

# THE New Era

APRIL 2018

HIS ATONEMENT  
OUR HOPE



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# WHAT'S INSIDE

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

April 2018 • Volume 48 • Number 4



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Elder Robert D. Hales

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### WRITE & REMEMBER

Use your awesome new General Conference Notebook to turn your inspiration into action!

Snap a pic of your notes and send it in! Use the hashtag **#ldsconf**, DM us on Instagram **@LDSyouth**, or email us at **newera@ldschurch.org** by Monday, April 2, 2018.



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**Editor's Note:** This month, New Era subscribers received a special General Conference Notebook to help focus on learning from conference. It takes the place of 16 pages in this issue. Next month's issue will return to the full number of magazine pages.





# PR

## THE KEY TO





# AYER



By Elder  
Robert D. Hales  
(1932–2017)

Of the Quorum of  
the Twelve Apostles

## TESTIMONY AND THE RESTORATION

*Follow the example of Joseph Smith and the pattern of the Restoration. Turn to the scriptures. Kneel in prayer. Ask in faith. Listen to the Holy Ghost.*

**AS CHURCH LEADERS**, we are often asked, “How do I receive a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ?”

Gaining a testimony and becoming converted begins with study and prayer, then living the gospel with patience and persistence and inviting and waiting upon the Spirit. The life of Joseph Smith and the pattern of the Restoration are excellent examples of this process. As [I share] . . . the events of the Restoration with you, look for the steps that lead to testimony. . . .

### **GREAT CONFUSION**

Joseph Smith was born on December 23, 1805, in Sharon, Vermont, USA. He came into a family that prayed and studied the Bible. In his youth, he became interested in religion and discovered a “great confusion” over the doctrines of Christ, with “priest contending against priest, and convert against convert” (Joseph Smith—History 1:6).

This confusion . . . began centuries earlier in what has been called the Great Apostasy. The day of Christ “shall not come,” said the Apostle Paul, “except there come a falling away first” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

A few decades after Christ’s Resurrection, His Apostles were killed, His teachings were corrupted, and the priesthood was taken from the earth. But Paul, seeing our day, prophesied “that in the dispensation of the fulness of times [God would] gather together in one all things in Christ” (Ephesians 1:10). He would restore Christ’s true Church to the earth once more. . . .

### **JOSEPH FINDS AN ANSWER**

Joseph . . . , at the age of 14, found himself caught in a “tumult of [religious] opinions.” Often he asked himself, “If any one of [these churches] be right, which is it, and how shall I know it?” (Joseph Smith—History 1:10).



discouraged because of his weaknesses and imperfections]. But he did not lose faith or forget the power of prayer.

On September 21, 1823, at the age of 17, [Joseph] knelt to ask “for forgiveness of all [his] sins” . . . and [to know his] “standing before [God]” (see Joseph Smith—History 1:29). As he prayed, a light . . . appeared, increasing “until the room was lighter than at noonday” (verse 30). In that light there stood a personage dressed in a robe of “exquisite whiteness” (verse 31). He called Joseph by name and introduced himself as Moroni. He said “that God had a work for [Joseph] to do” and told him of an ancient record “written upon gold plates,” which,

Joseph turned to the Bible for answers. “If any of you lack wisdom,” he read in the Epistle of James, “let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

Following James’s direction, Joseph went to a grove of trees near his home and prayed. As he called upon God, “a pillar of light . . . descended,” brighter than the noonday sun, and “two Personages” appeared. “One of them spake . . . , calling [Joseph] by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*” (Joseph Smith—History 1:16–17).

God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, conversed with Joseph. They answered his question. They taught him that the true Church of Christ had been lost from the earth. Joseph learned that these members of the

## CAN YOU SEE THE PATTERN?

Godhead were separate and distinct beings, They knew him by name, and They were willing to answer his prayers. The heavens were opened, the night of apostasy was over, and the light of the gospel began to shine forth.

Like Joseph, many of us find ourselves seeking the light of truth. . . . Like Joseph, we must search the scriptures, pray, . . . [be] humble, and [learn] to exercise faith.

### MORONI AND THE GOLDEN PLATES

During the three years following his First Vision, Joseph [said he often felt

when translated, became the Book of Mormon. The book contained a record of the fulness of the gospel. (See verses 33–34.) . . . Joseph was directed to . . . that record, buried . . . [in the] nearby Hill . . . Cumorah.

The next day Joseph found the plates, but the time had not yet arrived to bring them forth. Moroni instructed Joseph to meet him there that same day each year for the next four years (see verses 52–53). Joseph obeyed. Each year he went to the hill where Moroni gave him “instruction” (verse 54) concerning the Restoration of Christ’s Church. . . .



Joseph received the plates on September 22, 1827, at the age of 21. He also received an ancient instrument for translating them, called the Urim and Thummim. Using this sacred interpreter, along with the Holy Ghost, Joseph began the work of translation. . . .

## THE RESTORATION UNFOLDS

At the age of 23, Joseph was translating the plates when he and [his scribe], Oliver [Cowdery,] came upon a passage about baptism for the remission of sins. . . . They wanted to know more. Joseph knew what to do.

On May 15, 1829, [Joseph and Oliver] went into the woods to inquire of the Lord. While they were praying,

John the Baptist appeared “in a cloud of light” (Joseph Smith—History 1:68). He . . . had baptized the Savior in life, [and] he held the priesthood keys necessary to perform that ordinance by the authority of God.

. . . John . . . laid his hands on [Joseph’s head and then Oliver’s] and conferred the Aaronic Priesthood upon [each] of them (see D&C 13; Joseph Smith—History 1:68–69). . . . In late May or early June 1829, the Melchizedek, or higher, Priesthood was conferred on Joseph and Oliver by the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

The translation of the Book of Mormon was also completed that June, and the book was published on March 26, 1830. . . . Days later,

## A PATTERN FOR US TO FOLLOW

Brothers and sisters, can we see the pattern? Every major event of the Restoration—the First Vision, the appearance of Moroni and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, the restoration of the priesthood, and the appearance of Jesus Christ [in] His holy temple—was preceded by prayer. . . .

[Many times] I have felt the undeniable witness of the Spirit of God, like a fire burning in my heart, that the restored gospel is true. . . . [If you do not know these things for yourself,] may I suggest accepting the invitation extended by Moroni in the Book of Mormon: “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:4–5). . . .

. . . Follow the example of Joseph Smith and the pattern of the Restoration. Turn to the scriptures. Kneel in prayer. Ask in faith. Listen to the Holy Ghost. . . . And in the name of Jesus Christ, I promise, “If ye will . . . ask [Heavenly Father] in faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping [the Lord’s] commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you” (1 Nephi 15:11). **NE**

*From an October 2003 general conference address.*

## EVERY MAJOR EVENT WAS PRECEDED BY PRAYER.



on April 6, the Church was formally organized. . . . As prophesied by Paul, the ancient Church of Christ was once again established on the earth.

