharing the gospel, there's no special or incredibly rare thing you need to have before setting out to do it. If you have "faith, hope, charity and love" and "an eye single to the glory of God," you are qualified for the work (D&C 4:5).

PERSONAL. Though harvesting technology has advanced and many farmers now use vehicles called combines to harvest large fields, the pattern for effective harvesting in missionary work has not changed since the Savior first sent laborers into the field. We thrust in our sickles and serve, teach, and baptize people individually.

As Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said: "Covenants are made personally, individually. . . . Ordinances are performed for individual persons, one by one, no matter how many must ultimately receive them. . . .

"That's how the kingdom of God is built—one person at a time, one covenant at a time" ("Keeping Covenants: A Message for Those Who Will Serve a Mission," *New Era*, Jan. 2012, 3). **NE**



"I was unsure," says Lisette L., a Laurel from the stake. Adds Slade C., 15, "Honestly, I thought it was going to be kind of weird."

After all, we're talking about barbershop quartet music, dance styles from decades past, and the hope to form close friendships across wide generation gaps. Still, the youth jumped in with both feet and started preparing.

"We wanted the youth and the elderly citizens to get to know each other," says Pam Nielson, one of the leaders. "We wanted them to realize they have a lot in common."

Practice, Practice, Practice

This wasn't an activity that could be thrown together in a few days. Preparation involved weeks of rehearsals. There was an all-youth orchestra, an all-youth barbershop chorus, an all-youth band, and all-youth dance teams who learned songs and routines from the 1920s through the 1960s. That takes time to create. "These kids were amazing," says Pam.

For their part, Slade and Lisette were both chosen as part of an advanced dancing team. "There were lots of rehearsals," Slade says. "After Mutual, we went down to the stake center and practiced."

As the show began coming together, the excitement grew. "It was really fun," says Lisette. "For most of us, it was our first time hearing any of this kind of music."

Unexpected Friends

When the big day arrived, the surprise highlight—for many—took place before the first note of music even rang in the air.

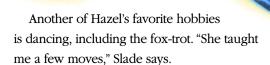
The activity was scheduled in two segments. For the first part, the 200 youth from the stake were divided into groups of four, and then each group was assigned to visit an elderly man or woman in his or her home for an hour and a half.

"That was definitely one of my favorite parts," says Slade. He wasn't alone, either. For many of the young men and young women, these get-to-know-you sessions were fascinating as well as inspiring.

Slade's group was assigned to visit Hazel Cameron, a widow in their stake who lived through the Great Depression. "I never guessed at all the things she's been through," Slade explains. "She told us a few stories that I thought were pretty exciting."

By getting to know those
they served, the youth formed
the ships they never they Slade and the others in his group spent 90 minutes getting to know Hazel, asking her questions about her life. They all enjoyed one another's company—and none of them minded a bit when Hazel shared a few treats she'd made. It turns out baking cookies and making candy is one of her favorite hobbies!





At the end of their time together, the elderly members in each group shared a few words of advice with the youth. These messages were recorded and later compiled and handed out as treasured DVDs.

Showtime!

When visiting time was over, the youth said good-bye to their new friends and got ready for the performance later that night. They could hardly wait to put on the performance.

After all the hard work, *The Lawrence*Wright *Show* was ready to begin. The event was named for the stake president, Lawrence
Wright, who played the role of host Lawrence
Welk, complete with a flurry of bubbles like they had in the original show.

The youth went all-out in performing for their new friends. All night long, the stake center became a time machine as song after song turned back the years for the guests of honor. "I loved seeing how happy they were as we performed for them and brought back memories," says Lisette.

After the grand finale—a song and dance routine to the traditional closing song from *The Lawrence Welk Show*—music continued, and the youth invited their friends from the

audience to join them for more dancing. "It was super exciting," says Slade, who shared a dance with Hazel.

A Change of Hearts

The friendships formed that day have lasted well past the show's closing curtain. The youth enjoy seeing their new friends at church and around town. Slade, for example, drops by Hazel's house now and again just to say hello. He often thinks of ways to brighten her day. "I didn't think this activity was going to be amazing, but it was," Slade explains.

Pam hears all the time from senior members in the stake who tell her how the youth will come up and talk with them at church. "They truly made friends," she says.

This activity ended up providing much more than entertainment. By getting to know those they served, the youth formed friendships they

never knew they were missing. "No matter what age we are," says Lisette, "we're all part of the

same family."NE

LEARNING FROM CONFERENCE

Ider Hugo E. Martinez of the Seventy said in the October 2014 general conference: "The love of Jesus Christ must be our guide if we are to become aware of the needs of those we can help in some way. The teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, show us the way. And that is how our personal ministry begins: discovering needs, then tending to them" ("Our Personal Ministries," Ensign, Nov. 2014, 102; read it at lds.org/ go/personal4NE).

Understanding someone's needs often begins by getting to know them. Consider setting a goal to learn one thing you didn't know about 10 different people. You might discover you have more in common than you guessed! And the things you learn about those you talk with will help you know how better to serve them.

"No matter what age we are," says Lisette, "we're all part of the same family."

FOUR TOOLS

THAT BRING

Defend yourself against Satan with these four tools.

an you imagine trying to build a house without a hammer, a drill, or a saw? What about writing a school report without paper or a computer? Or going camping without a flashlight and matches?

Your house would be rickety at best (no matter how much duct tape you used to compensate), your essay would be nothing more than a bunch of ideas stuck in your head, and your camping trip would be dark and cold. Not to mention all the marshmallows you couldn't roast.

Tools allow us to do so much more with our time and efforts. The same is true with spiritual things. In the October 2014 general conference, Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum

of the Twelve Apostles spoke about four tools that help us increase our spirituality and center ourselves more on Jesus Christ, our only sure foundation: prayer, scripture study, family home evening, and temple worship.

"Our Father in Heaven has given us tools to help us come unto Christ and exercise faith in His Atonement," Elder Scott said. "When these tools become fundamental habits, they provide the easiest way to find peace in the challenges of mortality." ¹

Elder Scott also promised that "the more we develop these habits, the more anxious is Satan to harm us but the less is his ability to do so."

The next eight pages show many more blessings that God has

promised, through His chosen leaders, when we use these four tools. As you read through the promises, think how you've seen them in your own life. What would life be like for you and your family if you had these blessings more abundantly? What can you do to more fully live these commandments?

As you use these tools so often that they become habits in your life, you can be happy that you are "securing your life in the power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ."²

NOTES

- 1. Richard G. Scott, "Make the Exercise of Faith Your First Priority," *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 93.
- 2. Richard G. Scott, "Exercise of Faith," 94.

Print copies of the quote pages at lds.org/go/tools4NE.



"AND THE SPIRIT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU by the prayer of faith."

Doctrine and Covenants 42:14.

"Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may **CONQUER SATAN**, and that you may **ESCAPE** the hands of the servants of Satan that do uphold his work."

Doctrine and Covenants 10:5.

