

JANUARY 2016

# THE **New Era**

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**PRESS FORWARD**

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By Elder  
Quentin L. Cook

Of the Quorum of  
the Twelve Apostles

# JOY IS WITHIN YOUR REACH

*When we have the Spirit, we rejoice in what the Savior has done for us.*

The chorus of one of my favorite hymns entreats, “Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!” (“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” *Hymns*, no. 66). The text of the hymn is taken from Paul’s writings to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The dictionary defines *rejoice* as “to feel joy or great delight.”<sup>1</sup>

The source of the kind of joy which causes us to rejoice is an understanding of the plan of salvation.

Joy comes when we have the Spirit in our lives (see Alma 22:15). When we have the Spirit, we rejoice in what the Savior has done for us.

## How to Have Joy

What do we need to do to have this kind of joy? In addition to attaining saving ordinances and following the living prophet, we need to live in accordance with certain fundamental spiritual principles, such as prayer, scripture study, righteous living, and service to others. It is well understood that if we engage in sinful conduct, we must repent. Let me suggest three other areas or distractions we need to avoid in order to maintain joy and rejoice more fully in the Savior’s gift: (1) avoid distractions which keep us from doing what we ought to do, (2) avoid the magnification of small imperfections, and (3) avoid unfavorable comparisons with others.



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*"What are some of the Saturday Morning Cartoons that distract us from attaining the joy that we desire?"*  
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### **Avoiding Distractions**

We are often unaware of the distractions which push us in a material direction and keep us from a Christ-centered focus. In essence we let celestial goals get side-tracked by telestial distractions. In our family we call these telestial distractions "Saturday Morning Cartoons." Let me explain.

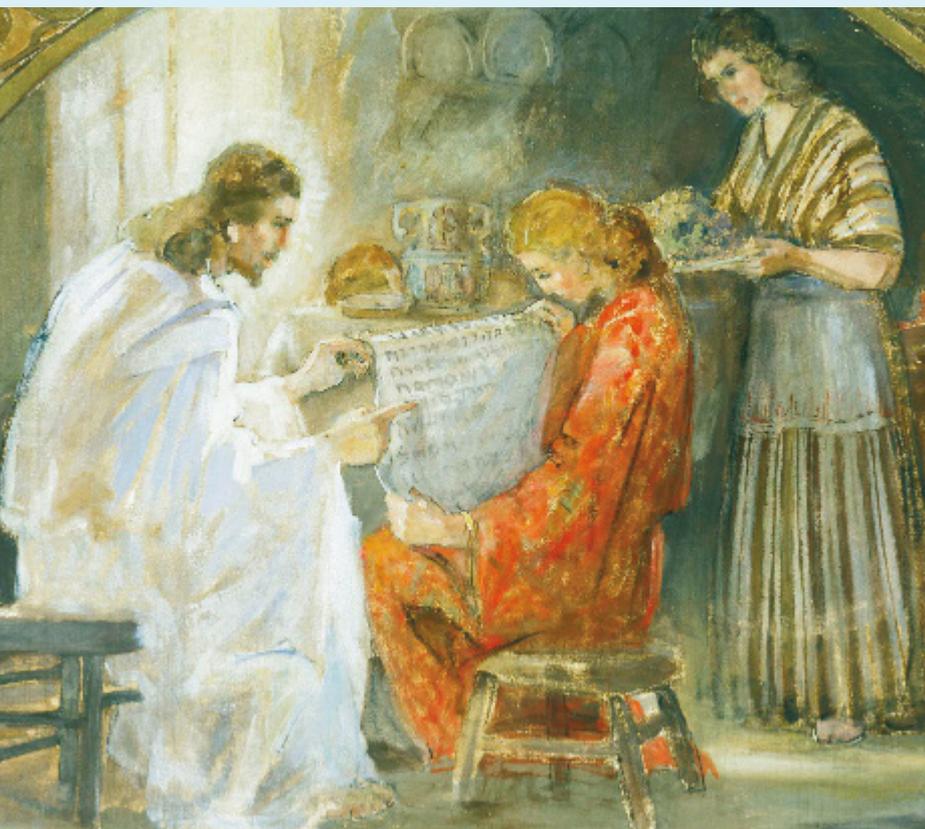
When our son, Larry, was five years old, I asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. He said he wanted to be a doctor like his Uncle Joe. Larry had experienced a serious operation and had acquired great respect for doctors, especially his Uncle Joe. I proceeded to tell Larry how all the worthwhile things he was doing would help prepare him to be a doctor.

Several months later, I asked him again what he would like to be. This time he said he wanted to be an airline pilot. Changing the goal was fine, so I proceeded to explain how his various activities would help him achieve this goal. Almost as an afterthought I said, "Larry, last time we talked you wanted to be a doctor. What has changed your mind?" He answered, "I still like the idea of being a doctor, but I have noticed that Uncle Joe works on Saturday mornings, and I wouldn't want to miss Saturday Morning Cartoons."

Since that time our family has labeled a distraction from a worthwhile goal as a Saturday Morning Cartoon.

What are some of the Saturday Morning Cartoons that distract us from attaining the joy that we desire? Some want to be married in the temple but only date those who do not qualify for a recommend. Others want to be a good home teacher or visiting teacher but are distracted by the constant parade of TV programs, catalogs, and other material maintenance and don't find time to minister to those they are assigned to teach. Still others want to have family prayer but allow little matters to build into discord that make it harder for the family to kneel together. If we examine the reasons we don't do what we ought to do, we find that the list of Saturday Morning Cartoons is almost endless.