But the work of the Restoration was not over. . . . [The Kirtland Temple, the first temple built in this dispensation,] was dedicated . . . on March 27, 1836. One week later, on April 3, a meeting was held there. Following a solemn and silent prayer, . . . the Lord Jesus Christ [appeared to Joseph and Oliver.] . . . Moses, Elias, and Elijah also appeared [in the Kirtland Temple] and [gave priesthood keys] to Joseph (see D&C 110).

# THE SAVIOR OF YOU

By Charlotte Larcabal

Church Magazines

**H**ave you ever imagined what it would have been like to be a Nephite when Jesus Christ appeared?

Try it. Imagine you are at the temple in Bountiful in ancient America. Not long ago, you endured terrifying tempests, earthquakes, fires, and whirlwinds. You survived, but thousands did not (see 3 Nephi 8). You probably lost your home and maybe even some family and friends. You might be feeling like your world is shattered and your life is completely ruined.

Maybe you're at the temple in Bountiful to find some kind of comfort. It's good to be with others, but you still feel lost, confused, and sad.

Suddenly, you hear a voice. You can't understand it at first, but the third time you hear it, you do.

"Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him" (3 Nephi 11:7).

You look up and see your Savior.

But He doesn't just want you to see Him.

"Arise and come forth unto me," He said (3 Nephi 11:14). He wants you to come *unto* Him.

## ONE BY ONE

"And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth *one by one* until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come" (3 Nephi 11:15; italics added).

Have you ever noticed the words "one by one"?

"Come forth unto me" wasn't a general statement. He



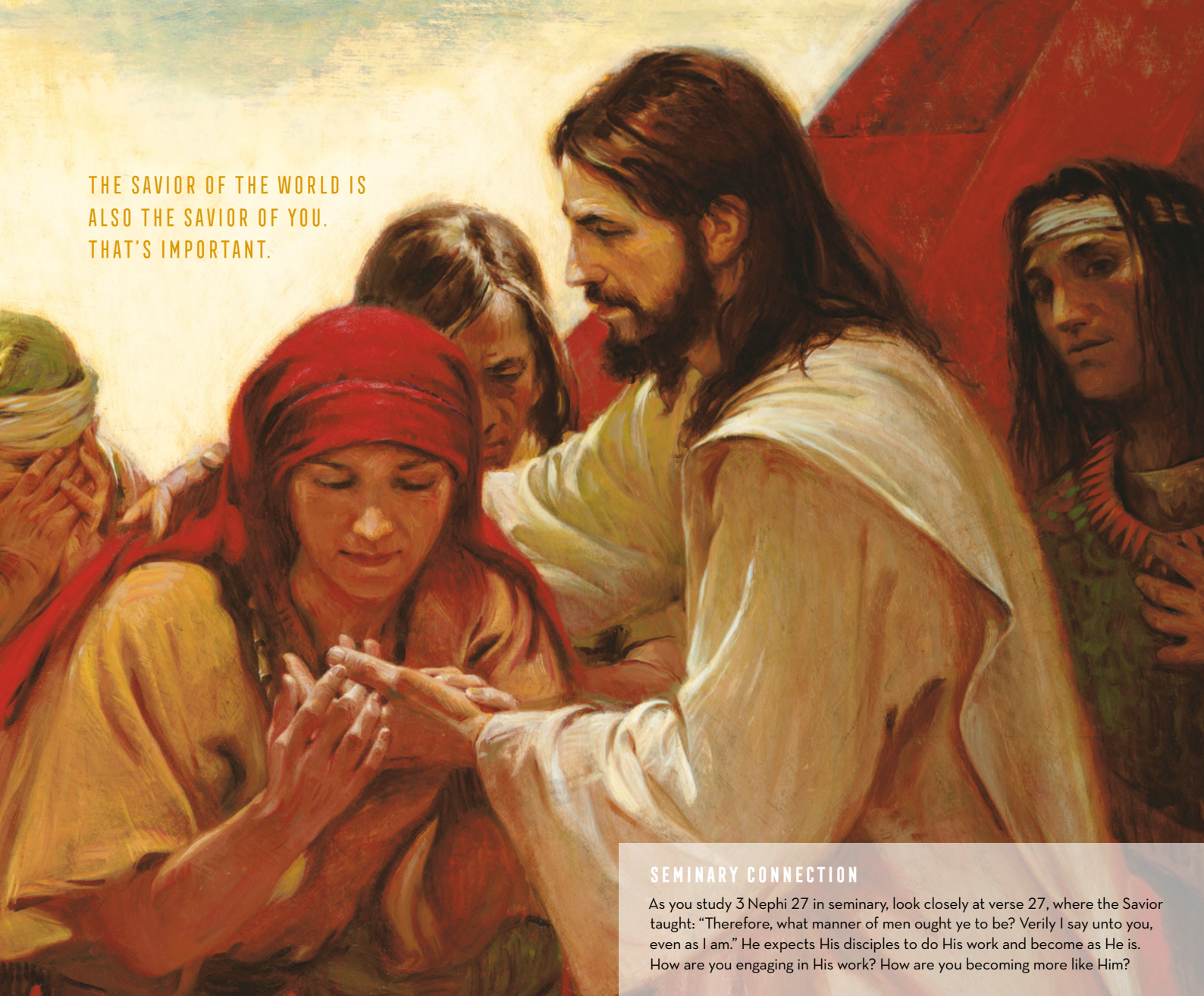
wanted them to go forth *one by one*. He could've just introduced Himself, but He wanted every single person there to know who He was for themselves. He wanted them to individually come to Him, to meet Him, and to receive an up close and personal witness that He really is the Savior of the world. He wanted them to feel the prints in His hands and feet—the marks of the Atonement He'd completed just for them. Just for *you*. Can you *imagine* that?

## KNOW HIM FOR YOURSELF

So what does that mean for us?

Jesus Christ still calls us to come unto Him, and that invitation is still extremely personal. He is the Savior of the world, but He is also the Savior of *you*. He is your personal





THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS  
ALSO THE SAVIOR OF YOU.  
THAT'S IMPORTANT.

#### SEMINARY CONNECTION

As you study 3 Nephi 27 in seminary, look closely at verse 27, where the Savior taught: "Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am." He expects His disciples to do His work and become as He is. How are you engaging in His work? How are you becoming more like Him?

Savior. Because of His atoning sacrifice, He can comfort and strengthen you personally. And He wants you to know that for yourself.

Even though you can receive a testimony by believing on others' words (see D&C 46:13–14), it is important for you to gain and strengthen your own testimony. To do so, you can read stories of His example, immerse yourself in His words, ponder His teachings, and pray for a personal witness. You are supposed to have a very close and personal relationship with our Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Maybe you've endured tempests, earthquakes, fires, and whirlwinds, or maybe you've endured loneliness, sadness, depression, confusion, or disappointment. You might have

even felt like your world is shattered and your life is completely ruined. And that's why having a personal relationship with the Savior is so important. You might not be able to feel the marks in His hands and feet every day, but you can still feel His love and the hope that comes from His Atonement.

"He knows of our anguish, and He is there for us. Like the good Samaritan, when He finds us wounded at the wayside, He will bind up our wounds and care for us (see Luke 10:34). The healing and strengthening power of Jesus Christ and His Atonement is for all of us who will ask" (President Dallin H. Oaks, First Counselor in the First Presidency, Oct. 2015 general conference).