"As you pray for forgiveness, you will **FIND YOURSELF FORGIVING OTHERS....**

"... One way you will be changed by such fervent prayer is, I promise you, that you will **FEEL TRULY THAT YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD.**"

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Priesthood Man," *Ensign*, May 2014, 64.

"Watch and pray, that ye ENTER NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

Matthew 26:41

"To those within the sound of my voice who are struggling with challenges and difficulties large and small, prayer is the PROVIDER OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH; it is the PASSPORT TO PEACE. . . . MIRACLES ARE WROUGHT through prayer."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Be Your Best Self," Ensign, May 2009, 68.

"Prayer is a great tower of STRENGTH, a pillar of UNENDING RIGHTEOUSNESS, a mighty force that MOVES MOUNTAINS AND SAVES SOULS. Through it the SICK ARE HEALED, THE DEAD ARE RAISED, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POURED OUT without measure upon the faithful."

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–1985) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Patterns of Prayer," *Fnsign*, May 1984, 32.

"I tell you this: God cares about you.

HE WILL LISTEN, AND HE WILL

ANSWER your personal questions.

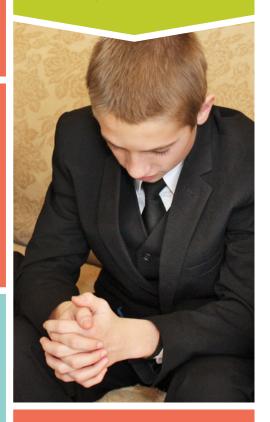
The answers to your prayers will come in His own way and in His own time, and therefore, you need to learn to listen to His voice."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "Receiving a Testimony of Light and Truth," *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 21.



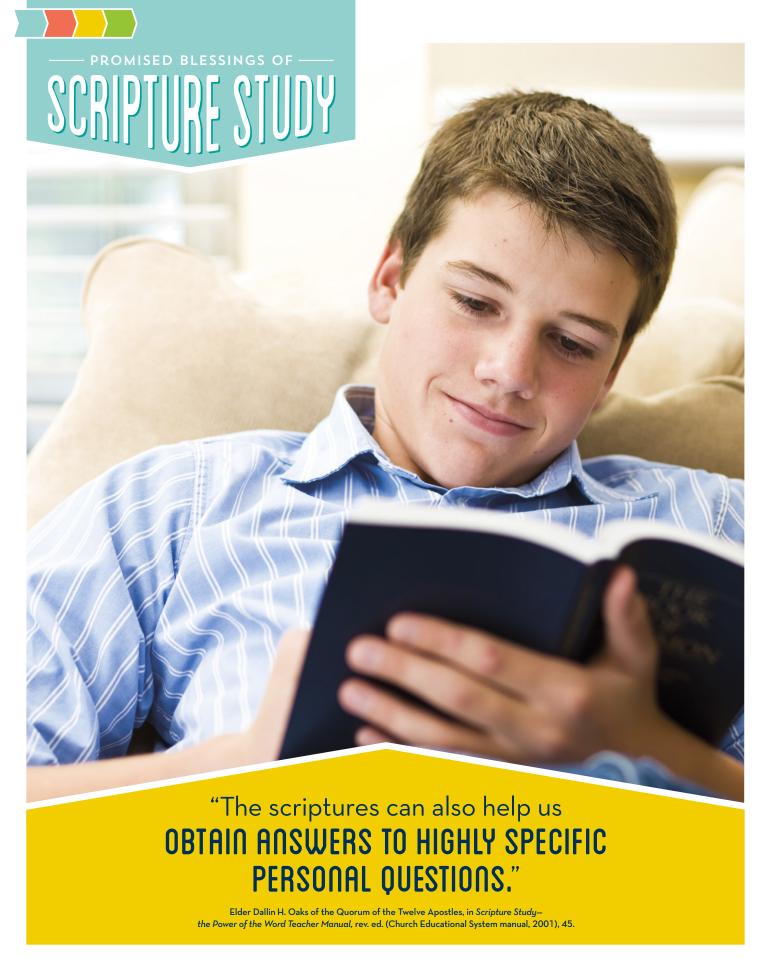
"Humble, trusting prayer brings DIRECTION AND PEACE."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer," *Ensign*, May 2007, 8.



"I must testify of the blessings of daily scripture study and prayer and weekly family home evening. These are the very practices that help TAKE AWAY STRESS, give DIRECTION to our lives, and add PROTECTION to our homes."

Linda S. Reeves, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency, "Protection from Pornography—a Christ-Focused Home," *Ensign*, May 2014, 16-17.



"Privately studying, pondering, and communicating with your Heavenly Father can make an amazing difference in your lives. It will give INCREASED SUCCESS IN YOUR DAILY ACTIVITIES. IT WILL BRING INCREASED ALERTNESS TO YOUR MINDS. IT WILL GIVE YOU COMFORT AND ROCK-STEADY ASSURANCE

when the storms of life descend upon you."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Be Strong in the Lord, and in the Power of His Might" (Church Educational System fireside, Mar. 3, 2002), 4; speeches.byu.edu.





"I feel certain that if, in our homes, [families] will read from the Book of Mormon prayerfully and regularly, ... mutual RESPECT and CONSIDERATION for each other will grow. THE SPIRIT OF CONTENTION WILL DEPART. ... FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY—the pure love of Christ—WILL ABOUND IN OUR HOMES AND LIVES."

President Marion G. Romney (1897– 1988), First Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Book of Mormon," Ensian. May. 1980. 67. "Whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would NEVER PERISH; NEITHER COULD THE TEMPTATIONS AND THE FIERY DARTS OF THE ADVERSARY OVERPOWER

them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction." "Through daily, consistent scripture

study, you will **FIND PEACE** in the turmoil around you and

STRENGTH TO RESIST
TEMPTATIONS. You will
DEVELOP STRONG FAITH

in the grace of God and

KNOW THAT through the

Atonement of Jesus Christ

ALL WILL BE MADE RIGHT

according to God's timing."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Make the Exercise of Faith Your First Priority," *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 93-94.

"THE HOLY GHOST WILL GUIDE WHAT WE SAY if we study and ponder the scriptures every day."

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "Feed My Lambs," Ensign, Nov. 1997, 83.



"We cannot afford to neglect this heaven-inspired program [of family home evening]. It can bring SPIRITUAL **GROWTH** to each member of the family, helping him or her to WITHSTAND THE TEMPTATIONS which are everywhere. The lessons learned in the home are those that last the longest."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Constant Truths

"Regular participation in family home evening will develop **INCREASED PERSONAL** WORTH, FAMILY UNITY, LOVE FOR OUR FELLOW-MEN, AND TRUST IN OUR FATHER IN HEAUEN. It is our promise that **GREAT BLESSINGS** WILL COME to all who conscientiously plan and hold weekly family home evenings."

"Message from the First Presidency," in Family Home Evening (1976), 3.

"Families who prayerfully prepare and consistently hold their weekly Home Evening, and who work together during the week to apply the lessons in their lives, will be blessed.

There will be BETTER FEELINGS between husband and wife, between parents and children, and among children. In such homes the SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL BE MADE MANIFEST."