The greatest gift to all mankind is the Atonement of Jesus Christ. If we are to rejoice in this gift, we need to avoid the Saturday Morning Cartoons of life which distract our focus from the Savior and the celestial goal for which we strive.



### Don't Focus on Your Imperfections

A second group who do not find joy are distracted by magnifying small areas of imperfection so as to drive out happiness. Some have allowed their own perceptions of imperfection to cloud the reality of their lives. An objective outsider observing them would conclude that they should be joyful. But they do not feel to rejoice. They are like the couple who have been invited to visit a beautiful garden. Instead of celebrating the visual feast, they see only the few wilted flowers and weeds and the relatively small areas which are not beautiful to behold. They do not feel the garden meets their expectations. In like manner, they are unduly critical of themselves and of others. They have become accustomed to exaggerating small imperfections and underestimating great blessings and have lost the capacity to rejoice.

The Savior in Luke mildly cautioned Martha about this approach when she complained that her sister Mary was spending too much time listening to the Savior instead of serving temporal needs. He said, "Martha, Martha, thou art . . . troubled about many things" (Luke 10:41). The Savior then indicated that Mary was focused on what really mattered.

### Don't Compare Yourself

A third area of distraction that can destroy joy is comparing our talents and blessings with others. The growth in our own talents is the best measure of personal progress. In recent years the concept of "personal best" has become widely accepted. This has great merit. Remember we usually judge others



at their best and ourselves at our worst. In the parable of the talents, the servants who received five talents and two talents were praised by the Lord for increasing their talents and told to "enter thou into the joy of thy lord." The servant who was rebuked was the servant who buried the talent given him. (See Matthew 25:14–30.) Comparing blessings is almost certain to drive out joy. We cannot be grateful and envious at the same time. If we truly want to have the Spirit of the Lord and experience joy and happiness, we should rejoice in our blessings and be grateful. We should especially rejoice in the blessings that are available through the temple.

Let us avoid the Saturday Morning Cartoons of life, particularly those that would keep us from the temple. Let us rejoice in the promise that is ours through the Atonement of the Savior and through Christlike living adhere to the counsel of the Psalmist: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). **NE**  
*From an October 1996 general conference address.*

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*"If we truly want to have the Spirit of the Lord . . . , we should rejoice in our blessings and be grateful."*  
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**NOTE**  
1. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (2003), "rejoice."

# DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

By Justina Lichner

**I**t seems everybody always says, “If you only knew how great you are.” Well, the truth is, sometimes you just don’t know how great you are. When we don’t feel like the smartest, the nicest, the best looking, the funniest, or the most talented, our self-assurance seems to disappear.

But think about this: we are all sons and daughters of Heavenly Father. As such, He has given us unique gifts and talents to help us fulfill our divine potential. As we discover these gifts, we are reminded of our divine worth as His children, and we are able to draw closer to Him and help others do the same.

## DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

On the right are nine ideas to help you discover some of your not-so-obvious gifts.

### HELP OTHERS DISCOVER THEIR GIFTS

**W**e see things in others that they may not be able to see in themselves. This week, share those things with a friend or family member. Here are some questions to ask yourself that can help you discover the gifts of others.

1. What is something they’ve done to help you?
2. What do you like about them?
3. What are they good at?
4. What are they trying to get better at?

 Share your experiences at [lds.org/go/shareNE116](https://lds.org/go/shareNE116).

**1. Ask others to let you know.**  
Sometimes we don’t see in ourselves what others can see in us. Ask a friend, relative, or Church leader to write you a note about a gift or talent they see in you.

### 2. Look for gifts in adversity.

During hard times we can choose between letting our best qualities or our worst qualities come out. When times are tough, focus on discovering and using your best qualities and gifts.

### 3. Pray for the help to recognize your gifts.

Heavenly Father knows our divine potential. If we have a difficult time seeing that in ourselves, He can help. You can pray for help to recognize your gifts.

### 4. Don’t be afraid to branch out.

Do we only develop the gifts that we already know we have because we’re too afraid to do something we haven’t done before? Now’s the time to try something new and discover unknown gifts.

## 5. Search the word of God.

Heavenly Father helps us discover and develop our gifts through clues found in the scriptures—usually through invitations to act. Take this scripture for example: “Cease to contend one with another; cease to speak evil one of another” (D&C 136:23). What gifts could you develop from this invitation? The gift of speaking kind words, the gift to calm others, the gift of restraint, and more. And that’s just from one verse!

## 6. Look outside yourself.

Sometimes our best qualities come out when we’re not focusing on ourselves but focusing instead on how we can work with and help others. When we do that, we’ll see that we have many Christlike gifts.

## 7. Think about people you look up to.

Who are some of your role models? You can make a list of all of the gifts your role models have and, instead of focusing on which gifts you don’t have in common, celebrate discovering the ones you do.

## 8. Reflect on your family.

What gifts do you have that your siblings, parents, or grandparents have too? Go further! Research family history, discover stories, and identify even more gifts you share with your family.



## THE DESIRE TO DISCOVER

“I know our Heavenly Father has many gifts and talents that He wishes to bestow upon us, but they ‘are made conditional on our asking for them. Blessings require some work or effort on our part’ (Bible Dictionary, ‘Prayer’).”