He is there for you personally and can strengthen you so that you can get through anything. **NE**



# I FEEL MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

Words by Ralph Rodgers Jr.,  
K. Newell Dayley, and Laurie Huffman.

Music by K. Newell Dayley  
Arranged by Nik Day and Kendra Lowe

$\text{♩} = 100$

Violin

Voice

Piano

I feel my Sav-ior's

love In all the world a - round me. His Spi - rit warms my

soul Through ev' - ry - thing I see. He knows I will

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14 fol - low Him, Give all my life to Him. I feel my Sav - ior's

19 *mf* love, The love He free - ly gives me.

25 I feel my Sav - ior's love Its get - tle - ness en - folds me, And

30 *p* when I kneel to pray, My heart is filled with peace. He knows I will





35

fol - low Him, Give all my life to Him. I

39

feel my Sav - ior's love, The love He free - ly gives me.

44

49

I feel my Sav - ior's love And know that He will bless me. I

*mf*

*f* *mf*



55

55

55

of - fer Him my heart; My shep - herd He will be. He knows I will

60

60

60

fol - low Him, Give all my life to Him. I feel my Sav - ior's

65

65

65

love, The love He free - ly gives me.

71

71

71

*f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*







# GETTING TO KNOW THE SAVIOR

*As you learn about Jesus Christ, you invite  
His peace and presence into your life.*

**By Sarah Hanson**

Imagine reading *everything* about the Savior in the scriptures—the Holy Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price. Talk about a lot of time and work! But in January 2017, President Russell M. Nelson gave a challenge to do just that—to study everything that Jesus said and did in the standard works. President Nelson said that completing the project made him “a different man.” He not only learned more about Jesus Christ but also felt a renewed devotion to Him.<sup>1</sup>

You too can draw closer to Christ as you learn of Him. Studying His life and purpose invites His peace into your life and helps you come to know Him and Heavenly Father. Check out how these youth answered two questions: (1) What is your favorite scripture story about the Savior and why? (2) And how have your gospel studies brought you peace?

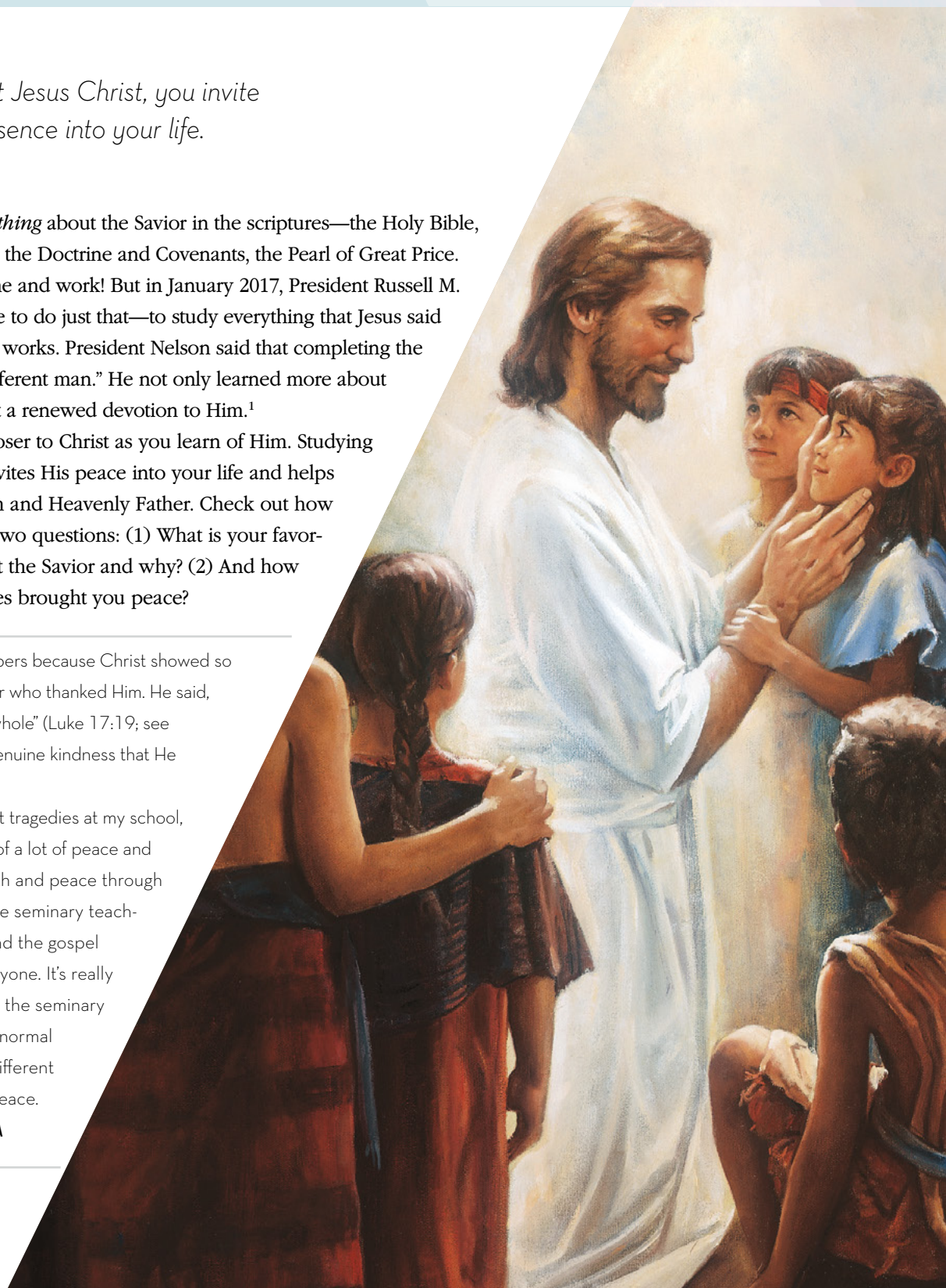
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I like the story of the 10 lepers because Christ showed so much love toward the leper who thanked Him. He said, “Thy faith hath made thee whole” (Luke 17:19; see verses 11–19). I love the genuine kindness that He shows everyone.

Because of some recent tragedies at my school, everyone there is in need of a lot of peace and comfort. I’ve found strength and peace through my studies in seminary. The seminary teachers make the scriptures and the gospel very personalized for everyone. It’s really cool to see the contrast in the seminary classroom compared to a normal classroom. There’s just a different feeling there that brings peace.

**Gabriel S., 16, Colorado, USA**

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The story of Alma about faith and the word of God (see Alma 32:18–43) has taught me that when we sow love, we receive love. As Alma explains to the Zoramites, faith is like a seed. It is believing that something is true without actually being there to see it. Faith grows when a person has a desire to believe and hear the word of God. All of this has helped me to be calm, strengthen my heart, and obtain a testimony that Heavenly Father sees me with eyes of love and mercy.

As I study the scriptures every day, I understand better the love that our Savior has for each one of us. This knowledge helps me explain to my friends at school that they are not alone when they have problems because there is a God who loves us.