President David O. McKay (1873-1970), in Family Home Evening Manual (1967), iii-iv.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and **GREAT SHALL BE THE PEACE** of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13.



"Whether we are young or old, single or married, whether we have children at home or have become empty nesters, family home evening can INCREASE UNITY AND LOVE IN OUR HOMES."

President James E. Faust (1920–2007), Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "Enriching Our Lives through Family Home Evening," *Ensign*, June 2003, 3.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT."

Proverbs 22:6



"Each family prayer, each episode of family scripture study, and each family home evening is a brushstroke on the canvas of our souls. No one event may appear to be very impressive or memorable. But just as ... 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."

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "More Diligent and Concerned at Home," *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 19-20.



"The eternally significant blessing of **UNITING** OUR OWN FAMILIES IS ALMOST BEYOND COMPREHENSION."

"The house of the Lord will have A REFINING EFFECT upon you. It will cultivate UNSELFISHNESS within your lives. It will build RIGHTEOUSNESS. It will impress upon you THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO."

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910-2008), "Inspirational Thoughts," Ensign, Mar. 2006, 6.

"There is a **POWER** associated with the ordinances of heaven—even the power of godliness—which can and will **THWART THE FORCES OF EUIL.**

"... Our FAMILIES WILL BE PROTECTED,

OUR CHILDREN WILL BE SAFEGUARDED

as we live the gospel, visit the temple,

and live close to the Lord."

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899-1994), Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson (2014), 172.



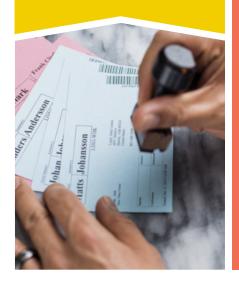
"As we go to the holy house, ... we will be able to BEAR EVERY TRIAL AND OVER-COME EACH TEMPTATION.

The temple provides

PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES.

It brings PEACE TO
OUR SOULS."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Blessings of the Temple," *Ensign*, Oct. 2010, 15.



"Divine covenants help us to **FILTER OUT OF OUR MINDS IMPURITIES** that could harm us."

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings," *Ensign*, May 2001, 34.

"I WILL MANIFEST MYSELF

to my people in mercy in this house.

"Yea, I will appear unto my servants, and SPEAK UNTO THEM WITH MINE OWN VOICE, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house."

Doctrine and Covenants 110:7-8.

"When members of the Church attend the temple regularly, INNER PEACE calms the soul; the SPIRIT OF THE LORD PERMEATES THE HOME; LOVE AND RESPECT deepen between family members; PROBLEMS ARE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED; SOLUTIONS ARE MORE APPARENT; EMOTIONS ARE MORE SERENE in family relations."

Elder Royden G. Derrick (1915–2009) of the Presidency of the Seventy, *Temples in the Last Days* (1987), 156.

TALK IT OVER

Made a mistake, facing a challenge, have a question? Don't put off talking about it with those who care most about you.

By Michael R. Morris

Church Magazines

hen I was in junior high school, I used money from a paper route to buy a small motorcycle. It wasn't new or very powerful, but it was fast enough to kick up desert dust from the trails that snaked through the cactus east of our home in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

When my motorcycle ran out of gas, I would grab our gas can. When the can was empty, I would arrange a ride to fill it up at a gas station. One day my older brother had what I thought was a great idea.

"Just borrow some gas from Dad's pickup," he said.

He showed me how, with a small section of rubber garden hose, I could syphon gas from the pickup directly into my motorcycle. That solution worked great—until I got careless a few weeks later.

While I was syphoning gas, the hose slipped from my hand and slid into the pickup's gas tank! I couldn't see it or reach it. In a few weeks, I feared, the gasoline would dissolve the rubber, which would likely clog the pickup's carburetor.

It was bad enough that I'd been taking gas without permission, but now I'd probably ruined Dad's pickup. How could I tell him? He was kind of strict, and I was afraid of what he'd say.

AN IMPERATIVE DUTY

If you're like me, you won't get through your teenage years without making mistakes. In today's world we're assaulted by pornography and profanity, bombarded by bad movies and bad music, and surrounded by temptation to break the commandments. Even if we do our best, we still make mistakes sometimes.

It's not easy admitting mistakes or personal challenges, and it's not easy asking difficult questions, especially of parents and Church leaders. But admitting mistakes, talking through challenges, and asking sincere questions—including questions about the Church and gospel doctrine—is exactly what you should do.

"Parents and all who are called to lead and serve the youth . . . have 'an imperative duty . . . to all the rising generation'" (D&C 123:11), said Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He said that duty includes listening to the youth. 1

For parents and leaders to listen, young people must be willing to speak up.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TALKING TO ADULTS

Starting a difficult conversation or raising an embarrassing subject requires courage and faith. But where do you find the courage and faith to talk about a mistake, discuss a challenge, or raise a doctrinal question? Whether you're talking to parents, Church leaders, or some other trusted adult, consider the following suggestions.

DON'T PROCRASTINATE

I remember a college friend who got drunk at a party during Christmas break and did some things she regretted. When she returned to college, she was too embarrassed to talk to her bishop. She spent the next few weeks feeling miserable and then dropped out of school. Had she just seen her bishop, things would've turned out for the better.

Your bishop is there to help you. He won't belittle you, and he won't be shocked. He's heard it all before. He'll keep your conversation confidential, and if you have a question he can't answer, he'll find an answer or help you find one of your own. Serious mistakes, problems, and questions usually don't take care of themselves, so don't procrastinate.

2 STUDY IT OUT IN YOUR MIND

You may think your mistakes, problems, or questions are worse than they really are. So you may feel anxious about meeting with your bishop or talking to parents. But if you'll "study it out in your mind" (D&C 9:8) under the influence of the Holy Ghost, you'll be guided to take your question or concern to them. And you'll feel better afterward.

"Our Father in Heaven expects us to study it out first and then pray for guidance as we seek answers to questions and concerns in our personal lives," said President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. "We have our Heavenly Father's assurance that He will hear and answer our prayers. The answer may come through the voice and wisdom of trusted friends and family, the scriptures, and the words of prophets" or other leaders.²

PRAY FOR COURAGE

Speaking up requires courage, and "the true badge of courage is overcoming the fear of men," said Elder Lynn G. Robbins of the Presidency of the Seventy. "Daniel's prayers helped him face lions, but what made him lionhearted was defying King Darius (see Daniel 6). That kind of courage is a gift of the Spirit to the God-fearing who have said their prayers."³

You don't need to be afraid of adults who love you and want you to be happy. Pray for strength and courage, and Heavenly Father will help you overcome your fear. Prayer worked for Daniel and the Prophet Joseph Smith. It will work for you too.

STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said studying the scriptures is more important than sleep, school, work, TV, video games, and social media. That's because as you study the scriptures, "peace will prevail in your life" and "you will develop strong faith in the grace of God and know that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ all will be made right according to God's timing."4

The assurance that things will work out will give you strength to talk to your parents or priesthood leaders.