Elder Mervyn B. Arnold of the Seventy, “Where Am I? How to Discover and Develop Your Spiritual Gifts and Talents,” *New Era*, Dec. 2014, 37.

## 9. Receive and study your patriarchal blessing.

Your blessing could talk about gifts you have and should develop, and it could also point you to the path that will lead to the discovery of other new gifts and talents.

## BE PERFECTED IN HIM

We don’t have to be the best at everything to know we’re worthwhile children of God. We just need to be dedicated to discovering and developing our gifts and talents—then, through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can become perfect in Him (see Moroni 10:32). **NE**

*Justina Lichner lives in Germany.*



"If they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them."  
Ether 12:27

ILLUSTRATION BY CASEY NELSON

# WILL YOU GIVE A TALK?

*Me? Speak in front of people? At church?*

By Zachary Clifford

When I was 12 years old, my father was in the bishopric. There were benefits, such as being able to give my tithing to my father, but there were also some unexpected downsides. For example, people expected more of me. And there was another downside that was much more treacherous.

One day, as I sat at the computer, typing up an assignment, my father sat down beside me and started asking about my day. Not seeing a trap, I answered his questions. Then, he asked a question no one had ever asked me before.

"Zachary, will you give a talk next Sunday?"

I felt the color drain from my face. I frantically searched for a reason to not be there, but my father knew that I would be. He rambled something about it being a short talk and that I needn't worry, but my mind was moving too quickly to actually comprehend what he was saying.

I had stage fright. How could I give a talk? I had never given a public speech outside of the Primary

room! Tears welled up as I felt the weight of a seemingly impossible task. My father wrapped his arms around me and told me that if I was too scared, I didn't have to do it.

However, just then, I began to feel something that I had never felt, or maybe never noticed, before. All of a sudden, I had a small glimpse of myself, slightly older, giving a powerful speech in front of a large crowd. I felt the Spirit whisper that one day, I would have no stage fright and could become a public speaker.

Three years later, I was at my first speech and debate meet. I confidently gave a persuasive and powerful speech convincing people to vote for me.

God knows us. He knows our weaknesses and he knows our strengths. I know that the promise in Ether is true: If we simply believe, and act on that belief, God will turn our weakness into strength (see Ether 12:27). **NE**

*Zachary Clifford is currently serving in the Arizona Tempe Mission.*



# PRESS FORWARD

WITH A STEADFASTNESS IN CHRIST.  
2 NEPHI 31:20

# PRESS FORWARD

## WITH A STEADFASTNESS IN CHRIST

*“Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life” (2 Nephi 31:20).*

### BLESSINGS OF PRESSING FORWARD

By the Young Men General Presidency

Living as a faithful member of the Church brings amazing blessings. But that doesn't mean life won't occasionally be hard. Temptations, friends who are untrue, family challenges, you name it. A lot of things will try and pull you away from the covenant path.

That's why this year's Mutual theme, “press forward with a steadfastness in Christ” (2 Nephi 31:20), holds such a powerful message. When you press forward with steadfastness in Christ,

staying true to your covenants, God can do marvelous things for you and through you. And He can help you feel hope, comfort, and peace at the same time.

It's something the Prophet Joseph Smith knew very well. He was just 14 when he experienced the First Vision. As he knelt to pray in the Sacred



Stephen W. Owen, president (center); Douglas D. Holmes, first counselor (left); M. Joseph Brough, second counselor (right)

Grove, he was attacked by an unseen force of such incredible power that it threatened to destroy him. Only by exerting all his power to call on God was he rescued and received the visit from the Father and the Son.

Later, when Joseph shared his experience, he was ridiculed by friends and local leaders (see Joseph Smith—History 1:15–17, 21–26). That persecution never stopped and eventually took his life 24 years later.

But Joseph pressed forward with hope, and he was happy to do so in the service of the Lord. As he remained steadfast in



BAPTISM



SACRAMENT



PRIESTHOOD

Christ and exercised faith to do what was right, God blessed and supported him. And He will do the same for you.

So press forward. Commit to live the gospel. Keep your eyes firmly fixed on the Savior. Have “a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men.” “[Feast] upon the word of Christ.” Serve under the direction of the priesthood. Seek to be what God wants you to be.

As you press forward, making and keeping covenants on the path to eternal life, we testify you will find happiness. **NE**

## GOING FORWARD

By the Young Women General Presidency

**H**ave you thought about where you are headed and where you want to end up? The Mutual theme for 2016 is 2 Nephi 31:20, and this one verse gives you seven points of counsel about your direction in life.

In it you will discover the divinely commanded *direction, action, attitude, learning, and promised reward* for your effort. Let’s look at some key words in this verse.

To **press forward** implies that you are being required to make a real effort against some opposing force. We have to put forth energy to live the gospel because we are surrounded by a world of opposition to the commandments of God.

Are you **steadfast** in Christ? Are you immovable in your loyalty to Him?

If you “abide in Him” (see John 15:4) and follow His teachings, then you are truly steadfast and blessings will surely come to you.



Bonnie L. Oscarson, president (center);  
Carol F. McConkie, first counselor (left);  
Neill F. Marriott, second counselor (right)

Your **hope and love of God and man** increase as you understand and feel God’s love personally. This understanding grows as you **feast upon the words of Christ**, that is, as you gratefully and purposefully apply the words of Christ to your personal life.