**Maria D., 17, Guadalajara, Spain**

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I like in 3 Nephi 17 when the Savior visits the Americas and invites the children to come to Him. He sits with them and spends time with them one by one. That's an amazing story to me that shows who Jesus Christ is and how much love He has for each of us.

I believe He'll sit with each of us too when we need His help.

This year I challenged myself to read a page of scriptures every day. As I've done that, I've grown to look forward to it every day. I've learned so much from the words and the stories in the scriptures as I've tried to spend time to understand them, and I've drawn closer to my Heavenly Father and Savior as I've learned about Them too. That's brought a lot of peace into my life.

**Anna C., 17, Montana, USA**

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I love when Christ comes to the Americas, asks if there are any sick and afflicted among them, and then heals them. Then He blesses the little children. (See 3 Nephi 17.) I think it's a really cool and powerful story. I like little kids, and I like when people give them extra love, because children are so pure. The story shows me the depth of the Savior's love for us. Since He loved the people back then enough to do everything He did, He can love us today too.

Isaiah 53:3 says the Savior is "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." When I think about Christ's Atonement, what He went through for us, and how I can be forgiven when I repent of my sins, I feel really peaceful. Many people in the Book of Mormon—the sons of Mosiah, Ammon, and Alma the Younger—had rocky pasts, but they were able to be forgiven. They turned to Christ, repented, and became awesome examples that we can learn from today. It's comforting to me to know I can be forgiven too.

**Alina T., 18, Oregon, USA**

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My favorite scripture story about Jesus is when He turned water into wine during a wedding, at the prompting of His mother (see John 2:1–11). This is my favorite because the story shows Jesus's respect for women and His mother in particular. This story encourages children to obey their parents, not out of fear but out of immense love. Jesus Christ's example is what everyone should strive for. His love for His mother never ceased, and neither should our love for our parents. It is also my favorite passage because His miracle is an act of service, and we too can create miracles by helping others.

This story and other stories in the scriptures have brought me





## FOCUS ON HIM

“Our focus must be riveted on the Savior and His gospel. It is mentally rigorous to strive to look unto Him in every thought. But when we do, our doubts and fears flee.”

**President Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Christ into Our Lives,” Apr. 2017 general conference.**

peace. It is very comforting knowing that if I am always trying to learn of Christ and follow His teachings, I can return to our loving Heavenly Father one day.

**Anne R., 17, Victoria, Australia**

I love the story of Christ and the rich young man (see Mark 10:17–22). It gives me a lot of insight and perspective about prioritizing God above everything. Being asked to sell every single worldly possession would be a very difficult request for just about everyone. But I think that being willing to place God over possessions is one of the things that each of us has to learn in life. Jesus Christ’s boundless love for us is truly spectacular. It is definitely better than any amount of money or belongings we gain in this life.

Reading the scriptures brings me peace and comfort, as well as greater wisdom and understanding. Although I may not always feel the power of scripture study immediately, I know that reading the scriptures positively influences my life and helps me to feel the Spirit and recognize His promptings.

**Yuzhen C., 19, Taichung, Taiwan**

As Christ is on His way to see a young girl who is dying, a woman with a blood issue simply touches His clothing and is healed. Christ turns and talks with her after realizing that she has touched Him (see Luke 8:43–48). Despite going to help someone else, Christ made time for her as well. Christ makes time for all of us too.

I have a really busy life, running to school or ballet classes or other errands. During all of that, I don’t get alone time or feel peace. When I read my scriptures or say a prayer, I do feel peace. It’s nice to feel that way and have a break from the craziness. In those moments of peace, I grow closer to the Savior and grow in the gospel. **NE**

**Zoe B., 17, Utah, USA**

*The author lives in Utah, USA.*

### NOTE

1. See Russell M. Nelson, “Prophets, Leadership, and Divine Law” (worldwide devotional for young adults, Jan. 8, 2017), [broadcasts.lds.org](https://broadcasts.lds.org); “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives,” Apr. 2017 general conference; “Study the Savior’s Words,” *New Era*, Jan. 2018, 2–5.

DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER BY HEINRICH HOFMANN;  
DETAIL FROM WOMAN TOUCHES HEM OF CHRIST’S GARMENT BY HEIDI DAYNES DARLEY



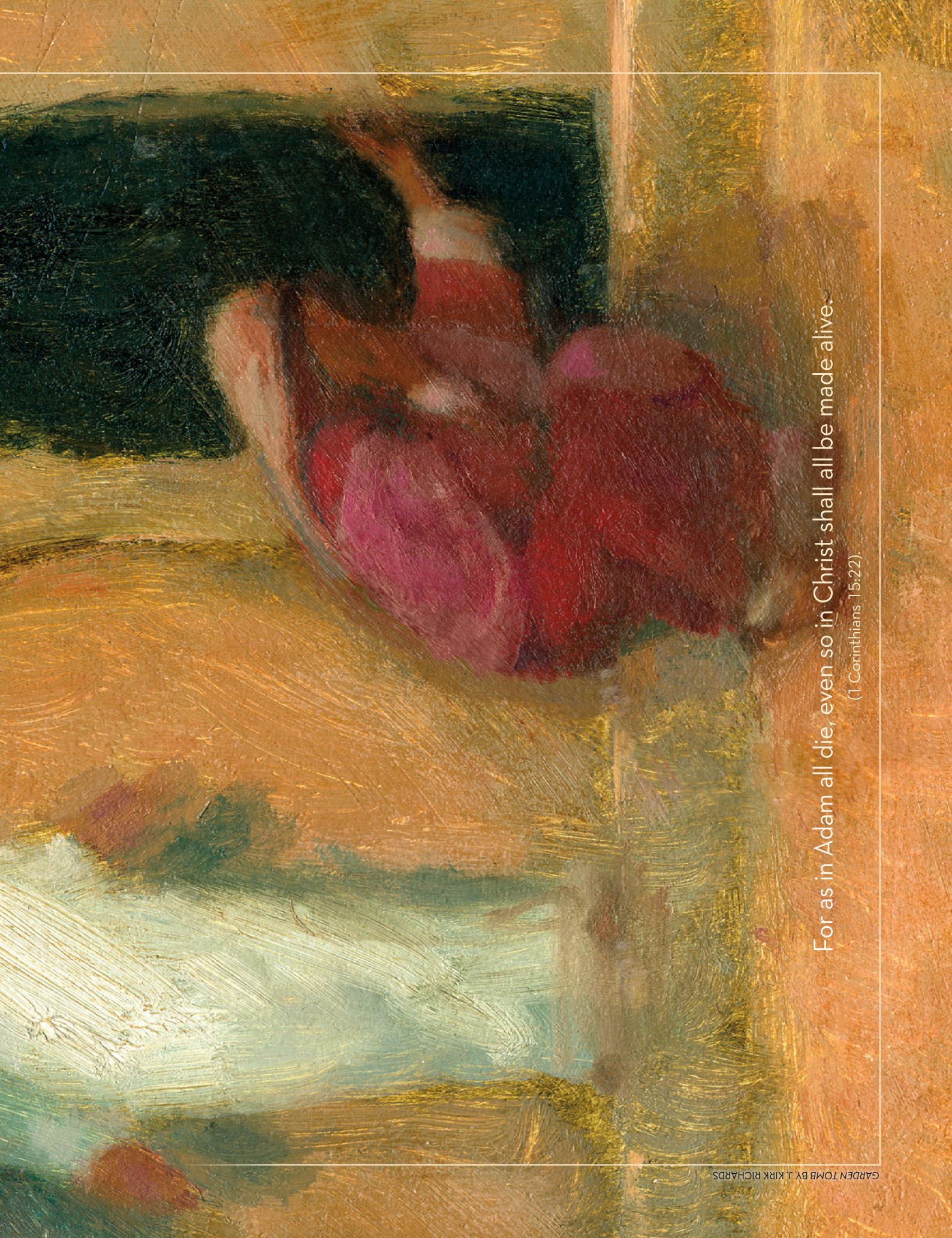


MORMONAD

# THE TOMB WAS EMPTY

THAT YOUR LIFE MIGHT BE FULL





For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

(1 Corinthians 15:22)