WRITE A NOTE

Nephi recorded "the things of my soul" (2 Nephi 4:15). Like Nephi, you may need to ponder and write down your thoughts before attempting to verbalize them. Before seeing your bishop or talking to your parents about something serious, consider sharing your thoughts first via email or letter. A bishopric youth discussion where the bishopric answers anonymous written questions is another good way to get answers.

GROUNDED FOR LIFE?

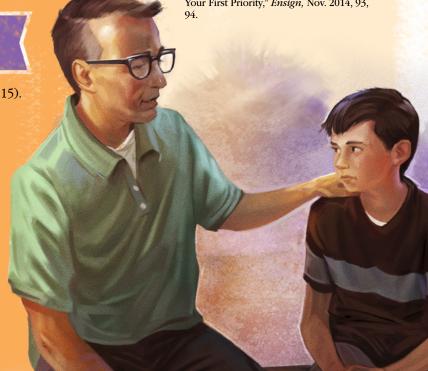
I didn't write my dad a note about the hose in the gas tank. In fact, since I'd probably be grounded for life, I decided not to tell him. A few months later, however, my conscience got the best of me and I prayed up enough courage to admit what had happened. Instead of grounding me, he shrugged his shoulders, gave me some fatherly advice, and said, "Be more careful next time."

After that conversation, it was easier to talk to my dad-especially when I messed up. Those chats helped prepare me for bishop's interviews.

As for our pickup truck, I'm happy to report that that hose didn't ruin it. It still runs just fine. NE

NOTES

- 1. Robert D. Hales, "Our Duty to God: The Mission of Parents and Leaders to the Rising Generation," Ensign, May 2010, 95, 96.
- 2. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Waiting on the Road to Damascus," Ensign, May 2011, 75.
- 3. Lynn G. Robbins, "Which Way Do You Face?" Ensign, Nov. 2014, 10; emphasis added.
- 4. Richard G. Scott, "Make the Exercise of Faith Your First Priority," Ensign, Nov. 2014, 93,





By Caleb Jolley

ast October when my teachers quorum was learning about becoming more Christlike, we served some families in our ward. During the Duty to God lesson that month, we talked about the many examples of service in Christ's life. We also read Doctrine and Covenants 20:53, which says that one of a teacher's priesthood responsibilities is to watch over and strengthen the Church. Together, we thought of some ways we could do this through service.

For example, as a quorum we mowed our bishop's lawn. We also visited an elderly man in our ward, which was fun because he told us stories about his life and shared some lessons he'd learned. Both of these experiences made me feel great. As a quorum, we also completed the "Serve Others" section in the *Fulfilling My Duty to God* booklet. I felt like an instrument in Heavenly Father's hands, and I felt like I was coming closer to Heavenly Father as we served.

Service is part of becoming Christlike because Jesus Christ is our perfect example, and He showed us how to serve others. He taught us that when we are serving others, we are also serving Heavenly Father.

I enjoyed all of the lessons during October because they reminded me that I need to become more Christlike and that I need to look to my Savior as an example. I ended up teaching one of the lessons, and as I was preparing for it, I read a talk by Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He said, "Following Christ is not a casual or occasional practice but a continuous commitment and way of life that applies at all times and in all places" ("Followers of Christ," *Ensign*, May 2013, 97). I liked this quote because it teaches us that we should follow Christ and serve always, and now I'm trying to do just that. NE *Caleb Jolley lives in Utah, USA*.

^{*} Read more at lds.org/go/serve4NE.



he events of the Savior's life leading up to His Crucifixion and Resurrection can teach us a lot about His love for us. Each day during the week before Easter, think about how the following events in Jesus's life can help you in your life. As you do so, your understanding and love for the Savior will increase.

ANOINTING AT BETHANY

(Matthew 26:3-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-9)

When Jesus was having a meal with friends, Mary poured expensive ointment on his head. Some complained about the expense, but Jesus said, "Why trouble ye this woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon me.

"For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

"For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial" (Matthew 26:10–12).

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

(Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-15)

Jesus left Bethany five days before the Passover and traveled to Jerusalem. "On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

"Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord" (John 12:12–13).

What gifts can you give Jesus? Do you know someone who is struggling? How can you be an instrument in God's hand to help them lift their burden? (See Matthew 25:34-40.)

What can you do to honor Christ? How can you share your testimony of Him with others?



Seek to Understand

"If we seek to understand His Atonement, we will come to a deep reverence for the Lord Jesus Christ, His earthly ministry, and His divine mission as our Savior."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Reason for Our Hope," *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 7.





HEALING AND TEACHING AT THE TEMPLE

(Matthew 21:12-14, 23; Mark 11:17, 27; Luke 19:46-48; John 12:42-50)

Just as He had seen three years earlier, Jesus saw within the holy enclosure of the temple the crude and disgraceful buying and selling of goods. "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, . . .

"And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them" (Matthew 21:12, 14).

We, too, can enter the temple when we are clean and pure. We can be healed by the Spirit of God found inside the temple. Consider making a commitment and scheduling dates to help you attend as often as your circumstances allow.

LAST SUPPER

(Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-29; John 13:31-17:26)

During the Passover meal that Jesus spent with His disciples, the Savior instituted the sacrament, which is in remembrance of His sacrifice for us.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

"Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19–20).

How do you remember the Savior when you partake of the sacrament? Watch a short video on this topic at lds.org/go/sacrament4NE.





The Savior's Suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane

"For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent;

"But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I;

"Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

"Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men."

Doctrine and Covenants 19:16-19.

GETHSEMANE

(Matthew 26:36-45; Mark 14:32-41; Luke 22:39-46)

Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane "and kneeled down, and prayed,

"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

"And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:41–44).

As you go through your trials in life, you can be assured that the Savior understands and will help you as you lean on Him. Are there struggles in your life, including things that you need to repent of, that you can give to the Lord so He can help ease your burden (see Matthew 11:28–30)?

BETRAYAL, TRIAL, ABUSE

(Matthew 26:45-27:26; Mark 14:41-15:15; Luke 22:47-23:25; John 18:2-19:16)

Jesus bore with patience the abuse that came during and after His trial.

"And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

"And said, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him with their hands" (John 19:2–3).

How can Jesus's example of love and compassion in the midst of betrayal, trial, and mistreatment help you through hard times of your own?





CRUCIFIXION

(Matthew 27:33-51; Mark 15:22-39; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:16-42)

Jesus Christ willingly died on the cross as a ransom for us all. He taught His disciples: "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:17–18).

We owe so much to the Savior for His love and sacrifice for us. How can we express our gratitude to Him? Consider the words of this song and how you can apply them to your life: "Have faith, have hope, live like His Son, help others on their way" ("He Sent His Son," *Friend,* Jan. 2014, 30-31).

RESURRECTION

(Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)

After Christ was resurrected, He appeared to Mary Magdalene. "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17).

Because of Jesus Christ's Resurrection, we can say, along with the Apostle Paul: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Consider how your knowledge of the Resurrection helps you when someone you love dies.



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BECAUSE OF JOSEPH

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

By Ted Barnes

Priesthood Department

oseph 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:

You understand who God and Jesus Christ really are.