And finally, you must **endure!** Does that sound dreary and grinding? Actually, to *endure* can mean to continue on with the good you are doing—to be constant in your effort to press on. When you steadily stay on the gospel path, you are enduring.

Is it worth it? YES! Our loving Father in Heaven wants us to come back to Him, to have **eternal life** with Him because He knows that is where we will have true, lasting happiness and joy beyond what we can now imagine. That is why in 2 Nephi 31:20, He has spelled out so clearly and specifically what it takes to return to Him. We can do this with His help. He will always prepare the way for us to do what He commands. **NE**

TEMPLE  
ENDOWMENT

TEMPLE  
MARRIAGE

# 2 Nephi 31:20

*This year's Mutual theme helps us see how we can move forward while standing firm.*



## ENDURE TO THE END

“The test a loving God has set before us is not to see if we can endure difficulty. It is to see if we can endure it well. We pass the test by showing that we remembered Him and the commandments He gave us.”

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “In the Strength of the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 2004, 17.

## YE SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, the Father has promised us eternal life—to become like Him—if we do certain things. Here are some scriptures that mention a few of those things:

- John 3:15; 6:54
- Moroni 7:47
- Doctrine and Covenants 5:22; 101:38; 133:62
- Moses 6:59



## FEASTING UPON THE WORD OF CHRIST

“To feast means more than to taste. To feast means to savor.

We savor the scriptures by studying them in a spirit of delightful discovery and faithful obedience. When we feast upon the words of Christ, they . . . become an integral part of our nature.”

President Russell M. Nelson, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Living by Scriptural Guidance,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 17.

20 Wherefore, ye must press forward with a <sup>a</sup>steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of <sup>b</sup>hope, and a <sup>c</sup>love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and <sup>d</sup>endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have <sup>e</sup>eternal life.

## A LOVE OF GOD AND OF ALL MEN

“A love of God and of all men” covers both of the two great commandments (see Matthew 22:37–40). Another word for this kind of love might be *charity*, or the pure love of Christ (see Moroni 7:47).



## PERFECT BRIGHTNESS OF HOPE

“While weak hope leaves us at the mercy of our moods and events, ‘brightness of hope’ produces illuminated individuals. Their luminosity is seen, and things are also seen by it! . . . Sometimes in the deepest darkness there is no external light—only an inner light to guide and to reassure.”

Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Brightness of Hope,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 35.

## PRESS FORWARD

What do you need to do while you press forward on the path to eternal life? Read what the people in Lehi’s vision of the tree of life did (see 1 Nephi 8:30). Can you think of other examples from the scriptures?

## STEADFASTNESS IN CHRIST

Steadfastness means standing firm, not moving. Steadfastness in Christ means unwavering faith in Him and obedience to His commandments, including receiving ordinances and making and keeping covenants.

*Editors’ note: This page is not meant to be a comprehensive explanation of the selected seminary scripture mastery verse, only a starting point for your own study.*

"Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life." —2 Nephi 31:20

# MUTUAL THEME ALL YEAR LONG 2016

YOU CAN TIE THIS YEAR'S MUTUAL THEME INTO COME, FOLLOW ME LESSONS. WATCH FOR NEW CONTENT MONTHLY.

## JAN THE GODHEAD

God wants me back  
and has provided  
a way.  
My part is to  
press forward.

## FEB THE PLAN OF SALVATION

By making daily  
decisions with  
an eternal perspective,  
I am pressing forward  
toward eternal life.

## MAR THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

Every day is a test.  
Because of His  
Atonement, Jesus Christ  
can strengthen me to  
press forward  
through anything.

## APR THE APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

The events of the  
Restoration illustrate  
pressing forward  
with steadfastness in  
Christ.

## MAY PROPHETS AND REVELATION

Press forward  
feasting upon the  
word of Christ.

## JUN PRIESTHOOD AND PRIESTHOOD KEYS

Understanding the  
work of the priesthood  
increases my  
love of God  
and of others.

## JUL ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS

I press forward  
by making and  
keeping covenants  
with God.

## AUG MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

God gave us  
families to help us  
press forward  
through the  
challenges of life.

## SEPT COMMANDMENTS

Commandments  
are the path  
to being happy and  
becoming like  
our Heavenly  
Father.

## OCT BECOMING MORE CHRISTLIKE

Enduring the  
challenges of life  
can be easier as  
I become more like  
Jesus Christ.

## NOV SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL SELF-RELIANCE

The more self-reliant  
I become,  
the greater is my resolve  
to press forward.

## DEC BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE LATTER DAYS

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press forward  
alone.

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you can use at church, in  
seminary, in family home evening,  
and on your own.

2016 MUTUAL THEME

PHOTOGRAPH BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN

# God Wants

**I**magine the deepest, darkest forest you can think of. We're talking centuries-old, gnarled trees covered in thick moss. All but the thinnest rays of sunlight would be blocked by the dense canopy of branches above. The forest floor would remain so hidden in such tangled undergrowth that there's no chance of seeing a trail.

Can you picture it?

Now pretend this foreboding forest stretches for miles on end and you need to find your way through—alone—without compass, guide, map, or trail.

Does *life* ever feel like that? In particular, does your spiritual journey back to God ever feel like that?