12

Images from

# EASTER WEEK

By David A. Edwards  
Church Magazines

**T**here are many important truths contained in the record of the last week of Jesus Christ's mortal life—truths about the Savior, His kingdom, and how we can follow Him.

Here are some of those truths, illustrated by images of physical objects that were part of the last week of the Savior's life.

**"MY KINGDOM  
IS NOT OF  
THIS WORLD"**

(John 18:36).



1

## MONEYCHANGERS' TABLES

See Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-19;  
Luke 19:45-48.

**What are they?** The tables where people would (for an outrageous fee) exchange other currencies for the Jewish half-shekel coin, which was accepted in the temple sanctuary. The priests and other temple officers allowed people to sell items that the law of Moses demanded for various temple sacrifices. Through greed and extortion, these leaders took advantage of those coming to worship God.

Early in His last week, Jesus Christ drove the moneychangers out of the temple. The sounds of clinking coins and barking salesmen echoing off of the temple walls must have been distracting and offensive to the spirit of worship and devotion that the Lord's house deserves. The Savior said, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Matthew 21:13). They had allowed the things of the world to intrude upon the sacred space of His Father's house. But He showed that the place where we are meant to seek His Father's kingdom should be free from the distractions of the world.



2

## SWORD

**See Matthew 26:51-55; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10-11.**

While the Savior was at the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas Iscariot came with a group of armed men to arrest Him. Peter impulsively drew a short sword and cut off the ear of one of the men. The Savior immediately told Peter to put his sword away and said, “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53). As a further manifestation of His power and mercy, He also healed the man’s ear (see Luke 22:51).

3

## CROWN OF THORNS

**See Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2.**

The Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on the Savior. “Perhaps this cruel act was a perverse attempt to mimic the placing of an emperor’s laurel upon His head. Thus, there was pressed down upon Him a crown of thorns. He accepted the pain as part of the great gift He had promised to make. How poignant this was, considering that thorns signified God’s displeasure as He cursed the ground for Adam’s sake that henceforth it would bring forth thorns. But by wearing the crown, Jesus transformed thorns into a symbol of His glory” (President James E. Faust [1920-2007], Second Counselor in the First Presidency, Apr. 1991 general conference).

4

## PURPLE ROBE

**See Matthew 27:28; Mark 15:17; John 19:2.**

Purple was a kingly color, and the soldiers mockingly put this robe on Jesus Christ because He had claimed to be the king of the Jews. Of course, in reality He is much more than that—He is the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16).

5

## WIDOW’S MITE

**See Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4.**

***What is it?* A very small coin (a *lepton*), probably made of copper or brass, worth less than all others.**

While at the temple that week, the Savior saw a poor widow throw two of these tiny coins into the temple treasury. He gathered His disciples and said that this woman’s offering, though of the smallest amount, was greater than anyone else’s, for “she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living” (Mark 12:44).

What mattered to Him was her willingness to give, not the size of her offering. He showed yet again that “the Lord seeth not as man seeth; . . . the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7) and that “my ways [are] higher than your ways” (Isaiah 55:9).

# "DESTROY THIS TEMPLE, AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP"

(John 2:19).

6

## BOX OF OINTMENT

See *Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8.*

**What is it?** Some kind of vessel made of alabaster, a soft gypsum compound often used for intricate ornamental carvings. It was used to store spikenard, a perfumed ointment made from Asian plants and quite valuable because of its rarity.

Early in the Savior's last week, Mary poured this box of ointment on Him. He said that it foreshadowed His death because perfumed ointments were also used to prepare bodies for burial (see John 19:39).



7

## TEMPLE VEIL



See *Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45.*

**What is it?** The temple veil was a curtain found in the Holy of Holies, the temple's innermost and most sacred room, which represented the presence of God. Only the high priest could go through the veil, and only once a year.

When Jesus Christ died, the veil of the temple was "rent in twain from the top to the bottom" (Matthew 27:51). "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, . . . by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 9:11-12; see also verses 13-14). Through His death and Resurrection, He rent the veil separating us from God's presence (see Hebrews 10:19-22).



**“BLOOD COMETH  
FROM EVERY  
PORE, SO GREAT  
SHALL BE HIS  
ANGUISH”**

(Mosiah 3:7).

8

## OLIVE PRESS

**See Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39-40; John 18:1.**

“[Jesus Christ’s] agony in Gethsemane and on the cross was greater than any mortal could bear. Nevertheless, because of His love for His Father and for us, He endured, and as a consequence, He can offer us both immortality and eternal life.

“It is poignantly symbolic that ‘blood [came] from every pore’ [Mosiah 3:7] as Jesus suffered in Gethsemane, the place of the olive press. To produce olive oil in the Savior’s time, olives were first crushed by rolling a large stone over them. The resulting ‘mash’ was placed in soft, loosely woven baskets, which were piled one upon another. Their weight expressed the first and finest oil. Then added stress was applied by placing a large beam or log on top of the stacked baskets, producing more oil. Finally, to draw out the very last drops, the beam was weighted with stones on one end to create the maximum, crushing pressure. And yes, the oil is bloodred as it first flows out” (Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Oct. 2016 general conference).





# “HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS,... AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED”

(Isaiah 53:5).



9

## SCOURGE

See **Matthew 27:26**.

**What is it?** A Roman *flagrum* or *flagellum*, a whip with multiple leather strands that had several small pieces of metal or bone attached to them, and sometimes with a hook at the end. The scourge was designed to quickly remove skin and flesh.

As was customary, after He was condemned, Jesus Christ was taken by the Roman soldiers to be scourged. “They scourge him, and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men” (1 Nephi 19:9).

10

## NAILS

See **John 20:25**.

The crucifiers drove nails through the Savior’s hands, wrists, and feet to secure Him on the cross. “[Jesus Christ] has, he reminds us, ‘graven thee upon the palms of my hands’ (1 Nephi 21:16). Considering the incomprehensible cost of the Crucifixion, Christ is not going to turn his back on us now” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Come unto Me,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1998, 19).



11

## CROSS

See **Matthew 27:32; John 19:17**.