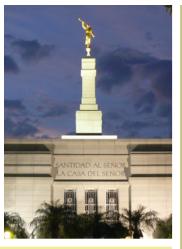
Even if it wasn't for Joseph Smith, you might still believe in God the Father and in Jesus Christ. You could have the testimonies of the Bible. But think of how much deeper and richer your understanding is because of what Joseph Smith restored—the bold, confirming witnesses of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine 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!









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. 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 Him. Not bad for something you sing about in Primary!2

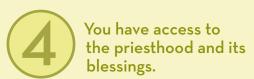




Your family can be eternal.

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.





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.









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).







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? NE

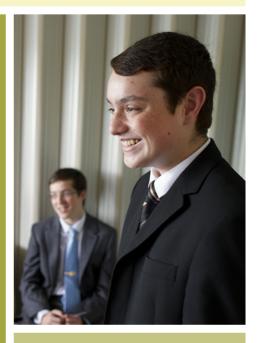
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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?

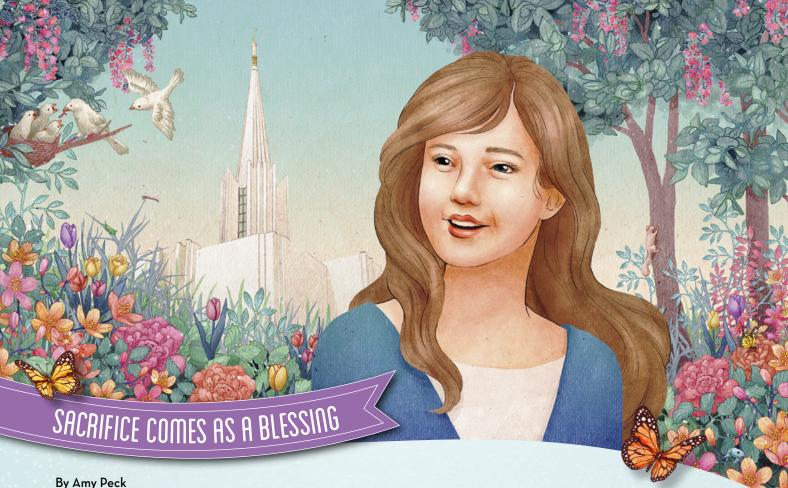
THINGS YOU MIGHT DO

- 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.
- Share your feelings about Joseph Smith with your family, at church, or on social media at Ids.org/go/Joseph4NE.



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.



By Amy Peck

skipped up the sidewalk to my home, overflowing with excitement. My friend had invited me to spend the weekend at a cabin.

I came bursting through the front door and announced my plans to my mother.

"Don't you have baptisms for the dead tomorrow?"

I thought about it for a moment. "Yeah, but I can do it another time."

She looked at me with concern. "You went in for your recommend interview and everything. You said you would go."

My thoughts of a weekend at a cabin began to slowly fade away. The cabin sounded like so much fun. "Well, I already told my friends I would go with them."

"You also told your Young Women leader that you would do baptisms. You made that promise first," my mother reminded me.

"I don't care! I'm not going!" I snapped back.

She looked on me with disappointment and then walked away.

"Great!" I said to myself, feeling even more guilty. Finally I went into the living room by myself, knelt down, and asked Heavenly Father to help me make the right decision.

When I finished, I just knelt there for a moment. I paid attention to my thoughts. They were directed now toward being in the temple and getting baptized for people who had been waiting for so long. I stood and walked into the kitchen. As I walked past the fridge, I saw a quote from President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910-2008):

"If we are a temple-going people, we will be a better people, we will be better fathers and husbands, we will be better wives and mothers. I know your lives are busy. I know that you have much to do. But I make you a promise that if you will go to the house of the Lord, you will be blessed, life will be better for you" ("Excerpts from Recent Addresses of President Gordon B. Hinckley," Ensign, July 1997, 73).

I stood there transfixed as I read the quote over and over again. My prayers had been answered. I went back into my living room and knelt a second time, only this time I thanked my Heavenly Father for answering my prayer and for teaching me a lesson about sacrifice.

The next day when I went to the temple, I remember feeling so good. I knew I had made the right decision, thanks to Heavenly Father. I know if we truly want to do what is right, sacrifice is a blessing rather than a setback. NE Amy Peck lives in Utah, USA.

By Elder James J. Hamula Of the First Quorum of the Seventy



Poming to Anow HO YOU REALLY ARE

I was your age when I received a revelation that set the course of my life.

hen I was 17 years old, I knew my bishop was going to approach me in the near future and ask me about serving a mission.

While I grew up in a home with devout and active parents, I wasn't yet fully committed to serving a mission. I went to church and prayed when asked, and sometimes I prayed on my own. I believed in the Church, but I didn't yet know that it was true. I didn't yet have my own testimony, and I didn't feel that I could go and tell others to join the Church unless I could look into their eyes and say, "I know."

So I decided to find out for myself whether the Church is true. I started with reading the Book of Mormon. However, when I finished reading the Book of Mormon, I didn't feel any different from when I'd started reading.

The Day That Changed Everything

One evening, I sat in my bedroom thinking, "How do I come to know?" To my mind came the impression that I should read the Joseph Smith story in the Pearl of Great Price. As I read Joseph's story, I began to see that his story was the same as mine. Here was a young man who wanted to know which church was true and which he should join. There were many different voices and opinions on the subject of religion swirling around Joseph Smith.

That was how I felt.

As I read how Joseph Smith determined to ask God what was true and what he should do—and what happened to him as a result—I realized I needed to do the same. I needed to pray and ask God. Unlike Joseph Smith, I didn't have a grove of trees to visit. I was living in a big

city, in Long Beach, California, USA. The only quiet place I could go to was the quiet of my own bedroom.

So I closed the door, knelt at my bed, and put my face in my pillow. I offered what, for me, was my first real vocal prayer on this subject. I addressed Heavenly Father and humbly asked Him if He was really there, if Jesus Christ was really His Son, and if Joseph Smith had really seen the two of Them.

As I did so, I had an experience that just overwhelmed me. A feeling of love and peace fell upon me and completely consumed me. I was filled with deep spiritual knowledge. In that moment, I knew—and have known ever since—that there is a God in heaven and that He is my Father. I knew that Jesus Christ is His Son, who atoned for me and all mankind, and that Joseph Smith saw both of Them.

I also got something more that I hadn't actually asked for: a knowledge that out of all the people on the earth, God knew and loved me.

Knowing that God was answering my prayer, and knowing that He loved me, caused me to weep.

Following My New Course

This experience fundamentally changed my life. While I haven't been perfect since this experience, I've tried very hard to live up to the knowledge I gained that day—that I was a son of God and that He loved me enough to speak to me in prayer.

I moved forward with conviction to serve a full-time mission and did so. Afterward, I was married in the temple to a wonderful, worthy young woman, my wife now of 30 years. And I have tried to serve faithfully in all that God has asked me to do and to keep the covenants I have made with Him.