## You Matter

The adversary wants you to believe that you're utterly unimportant. Invisible. Not worth anyone's time or attention, and certainly not worth anything to God. You're just another piece of brush hidden in a huge, dense, dark forest.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, has taught, "While we may look at the vast expanse of the universe and say, 'What is man in comparison to the glory of creation?' God Himself said we are the reason He created the universe! . . . This is a paradox of man: compared to God, man is nothing; yet we are everything to God."<sup>1</sup>

Everything! Can you imagine?

Life's journey might feel at times like a walk through the darkness and tangles of dense woods,

# You Back

but you're never alone and you're certainly never without access to help. God is your Father. He loves you. He wants you back.

## He Gave Us Everything We Need

Just ponder for a moment on all that God has given us. When you were baptized, you received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Each week in sacrament we hear the phrase, "that they may *always* have his Spirit to be with them" (D&C 20:77, emphasis added).

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, has taught, "To always have the Spirit with us is to have the guidance and direction of the Holy Ghost in our daily lives."<sup>2</sup>

When you leave the house each day, remember that promise!

God has also given us prophets, apostles, and other leaders whose words blast through the false teachings of the world and inspire us with truth and hope.

Think of the specific people God has placed in your life. Remember the countless times when somebody showed up exactly when you needed a helping hand or a kind word, comforting you when you were down or making you laugh when laughter seemed impossible. Those tender mercies aren't coincidences. They're evidence of your Father helping you along the path back.<sup>3</sup>

He has created a plan to bring you home and is willing to "*lead thee by the hand*" (D&C 112:10). Our job is to take His hand and press forward.

## What Is Our Part?

Sometimes you may hear motivational speakers, athletic trainers, and advertisers try to pump you up by

conjuring images of strapping on shoes, leaping out of bed before dawn, and tackling the world with nothing but our grit and determination. And certainly there will be times when digging down deep will be necessary to press forward through the challenges of life.

However, notice that the 2016 Mutual theme doesn't just say "press forward." Rather, we need to "press forward with a steadfastness in Christ" (2 Nephi 31:20).

On our own we simply can't make it. It's only as we follow Christ, rely on Christ, and commit to Christ that we can find strength and success in our journey.

## One Step at a Time

When we recognize all that God does to help us, when we understand how much He wants us to return to live with Him, and as we press forward and center our lives in Christ, we have all we need. We can successfully pass through the roughest stretches this life has to offer.

"Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life" (2 Nephi 31:20).

If your journey ever feels like one wrong turn after another through dark and twisted trees, know now that the way through is always available to you.

Simply turn to God, let Him lead you, and press

### NOTES

1. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "You Matter to Him," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 20.
2. Henry B. Eyring, "The Holy Ghost as Your Companion," *Ensign*, Nov. 2015, 104.
3. See David A. Bednar, "The Tender Mercies of the Lord," *Ensign*, May 2005, 99–101.



### How Do You Press Forward?

Facing challenges? Find ideas for strength at [pressforward.lds.org](http://pressforward.lds.org). Share ideas at [lds.org/go/pressforwardNE116](http://lds.org/go/pressforwardNE116).

**PRESSING  
FORWARD:**  
*IT'S ALL  
WORTH IT*

&





Noelle Bybee, who performed the song “Press Forward” for this year’s Mutual Theme

**N**oelle Bybee is a high school student who’s seen great success as a young artist. This year, she is singing the Mutual theme song “Press Forward.” Noelle sat down with the *New Era* to talk about her passion for music and love of the gospel.

*What can you tell us about the “Press Forward” song?*

I love it! When I first heard it, I got the chills. It was so cool, and I was so excited when I found out I was going to be able to sing it. I just loved it and how it applied to my life. I heard it right at a time where I needed it. I was doing what I was supposed to, but sometimes I didn’t see the positive results from it that I expected. The song reminded me to keep pressing forward, keep doing what I was supposed to be doing, because it will be worth it in the end.

*Oh? What happened?*

I was in a show, and as far as I know, I was the only LDS person there. A lot of times the cast members questioned my faith, and I was seeing them live their lives so normally. I had always thought I was happy because I had gospel things in my life like prayer and scripture study, but when I realized that these people were living life the easy way and seemed to be happy anyway, without doing all of those things, I felt like, “Hey, I don’t need to do all of this either.” But after one morning of not saying a prayer, I realized how much it affected my day. I was so reassured, knowing that I was doing exactly what I was supposed to and that I was shining my light so others could see it.

*Have you grown closer to Jesus Christ just by doing those regular things?*

Yes, definitely. I feel so much closer to Him than I have before, because I talk to Heavenly Father in His name every day. I’ve gained that relationship, just like a regular friend.

*What was one experience you had on the show that illustrates how you had to live your faith?*

There was one time where a group of teenagers wanted to go to a party and I thought, “Oh fun! Dancing and stuff!” But then I realized what they meant by it—drinking and stuff—and I felt sick to my stomach, because I’d already committed to going. What could I say? I really struggled with that. After worrying about it for a while, I realized what I had committed to, and I apologized to all of them. I just said that that’s not who I am and that’s not what I do, and I was just going to have to pass on this one. And it’s cool, because I actually just had a really close friend who found it really cool that I did that. He asked me a lot more about the Church, and he actually got baptized this last summer! It shows that good can come from standing up for what you believe in.