**What is it?** The beam placed horizontally near the top of a tall upright post used by the Romans for public execution by crucifixion. These were probably made of a durable wood so that they could be reused. The beam, or cross, was separate from the post, and victims were made to carry it themselves to the place of crucifixion. They were then attached to the cross and lifted up onto the post. A man named Simon was asked to help Jesus Christ carry His cross (see **Matthew 27:32**).

The Savior said, “My Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me, that as I have been lifted up by men even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works” (3 Nephi 27:14).

He also taught that each of His disciples should “take up his cross” (Matthew 16:24), which means “to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments” (Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 16:26 [in the Bible Appendix]).



# "HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN"

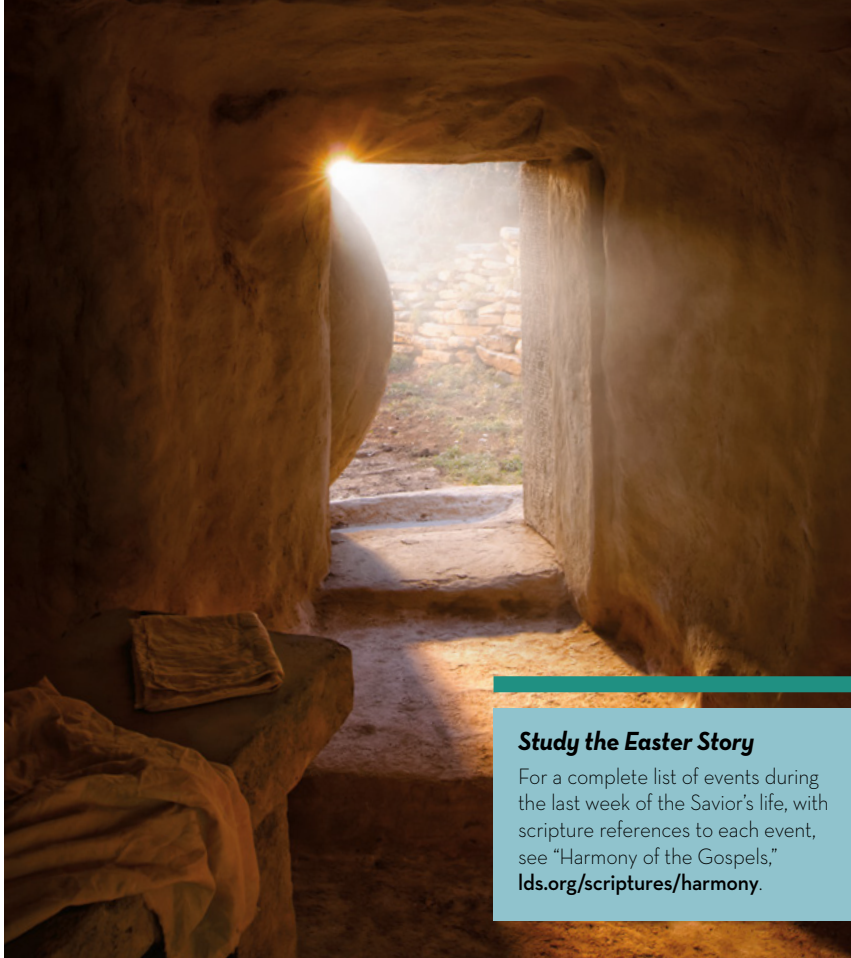
(Luke 24:6).

12

## EMPTY TOMB

See **Matthew 28:1-8**; **John 20:1-18**.

"The empty tomb that first Easter morning was the answer to Job's question, 'If a man die, shall he live again?' [Job 14:14]. To all within the sound of my voice, I declare, If a man die, he shall live again. We know, for we have the light of revealed truth" (President Thomas S. Monson (1927-2018), "He Is Risen," Apr. 2010 general conference).



### Study the Easter Story

For a complete list of events during the last week of the Savior's life, with scripture references to each event, see "Harmony of the Gospels," [lds.org/scriptures/harmony](https://lds.org/scriptures/harmony).



# "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON"

(John 3:16).

If you had to summarize all of Easter in a single word, you might choose the word **love**.

We see the love of God the Father and His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in the central act of the Father's plan, the Savior's atoning sacrifice. The images of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross of Calvary are images of deep and eternal love. **NE**



My name is Alyona, and I live in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

## What if I left?

When I first moved here, there were only two other young women in my branch. We became friends and I got to know them very well. But they stopped going to church.

One time I went to the temple, I saw the mission president. I told him about my friends and asked what I could do to help them return to the Church. He told me to stay where I was, be strong, and to pray for them.

Soon after that, I saw one of the girls, and I was so happy to see her. When I returned home that night, I prayed, and felt strongly that I definitely needed to stay right where I was and keep going to church, keep going to seminary, and keep being an example to my friends. What if I left and never came back and one of my friends returned to church? Who would be their friend and help them return? Things are easier when we do them together.







Adam R., 15, British Columbia, Canada



**Hey,** I'm Adam, and I used to live in Trinidad, but my family lives in Canada now. I really like playing basketball and meeting new people. I think it's important to just be yourself and live what you believe. I have a testimony of the gospel and know that it's true. We will be happiest if we put God first in our lives and remember Him in everything we do.

For more stories from British Columbia and Chicago, go to **@LDSYouth** on Instagram. And send your own photos and testimonies to **newera@ldschurch.org**.



Esteban M., 13, Illinois, USA



**I live** in Chicago and love playing video games and wrestling with my younger brothers. I also really like math (way more than reading) and want to be a bio-fuel engineer. Nephi's courage and obedience inspire me to say no to things that go against God's commandments. I know that if I follow the prophet, obey the commandments, and work hard, Heavenly Father will bless me and my family.



# FUN STOP

## Temple Tracking

Happy birthday to the Church! The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized April 6, 1830, and has been growing ever since. One fun way to track that growth is through the number of temples. The pace for building temples changes over the years, by revelation, but it's always moving forward.

**Test your Church history chops by matching the temple milestones below with the length of time it took to reach each one. Write your answer in the box.** For example, on question 2, you'll pick how long it took to go from 25 to 50 temples (not from 0 to 50).

1. 0 to 25 TEMPLES _____	2. 25 to 50 TEMPLES _____	3. 50 to 75 TEMPLES _____
4. 75 to 100 TEMPLES _____	5. 100 to 125 TEMPLES _____	6. 125 to 150 TEMPLES _____

- |             |              |             |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| A. 3 years  | C. 154 years | E. 8 years  |
| B. 6½ years | D. 7 months  | F. 13 years |

I don't know. Bishop—our Primary lesson was about Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. We did a role-playing reenactment, and then BAM! The walls came tumbling down!



KEVIN BECKSTROM

... And please help us to be more reverent next week than we will be today ...



VAL CHADWICK-BAGLEY

## He Knelt by a Tent



One hot, sunny afternoon in the open desert, after coming back from praying, Lehi finds that a hole has been torn in his favorite tent. He suspects that one of his sons did it, so he asks each of them to tell him what they've been doing for the past hour.