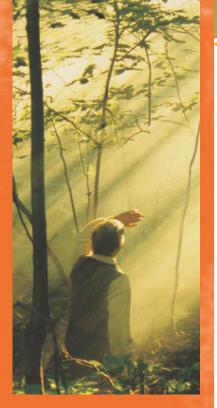
My whole life has been based on that revelatory experience and the knowledge that came to me as a 17-year-old young man.

Discovering Your Own True Identity

To the youth of the Church, I urge you to come to know who you are. It changes everything.

So many voices in the world today tell you that there is nothing more than this life, that you're simply a product of your biology and culture, that happiness comes only through indulging your desires, appetites, and passions. However, such voices speak without knowledge of what was before this life or what comes after. Therefore, they speak without knowledge of who you really are.

When you hear the voice of your Heavenly Father, when He illuminates your soul with who you really are, the voices of the world will never sound the same to you again. You will understand that the voices of the world "speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh. . . . [T]hey promise . . .



I didn't yet know
that it was true. I
didn't yet have my
own testimony, and
I didn't feel I could
[serve a mission]
and tell others to
join the Church unless I could look into
their eyes and say,
"I know."

liberty, [but] they themselves are the servants of corruption" and lead to nothing else but "wells without water" (2 Peter 2:17–19).

Build some quiet time into your life where you put aside electronic gadgetry. Turn off the music, the



Turn off the music, the television, and everything else, and go to your knees in prayer.... Don't just talk to God; talk with Him. If you'll do that in a quiet place, ... then you will come to know who you really are.

television, and everything else, and go to your knees in prayer. Go to the scriptures. Ponder. Pray. Then, listen. Don't just talk to God; talk with Him.

If you'll do that in a quiet place, as Joseph did, as I have done, and as countless others have done, then you will come to know who you really are. You will get above the cloud of distraction that is so thick in our secular world.

Becoming a Witness

Sometimes people will ask me, "You're now a General Authority. What have you come to know about the Lord since becoming a General Authority?" I say that while I've come to know more, the spiritual knowledge I gained at age 17 remains among the most significant of my life.

The scriptures describe the Seventies as "especial witnesses" (D&C 107:25). I've had many revelatory experiences in my life, and all of them have added to what I know to be true. But if there's one thing that qualifies me to be today an especial witness of the Savior, it is that witness which I received at age 17.

From this I say that youth can receive as much witness as a General Authority has. The reason I say this is because, for me, I received that witness in my youth. It has been the foundation of everything I've done since.

We Love You

To the youth of the Church, the General Authorities of the Church love you. We love you like our own children. We have the deepest hope that you will come to know who you are and then live and be what you need to live and be. NE





My priests quorum adviser offered a homemade loaf of bread for indexing 100 names, but I found a much greater motivation.

By Michael Peterson

y mom is the genealogist in our family. She's researched over 10 generations of our family line, taught herself to read German, and has an abundance of knowledge about the cultural traditions of different time periods.

I, on the other hand, have never been good at history, and I've always been content to let other people do our family history work. However, my reluctance changed one Sunday in July.

My priests quorum adviser, Brother Holland, who is famous for his homemade wheat bread, gave the entire priests quorum a challenge: "If you go home and index 100 names through FamilySearch by the end of the night, I will bake you an entire loaf of bread."

The first thing I did when I got home was to access the indexing tool at FamilySearch.org/indexing. When I downloaded the first batch, I met my first set of problems. First, the handwriting on the records was hard to read and sometimes unintelligible. The second and much more serious problem was that I couldn't read cursive. Luckily, with the help of the Internet, I worked my way carefully through the first few names until I got the hang of it. Reading and

writing the names started to go faster.

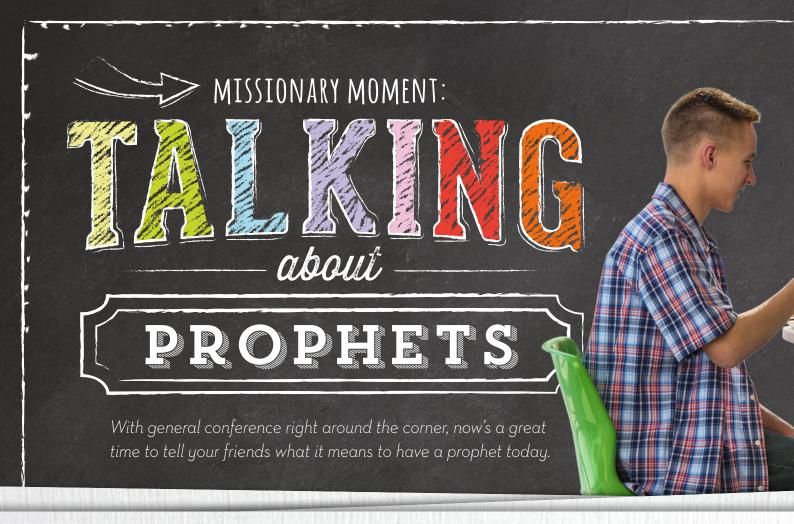
I tried to picture in my mind the families as I input their names. I saw families from all over the world—from Italy, Ireland, Germany, and more. When I read their names, I felt like I somehow knew them. When I came across a name I couldn't read, I didn't give up. I thought of every possibility and even searched the Internet for what it might be. I wanted to get it right.

It wasn't too long before I finished my 100 names. I called Brother Holland and reported that I had completed the task. Later, I got my loaf of bread. The next week, he made the same offer. I went home and indexed more names, but this time I didn't report it. I realized that I wanted to do it—not because I wanted bread, but because I genuinely wanted to help the people I was recording. I wanted their descendants to be able to find them and help them. It was a great feeling to be a part—even just a small part—of family history work. NE

Michael Peterson is serving a mission in Tahiti.

More on Indexing

For more information on the how and why of family history indexing, see Ids.org/go/index4NE.



By Ethan Parry

magine for a second that you're eating lunch in your school cafeteria with some of your closest friends, who aren't members of the Church.

One of them asks you "What are you doing."

One of them asks you, "What are you doing this weekend?" It happens to be the weekend of general conference. You may be tempted to skip over any talk of the Church, but it's an easy and natural way to be a member missionary.

You might say, "On Saturday and Sunday, my church has a general conference."

"What's that?"

"Well, twice a year we receive guidance from God's prophets and apostles."

At this point, your friend may ask you what an apostle is. Or maybe he'll look at you with doubt and say, "You mean like the ones they had in the Bible?"

What do you do next?

With general conference right around the corner, this situation would be a perfect chance to share the gospel!

Know the Basics

Of course, if you talk about general conference, you'll want to be ready with a few things to say about what a prophet means to you. Here are some ideas:

- Prophets are inspired men who have been called of God to speak for the Lord.
- Just as there were prophets in ancient times, like Adam, Moses, and Isaiah, the Lord has called men on the earth today as prophets.
- Prophets testify of Jesus Christ and teach His gospel.
 They make known God's will. At times, they may be inspired to prophesy of future events for our benefit.
- The President of the Church is also referred to as the prophet—the only person on earth authorized to receive revelation for the entire Church. Members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are also prophets with authority to counsel and guide us.
- You could share with your friends how you've been blessed by following the prophets.