*That’s awesome! Any last thoughts?*

Hopefully the youth will feel the spirit of this song and realize everyone’s worth. I want them to know just how much Heavenly Father loves them and of how much worth they are to Him. Times can be hard, but we can keep pressing forward, because it’s going to all be worth it in the end—God loves us so much. It’s all worth it. **NE**

### Free Music Downloads

You can find the youth theme song, “Press Forward,” as well as all of the other songs on the youth album, at [lds.org/go/Mutual2016](https://lds.org/go/Mutual2016).

RECOVERING **My**  
SPIRITUAL  
CONFIDENCE



I KNEW THE CHURCH WAS TRUE,  
BUT ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10,  
MY SPIRITUAL CONFIDENCE WAS AT A -50.  
WHAT HAD HAPPENED?

# NICE

By Sarah Anderson

I can't remember the exact day I crumbled, but I do remember how I felt. I was sitting in seminary. For some reason, I didn't want to raise my hand to answer a question. Pretty soon, I didn't feel I knew the answers, whether in seminary, Sunday school, or Young Women meetings. Suddenly, I had no confidence in my knowledge of the gospel.

I still knew the Church was true, but I felt I was doing something wrong. I judged myself harshly and didn't feel worthy to pray. I started to panic. I felt horrible inside, all the time. It was like I was sick and hadn't the slightest idea what the cure was, because I didn't know what was wrong. I hadn't committed any serious sin or transgression, and my

senior year of high school had started off really great. So what in the world was the matter with me?

These feelings continued for a couple of months, and before I knew it, it was time for October 2014 general conference. I was looking forward to my mother's October conference chili with corn chips, but my mind was all over the place. One of my teachers at church had challenged us to write out questions we were seeking answers for and to then listen for the answers in conference. Ten minutes before the Saturday morning session was to begin, I finally sat down with my computer and started typing up questions I had. I still felt sick and still didn't know why.

Conference began, and just as I had for the previous few years, I paid attention to the speakers and took notes, but I still didn't know what I was looking for.

During the hymn halfway through the Saturday afternoon session, Mom got the chili out and Dad and I got up to fill our bowls, pile on the corn chips, and get back to the couch before the song ended. For some reason I was hesitant to get up, but I was hungry. In the kitchen, as I contemplated the right chili-to-corn chip ratio, I felt like I needed to go back. I quickly grabbed a bowl and was about to get a spoon when I felt as though the Holy Ghost jolted me and said, "Sit down on the couch." I dropped my bowl on the counter and got to the couch in two strides. I pulled my laptop onto my lap just as Elder Klebingat began speaking.

His first sentence: "On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your spiritual confidence before God?"<sup>1</sup>

My jaw dropped. Elder Klebingat was through the first paragraph of his talk before I actually digested the fact that he was saying exactly what I needed to hear. Stunned, I vigorously began typing notes on my computer. Elder Klebingat had accurately diagnosed me: my spiritual confidence was a -50. Then he proceeded to prescribe a cure for my sickness.





“NOW I REALIZE THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS GOSPEL IS TRUE BECAUSE I HAVE TESTED IT. I HAVE TRUSTED IT. AND BY SO DOING, I OPENED MY HEART TO HEAVENLY FATHER.”

The Lord was the only one who knew what I needed, and He was the only one who knew when Elder Klebingat would be speaking (at the precise moment my corn chips would be calling to me). I am so glad I sat down and listened.

So, now that I was on the road to recovering my spiritual confidence, I had a new question: why had my spiritual confidence crumbled in the first place? I had seen a teaser on a website about how a dark chapter in my nation became a time to reinvent itself. How can a dark time bring about rejuvenation? It seemed a little paradoxical, but it brought to mind a scripture from Ether 12:27: “And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in

me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.”

Hmm. “Weak things become strong.” OK, I’m seeing a pattern here.

I hadn’t seen this time of spiritual panic coming. I had been scared and hadn’t known what was going on or how to fix it. But because of Elder Klebingat’s diagnosis and prescribed cure, I now study my scriptures for 30 minutes every day. I am expanding my knowledge of the Savior’s Atonement, and I see trials and challenges in a completely different light. As Elder Klebingat said in his talk:

“When these trials come, the adversary’s minions begin broadcasting that you did something wrong, that this is a punishment, a sign that Heavenly Father does not love you. Ignore that! Instead, try to force a smile, gaze heavenward, and say, ‘I understand, Lord. I know what this is. A time to prove myself, isn’t it?’ Then partner with Him to endure well to the end. Spiritual confidence increases when you accept that often trials and tribulations are allowed to come into [your life] because of what [you] are doing right.”<sup>2</sup>

Before this experience I felt like I knew the gospel. But now I realize that I understand that this gospel is true because I have tested it. I have trusted it. And by so doing, I opened my heart to Heavenly Father. He has kept His promises: He has “manifest[ed] the truth of it unto [me] by the power of the Holy Ghost” (Moroni 10:4). I know Heavenly Father has a plan for me. I know He has a plan for you. Don’t be afraid to find out what it is. **NE**

*Sarah Anderson lives in Texas, USA.*

#### NOTES

1. Jörg Klebingat, “Approaching the Throne of God with Confidence,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 34, [conference.lds.org](http://conference.lds.org).
2. Jörg Klebingat, “Approaching the Throne of God with Confidence,” 36–37.

7  
THINGS  
TO DO

# When Your FAITH IS CHALLENGED



Start with what you know.



Put it in the perspective  
of God's plan of salvation.



Invite the Spirit with  
a sincere heart.



Determine the doctrine  
that your question is tied to.



Be willing to wait.