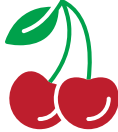


- Nephi says he was practicing with his bow.
- Laman says he was keeping scorpions away from their camp.
- Sam says he was helping his mother get sand out of everyone's clothes.
- And Lemuel says he was with Laman ... doing whatever Laman was doing.

After listening to each of them, Lehi immediately tells Laman and Lemuel to go fix his tent. **How did he know it was them?**



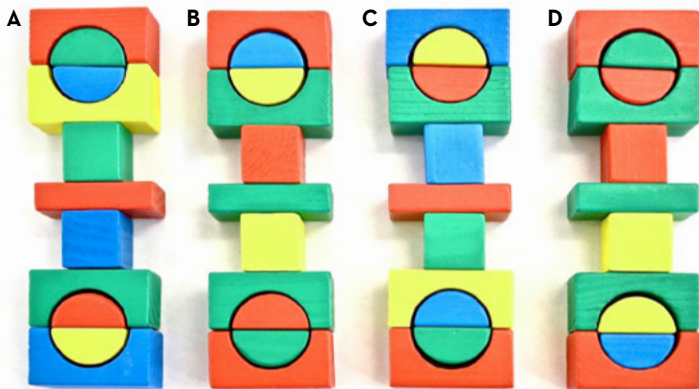
## Crack the Code

Can you solve these terms and phrases hidden in plain sight?

 3.141592653...	<b>CIR</b> spinning <b>CLES</b>	 ( 2 Nephi 5:14 )
B      B M      M U      U H      H T      T	 Ph. D M.D. B.S. D.M.S.	<b>KOOLT'NOD</b> ( Genesis 19:26 )
<b>DON'T</b> <b>GET GET PRAY</b> <b>GET GET PRAY</b>	W      W A L      L K      K	<b>AND T E N T</b> ( 1 Nephi 2:15 )

## Shape Puzzle

Which two block towers are identical? Towers may be flipped upside down for comparison.



Answers on page 29.



# “If I feel like I’m losing my faith, what can I do to regain it?”

*“One of the purposes of the Church is to nurture and cultivate the seed of faith—even in the sometimes sandy soil of doubt and uncertainty. . .*

*“... Please, first doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith.”*

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf,  
Second Counselor in the First  
Presidency, “Come, Join with Us,”  
Oct. 2013 general conference.



## Go to the Scriptures

If I am having a hard time feeling the Spirit, it helps me to go to the scriptures and see the faith that everyone has. It gives me faith. Maybe your prayers have been really short. Try to make them more sincere and Heavenly Father will help you regain your faith.

Chris B., 14, Oregon, USA



## Nourish the Seed of Faith

I know that I can pray to the Father and ask Him to help me maintain the plant of faith that I have growing. I must do the necessary things to nourish it, like read the scriptures, seek out spiritual experiences, count my blessings, and ask for help from my family. That way, my faith can start growing again. It won't happen from one day to the next—it is a process that takes time. I have to have patience and trust in the Lord.

Elías B., 18, Mendoza, Argentina





### Figure It Out Together

When I feel like I'm losing my faith, I talk to my mom and dad, and we figure things out together. Sometimes we sing an uplifting song afterward so that we can feel the Spirit.

*Emmalie C., 15, Colorado, USA*

### Ask Your Parents

In addition to praying directly to Heavenly Father, we can ask our parents how we can return to Him and recover our faith.

*Elías S., 12, Paysandú, Uruguay*

### Pray, Reach Out, and Read

As a person who dwindled in faith, there are three things I did to recover. First, I prayed. Praying for strength and to know what I should do worked well. Second, I told close friends, and they helped me immensely when I needed it. Third, I read scriptures. Many of them relate to faith and can help us regain it.

*Jack J., 14, Florida, USA*

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



## Why does God allow war?

War has been part of the story of mankind on this earth since almost the beginning. But the Lord, the Prince of Peace, does not want us to wage war with one another. He weeps when people choose not to love one another and “are without affection, and . . . hate their own blood” (Moses 7:33), corrupting the earth through violence (see Genesis 6:11–13). Those whose wickedness brings war to the earth will be judged for their actions.

The Lord has commanded His people to “renounce war and proclaim peace” (D&C 98:16). However, when nations do take up arms against each other, the Lord has also said that we are sometimes justified in defending our families, nations, and freedoms against destruction, tyranny, and oppression (see Alma 43:45–47; Alma 46:12–13; D&C 134:11). And Latter-day Saints who serve in their nations’ militaries are upholding the principle of “being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates” (Articles of Faith 1:12).

*For more, see Gordon B. Hinckley, “War and Peace,” Apr. 2003 general conference; “War,” Gospel Topics, [topics.lds.org](https://www.lds.org/topics).*

### Tell Us What You Think

“How can my patriarchal blessing help me make decisions?”

**Send your answer and photo by May 15, 2018.**

Go to [newera.lds.org](https://newera.lds.org), and click “Submit Your Work.” Sign in with your LDS Account and then select “New Era” under “Choose Magazine.” Click “Add File” to select your file and photos, and then click “Submit” to upload and send us your file.

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.

**FUN STOP ANSWERS (from pages 26-27):** Temple Trackings: 1:C, 2:F, 3:A, 4:D, 5:B, 6:E He Kneelt by a Tent: Scorpions are nocturnal. Crack the Code: cherry pie; spinning in circles; sword of Laban; two thumbs up; four degrees below zero; Don't look back; Don't forget to pray; crosswalk; And my father dwell in a tent. Shape Puzzle: A and C





## WHAT DOES “WORTHY” MEAN?

**WHEN I WAS YOUNG**, my family visited the Los Angeles California Temple. I was caught up in its beauty as my father explained that it was the house of the Lord. When he said that I wondered to myself, “Then why are we outside, and not inside with the Lord?” So I left my family and darted for the entrance at full speed. As I reached up to grab the door-knob to the temple, my father stopped me. He said, “Sorry, son, you’ve got to wait until you’re 12 to go in. And you’ll need to make sure you’re worthy at that time.”

From then on, I looked forward to my 12th birthday with great anticipation. I also thought a lot about worthiness. What exactly

“Worthiness is a process,  
and perfection is an eternal trek.”

Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915–1994) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Apr. 1989 general conference.

did worthy mean? Did my father mean my worth? Surely Heavenly Father valued me as His child and wouldn’t deny me any blessing I sought. So what exactly did this mean? I studied it and learned that to be worthy is to be acceptable before the Lord. It didn’t mean being perfect. It meant obeying the Lord’s commandments and repenting if I made a mistake.

I’ll never forget the day I entered the temple. The Spirit filled my heart. Since then, I have been to the temple many times, but I’m still always learning new things every time I go. I believe it’s instructive to look at the life of the Savior and notice that at age 12, He was found preaching in the temple. He could have been anywhere else—but He was in the temple. He knew a place to go to “be about [His] Father’s business” (Luke 2:49). And so can each of us.