What else could you say? Bethany D. from Arizona, USA, said to her friend about our relationship to prophets: "Prophets give us the guidelines of what Heavenly Father wants us to do. We can choose to follow them or not to follow them because we have agency." And Brynn D. from Utah, USA, told her friends about how a prophet serves as a direct line of communication from God to His children.

Look for Opportunities

Look for opportunities with your friends, both in person and online, to share the knowledge that we have a living prophet. When you seek those opportunities and pray for them, you will have them. As you use general conference to strengthen your testimony of the living prophets and apostles and also to share that testimony with others, you'll not only bless your life but the lives of those around you as well. **NE**

Ethan Parry lives in Utah, USA.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Even after general conference is over, you still have opportunities to share what you learned and felt with your friends.

When the topic comes up (maybe this time a different friend asks you what you did over the weekend), it can be a simple, natural conversation. Or whenever your friends are going through a hard time and it reminds you of something said in general conference, you can share the conference talk. For example, consider using the following topics as starting points to help you explain the role of prophets and apostles:

FEELING ALONE

Do you have a friend facing challenges? Read and share President Thomas S. Monson's talk "Ponder the Path of Thy Feet" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 86). It can help them see that the Savior has experienced everything they're going through—and that they can have His help.

COMPETING PRIORITIES

Review President Dieter F. Uchtdorf's talk "Of Things That Matter Most" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 19). As you do so, think about a stressed-out friend who may benefit from President Uchtdorf's teachings. Share a quote or thought via social media, text message, or in person the next time you see your friend.

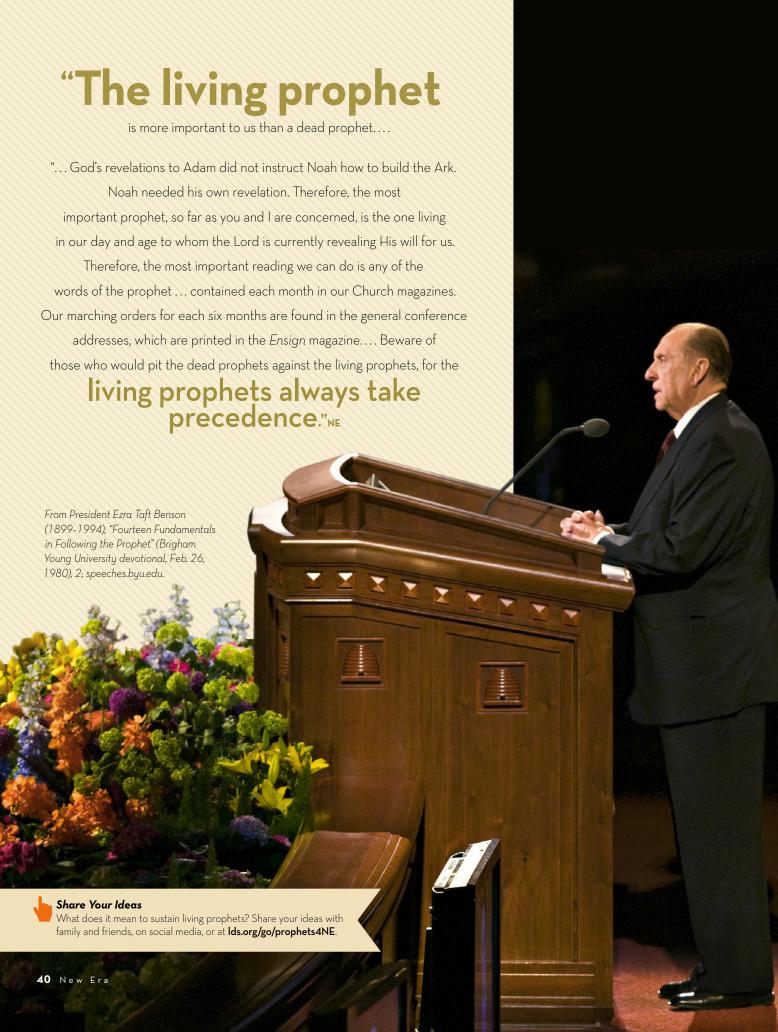
FACING CHALLENGES

Read Elder David A. Bednar's talk "Bear Up Their Burdens with Ease" (Ensign, May 2014, 87). As you do so, think about a friend who is facing hard times. Talk to your friend about how the principles in Elder Bednar's talk have helped you make it through a hard time.



Tell Your Friends about Conference through Social Media

For a video, images, event invites, and other media you can use to tell others about the upcoming general conference, visit **lds.org/go/confinvite4NE**.







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. **NE**

How much influence does Satan have over my thoughts?

ur 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. NE

"How can I become comfortable enough to talk to my bishop about issues or CONCERNS?"

ou 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. NE

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., 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., 19, Cochabamba, Bolivia



He Will Not Betray Your Trust

I have come to know that a bishop is probably the most trustwor-

thy 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., 19, 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., 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., 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., 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., 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., 14, Idaho, USA

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



CONFIDE IN HIM

"Seek counsel from your priesthood leaders, especially your bishop. He

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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.

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.

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?"

Send your answer and photo by May 15, 2015.

Go to **newera.lds.org**, click "Submit Your Work," sign in with your LDS Account, and then select "New Fra."

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



The Apostasy and the Restoration

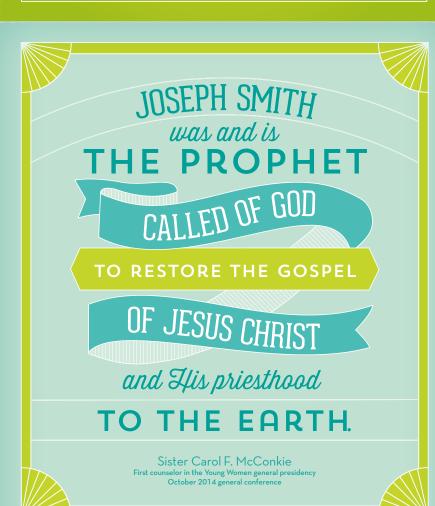
You'll be studying about the Apostasy and the Restoration in your Sunday classes this month. As you study and discuss this topic, you may ponder these questions: How did the Restoration begin? How do the things Joseph Smith did affect my life today?

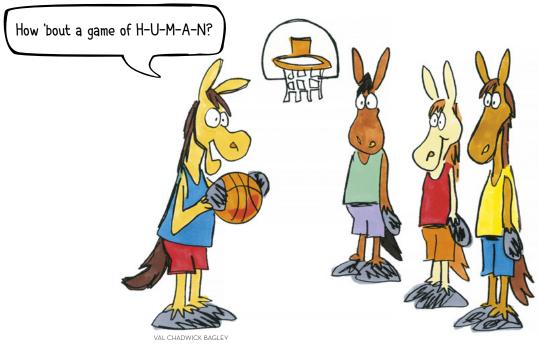
For some answers to these questions, read the scriptures listed in the Topical Guide under "Joseph Smith" and "Restoration of the Gospel." You'll also find teachings on the plan of salvation in general conference talks at conference.lds.org.