Ask with humility and a willingness  
to act on what you learn.



Talk with a parent  
or leader you trust.



 **More Online**  
Learn more about  
these seven ideas at  
[lds.org/go/ideasNE116](https://lds.org/go/ideasNE116).

# WALKING the Lonely Road TO CHURCH

*Why was walking  
eight blocks to church  
so hard?*

By Sydney L. Spackman

Studying abroad had always been a dream of mine, so when the opportunity came to study Spanish in Chile, I packed up my bags and flew 12 hours to stay with a Chilean family and attend school there. Morgan,\* a girl I met in Chile, was also in the same Spanish program and the only



*Streets in Chile often flood because of heavy rain.*

other member of the Church I knew. We instantly became good friends and made plans to attend church the following Sunday morning.

I set my alarm for 8:30 a.m. that Sunday and texted Morgan to make sure she was awake. I started getting ready for church, but even as 9:00 rolled around, I hadn't heard from Morgan. My heart slowly sank. I sat on my bed and thought, do I go alone? I felt scared. I was in a place I barely knew, I spoke minimal Spanish, I didn't know anyone who would be at church, and I would have to walk eight blocks in cold rain. To make matters even harder, my Chilean family wasn't LDS, and they were still asleep.

Once 9:30 passed, I figured I wasn't going to hear from Morgan after all. But I still felt too nervous to go by myself.

10 o'clock came—the time church started—and by now I was sitting on

my bed, having changed back into my pajama pants to keep me warm from the Chilean winter air. Not knowing what else to do—and wanting to feel the Spirit—I pulled out my laptop to watch *Mormon Messages* videos.

I was really touched by the second one I watched: “Dare to Stand Alone,” with a story from President Thomas S. Monson.

In this short clip, President Monson described his experience at Navy boot camp. On his first Sunday afternoon there, the chief petty officer directed them where to attend their churches. He sent the Catholics to one building, the Jews to another, and the Protestants to yet another. President Monson didn’t know where to go, since he was not any of those religions, so he just stood his ground feeling completely alone. “Courageous and determined, yes—but alone,” he said.



Welcome sign at the place where I attended church while in Chile.

The officer came up to him and asked, “And just what do you guys call yourselves?” It wasn’t until then that President Monson realized there were other men behind him. Almost in unison they said, “Mormons, sir!”



View of Valparaíso.

As I saw that, I realized I wasn’t being courageous enough to dare to stand alone.

I was afraid to go to church because I was by myself. As that realization sank in, I threw on my skirt and ate a speedy breakfast. I pulled on my yellow rain boots, packed my church shoes in my purse, and marched off to church just like President Monson. The whole time I walked to church, I wondered how I was brave enough to travel 5,728 miles away from my family and friends, live with a foreign family, speak a foreign language, and yet not be brave enough to walk eight blocks alone to church.

Going to church in Chile was an incredible experience. The members

Me at the Church complex that includes the mission home, institute of religion, and the chapel in Viña del Mar.



took me under their wing from the very first day, making sure I felt welcomed and loved. They were so kind and found ways to include me in their lives, including teaching me how to make Chilean dishes and inviting me to clean the church with them on a Saturday morning.



My Chilean family, who are also my friends.

I learned that through the gospel we have family everywhere. No matter where we go in this world, we’ll always have a place to go that we can call



A close-up photo of Valparaíso with its colorful houses, which are often made out of used ship metal.

home, with people who will change our lives forever. We may not speak the same language, wear the same clothes, or have the same customs, but we do have one heart to love each other. **NE** Sydney L. Spackman lives in Utah, USA.

\* Name has been changed.

# Learning of Heavenly Father:

## A STUDY OF EPIC PROPORTIONS

**Y**ou pray to Heavenly Father, but have you ever wondered what He's like? or why in the world He helped you find your lost keys the other day? or how well He knows you? or how He communicates with you? Luckily, it's never too late to learn more about God. Now is your chance to begin a scripture study of epic proportions, where you'll learn exactly why the God of the universe—with many billions of spirit children—thinks about you.

But it can be tough starting epic things, so let this flowchart help get you going. Each day you can pick a question on the chart. As you follow the steps and answer the questions, try to think about your relationship with Heavenly Father. Think about His role in your life and ask yourself what you could do to draw closer to Him. **NE**

### SUNDAY LESSONS

This Month's Topic:  
The Godhead

What is God even like?

Matthew 7:9-11  
1 John 1:5  
Ether 3:12

How are Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ the same but different?

John 3:16, 35

John 17:20-23

Mormon 7:5-7

### MEANINGFUL TIME WITH HIM



"To strengthen our relationship with God, we need some meaningful time alone with Him. Quietly focusing on daily personal prayer and scripture study, always aiming to be worthy of a current temple recommend—these will be some wise investments of our time and efforts to draw closer to our Heavenly Father. Let us heed the invitation in Psalms: 'Be still, and know that I am God' [Psalm 46:10]."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "Of Things That Matter Most," *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 21.

Which words stood out to you? Were any words repeated? Look them up in the dictionary or the Bible Dictionary.

Prepare a family home evening lesson about what you learned.

**How can I get to know Heavenly Father?**

John 14:6-9  
1 John 4:7  
Alma 30:44  
Doctrine & Covenants 132:22-24

Do a search on LDS.org for any key words you found in the scriptures. Visit [lds.org/media-library](http://lds.org/media-library) to watch a video on the topic.