**Christopher D., Florida, USA**



### How Can We Be Worthy?

1. Honoring our covenants allows Heavenly Father to bless us for our obedience (see D&C 54:6; Exodus 19:5).
2. Keeping the commandments frees us from the bondage of sin (see Proverbs 4:4).
3. By serving God and our fellowmen, we become more like Him and are filled with love (see D&C 76:6; Galatians 5:13).
4. Being humble and recognizing our mistakes prepares us to repent and turn toward our Savior Jesus Christ (see 3 Nephi 9:20; Moroni 6:8).



# MODESTY SHOUT-OUT

**EVERY YEAR** the eighth graders in my middle school get to choose what their graduation colors, flowers, and theme will be. They also get to decide what the basic style of the girls' and boys' outfits will be so that pictures will look nice and consistent.

My year, when all the girls got together to discuss what style their dresses would be, I was a little nervous. I was concerned about how I could make the other girls understand that I'd chosen not to wear short skirts or spaghetti straps, even if that was the style chosen. I didn't want to ruin the pictures, but I also wouldn't choose to be immodest.

Then something amazing happened. Before I had an opportunity to express my concerns, a girl in my class shouted, "It has to have sleeves and go at least to our knees because Abby needs to dress that way." Before I could blink, everyone decided on short-sleeved, knee-length dresses. I could hardly believe what had happened. I'm so thankful that I've always lived the standards and set a positive example for those around me. Because I chose to dress modestly, others noticed and were respectful of my decision.

**Abby H., California, USA**



## "FATHER, HOW DO YOU SEE ME?"

**FOR YEARS** I had asked Heavenly Father, "How do you see me?" I had struggled with being bullied, going to church, and losing my sick father. It wasn't until I went to be sealed to my family in the temple that I finally got an answer.

Afterward, I was pondering my question when I was suddenly filled with warmth. I looked up into a large mirror and saw one of the most beautiful young women I had ever seen. Her eyes shone, and tears streamed down her rosy cheeks. Her countenance simply glowed. She wore a perfectly white dress.

I was filled with comfort as I felt the Spirit, and I spoke quietly to myself what I now know to be true: "I am a daughter of my Heavenly Father, who loves me. I was created for a divine purpose. I am virtuous and benevolent. I am, and have always been, loved and beautiful."

If you have felt unloved, unwanted, or forgotten, know that you will never be alone. No matter how far we have fallen, no matter what sin we have committed, our Father and Jesus Christ are always there. They love us all individually, and They want us to return to Them. If it weren't for Jesus Christ and His Atonement, loving family and friends, and the temple, I wouldn't have learned these precious truths.

**Renee C., Utah, USA**





# Thankful This Easter Season

By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

*Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

---

*From an April 2015 general conference address.*

At Easter we celebrate the gift of victory over every fall we have ever experienced, every sorrow we have ever known, every discouragement we have ever had, every fear we have ever faced—to say nothing of our resurrection from death and forgiveness for our sins. That victory is available to us because of events that transpired nearly two millennia ago in Jerusalem.

Beginning in the spiritual anguish of the Garden of Gethsemane, moving to the Crucifixion on a cross at Calvary, and concluding on a beautiful Sunday morning inside a donated tomb, a sinless, pure, and holy man, the very Son of God Himself, did what no other deceased person had ever done nor ever could do. Under His own power, He rose from death, never to have His body separated from His spirit again.

That first Easter sequence of Atonement and Resurrection constitutes the most consequential moment, the most generous gift, the most excruciating pain, and the most majestic manifestation of pure love ever to be demonstrated in the history of this world. Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, suffered, died, and rose from death in order that He could grasp us as we fall, hold us with His might, and through our obedience to His commandments, lift us to eternal life.

This Easter I thank Him and the Father, who gave Him to us, that Jesus still stands triumphant over death, although He stands on wounded feet. This Easter I thank Him and the Father, who gave Him to us, that He still extends unending grace, although He extends it with pierced palms and scarred wrists. This Easter I thank Him and the Father, who gave Him to us, that we can sing before a sweat-stained garden, a nail-driven cross, and a gloriously empty tomb:

*How great, how glorious, how complete  
Redemption's grand design,  
Where justice, love, and mercy meet  
In harmony divine!<sup>1</sup>*

#### NOTE

1. "How Great the Wisdom and the Love," *Hymns*, no. 195.





Born  
December 3, 1940, in  
**St. George, Utah**

Worked as a service  
station attendant,  
paperboy, and  
grocery bagger  
in his youth.



Met his wife in high school.  
She was a musician and  
cheerleader; he was a  
student officer  
and played  
sports.



**Elder**

# JEFFREY R. HOLLAND



Married  
**Patricia  
Terry**  
on June 7, 1963,  
in the St. George  
Temple.



Has 3 children and  
13 grandchildren

Ordained  
a member  
of the  
Quorum of  
the Twelve  
Apostles on  
**June 23,  
1994.**



"I have always loved people, and I think  
while growing up I knew everyone in the  
city of St. George," he says.

He was called to serve in the  
**British Mission,**  
and Elder Quentin L. Cook was  
one of his mission companions.  
While he was there, his parents  
were called to the same mission.



Attended  
**Dixie  
College,  
BYU, and  
Yale.**



Taught **Institute.**



Was the ninth  
**President  
of BYU.**

Served as the  
**Church Commissioner  
of Education.**

Served as  
a **bishop**  
of a singles ward.



Was on his high school's state  
championship basketball  
and football teams.



Was voted  
"Outstanding Athlete,"  
lettering in  
**football,  
basketball,  
track,  
and baseball.**

Was co-captain on the  
**Dixie College  
basketball  
team.**

As a young boy, he  
once ran from one end  
of town to the other  
to make it home  
**by his  
curfew.**

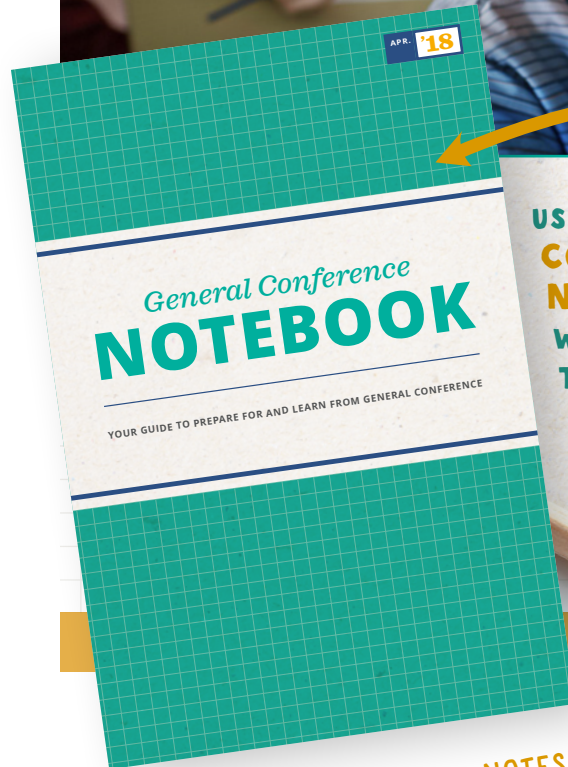


He wanted to be a  
**doctor**  
before his mission,  
but when he came  
home, he knew he  
was supposed to be a  
**teacher.**





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THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