Give yourself an easy reminder to prepare for your Sunday lessons. Just place these cards in your scriptures, locker, or bedroom. You can also download or share them online at Ids.org/go/cards4NE.











ERIC C. LEACH



RANDY GLASBERGEN

JON CLARK



MY MUSIC ESCAPE PLAN

hile riding the bus on a school field trip, I was sitting in front of a girl who kept making rude comments and jokes that made me feel uncomfortable. My teachers and other students told her to stop, but she kept going. I didn't know what to do, so I decided to pull out my iPod and listen to some of my favorite music.

I turned it on shuffle and one of the first songs that came on was a song from lds.org/youth/music. I was about to skip over it when something inside told me that I should just listen to the music. I kept listening

to inspirational music for the next 20 minutes. The lyrics encouraged me to hold on, and they reminded me that I was a beloved daughter of Heavenly Father.

Later in the week my school held a dance. Even though they used the clean versions of popular dance songs, many people in my grade began screaming out the removed word in one particular song.

Once again I felt uncomfortable. The teachers were sitting nearby and didn't seem to notice. I looked down at my wrist. I saw my bracelet from youth conference that said, "Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved."

I knew that where I was standing wasn't a holy place, so I left until a new song came on.

I know that music can have a profound influence in our lives. I know that listening to the inspirational music on my iPod a couple of days before had helped give me the courage I needed to leave the dance. These experiences helped me get much closer to my Heavenly Father.

Alixa B., Netherlands

SCRIPTURES AT SCOUT CAMP

brought my scriptures with me to Scout camp. But in the excitement of earning merit badges the first few days, I forgot one of the most important things: scripture study. Then on the third night, the wind started to blow hard, the rain began to pour down, and lightning and thunder began to boom and crackle. The lightning was so bright it looked like day. My friend and I were scared out of our socks.

I had an impression that we should study the scriptures together. My friend and I went into the tent, and I pulled my scriptures from my pack. My friend prayed, and I felt the Spirit so strong. We flipped to 2 Nephi 25 and read about the importance of scripture study. I felt like we were led to that chapter to tell us that we need to read our scriptures. As we continued reading, the wind began to calm down, the rain lightened up, and the thunder stopped. As we left the tent I could feel the Spirit so strong, and all I could do was give God thanks.

Tanner R., Utah, USA

PEACE IN PERSECUTION

straightened up in my seat in English class when I heard the topic of the next speaker: why the Mormon Church is wrong and why Mormons are hypocritical haters. During the speech, I felt my cheeks burn, and shock and betrayal settled within my chest. How could my very own friends, knowing I was LDS, choose to say slanderous remarks in front of my entire class?

After the bell rang, I was approached by the speaker and some of my other friends. With the Spirit burning inside me, I told them what they said was wrong and that the Church doesn't hate people who don't live our beliefs. In return, they bombarded me with false statements and accusations. I felt alone. I thought, "How is it fair that when I am living what I know to be true, I must constantly be persecuted?"

When I got home from school that day, I saw an email from my grandma. In it she told me to look up Matthew 5:11–14. With tears in my eyes, I read: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. . . . Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

The Holy Ghost filled my heart as I read those words. I know that persecution can strengthen our testimonies, and I know that the blessings in heaven will be well worth the pain we go through here on earth. The Savior made it possible for us to find peace when we are being persecuted for living His gospel, and for that I'm truly grateful.

Beka F., Montana, USA





Bv President Thomas S. Monson

HOW TO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF

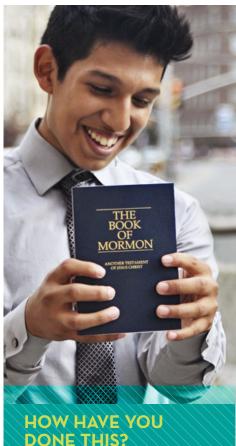
t is up to each of us to develop the faith necessary to survive spiritually and to project a light for others to see. Among the most effective ways to gain and keep the faith we need would be to read and study the scriptures and to pray frequently and consistently.

Have you read the Book of Mormon? Have you put to the test the promise found in Moroni 10:4, asking your Heavenly Father "with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ" whether or not that which is found in that book is truth?

Many of you probably already know that the Book of Mormon is true, that Joseph Smith is indeed a prophet, and that this is the true Church of Jesus Christ. Some of you, however, may still be living on the testimony of others—your parents, your friends, your Church leaders. May I suggest that you set aside time every day to find out for yourself if the Book of Mormon is a true book, for it will change your heart and change your life. If you seek this knowledge "with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ" (Moroni 10:4), I promise that you will receive an answer. And once you know that the Book of Mormon is true, then it will follow that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. You will have that burning testimony and knowledge that this church is true.

Such knowledge, such a personal testimony, is essential if we are to safely navigate the sometimes treacherous paths through life with the adversary attempting to deceive us at every turn. As you keep the flame of testimony burning brightly, you will become a beacon of righteousness even a light—for all to see. Said the Savior: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). **NE**

From a Brigham Young University devotional given November 1, 2011.



DONE THIS?

🗼 / hen I began to read the Book of Mormon most recently, I really studied and truly tried to gain a testimony of it for myself. It came through finding that the Book of Mormon held messages for me! It held things that Heavenly Father needed me to know at this point in my life. The Book of Mormon is for us. It helps us to be better and to have the Spirit more in our lives. I'm so grateful for this testimony that I've gained. Now I gladly say that I know with my whole heart that the Book of Mormon is true!

Ashley H., Utah, USA

Share Your Experiences

Share how you have come to know the Book of Mormon is true and read the experiences of other youth at lds.org/go/findout4NE.



JOSEPH SMITH

mas an

honest

and *virtuous* man,

a *disciple* of

the Lord

JESUS CHRIST.

God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, did appear to him.



Elder Neil L. Andersen Quorum of the Twelve Apostles October 2014 general conference

WHAT'S ONLINE



YOUTH Q&A LIVE FACE TO FACE EVENT

On May 12, 2015, you'll have the chance to submit questions to and receive counsel from a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and his wife, Elder and Sister Bednar, at 6:00 p.m. MDT. Gather with youth in your ward or with your family at home. See how to submit your questions and prepare for the event at Ids.org/go/May12.



THE RESTORATION AND THE PRIESTHOOD

What does the restoration of the priesthood mean to you? As you talk about the Restoration this month, follow along in video as youth visit important sites in early Church history and share what the priesthood has done to bless their lives at Ids.org/go/priesthood4NE.

TALKING WITH THE BISHOP



On page 42, youth share how they've gone to their bishops with problems and concerns. Have you ever felt afraid of talking to your bishop? You never have to fear. If you've ever wondered whether you need to confess something to your bishop, check out "Why and What Do I Need to Confess to My Bishop?" at Ids.org/go/bishop4NE. And if you're wondering what an interview will be like, see "The View from the End of the Road" at Ids.org/go/road4NE.