**There are billions of people on the earth! How can Heavenly Father possibly know me?**

1 Samuel 16:7

Luke 12:6-7

Doctrine & Covenants 93:23

What is the main idea in each scripture? Try to summarize it in fewer than five words.

**We're told to talk to Heavenly Father in prayer. But how does Heavenly Father talk to me?**

Doctrine & Covenants 1:38  
Doctrine & Covenants 8:2-3  
Doctrine & Covenants 9:8-9

How do you talk to God? What could you change as a result of what you've learned?

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

### THINGS TO PONDER FOR SUNDAY

- When has your relationship with your Heavenly Father helped you?
- How is your life more hopeful with the knowledge of your divine nature and relationship with God?

### THINGS YOU MIGHT DO

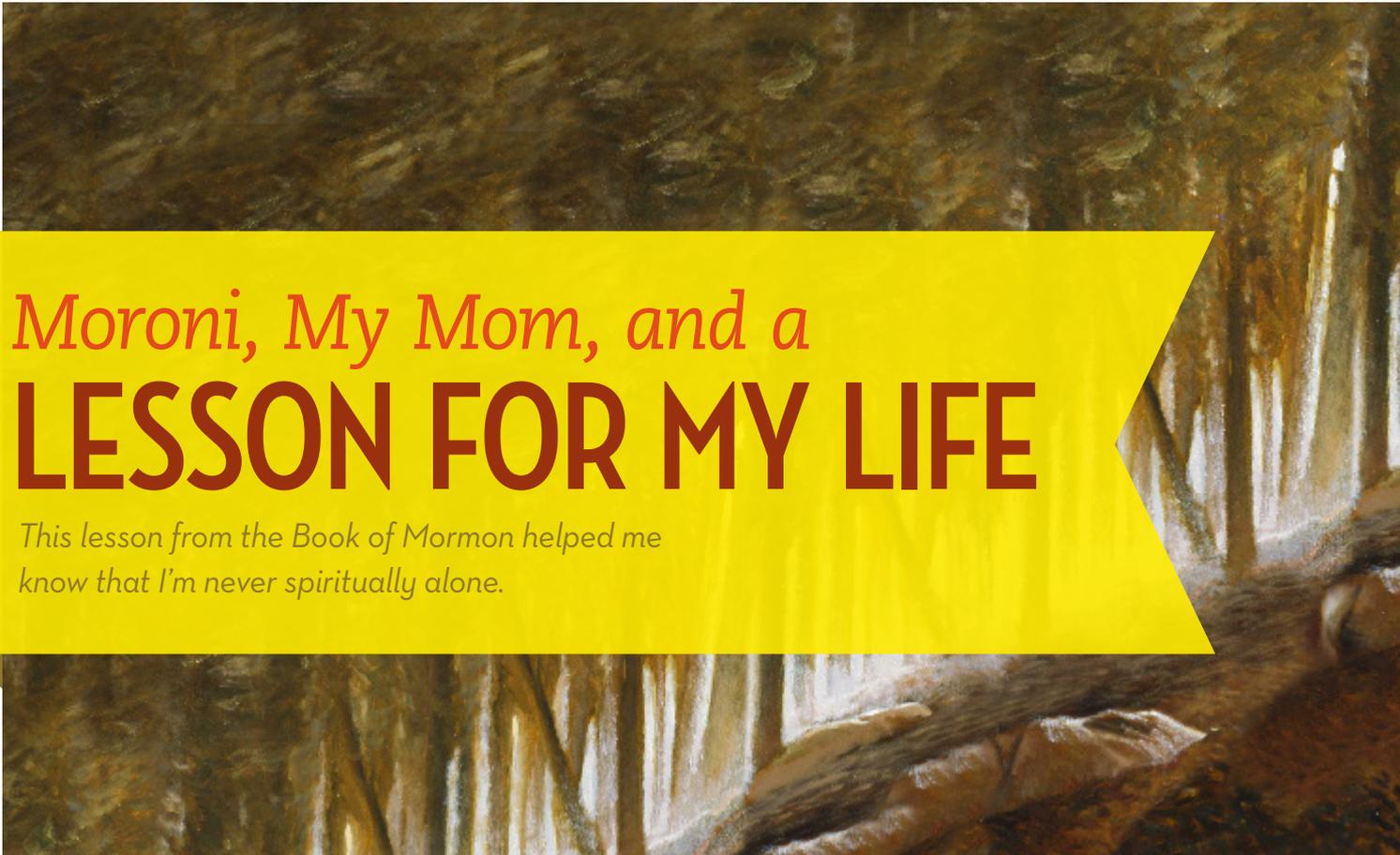
- Study one or two of the questions and finish the activities on the flowchart this week.
- Share your feelings about your relationships with the members of the Godhead at [lds.org/go/knowNE116](http://lds.org/go/knowNE116).

Do you have another question about Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Ghost?

Write it down and use it for future scripture studies after your flowchart questions run out.

And don't forget that you can always use resources like the Guide to the Scriptures, *True to the Faith*, and *Preach My Gospel* to learn more about what you're studying!





# Moroni, My Mom, and a LESSON FOR MY LIFE

*This lesson from the Book of Mormon helped me know that I'm never spiritually alone.*

By Louisa Hoe

**M**any things changed for me the year I turned 17. I was advancing to a new school and moving on to my third year of seminary. Not only that, but I also had a new seminary teacher: my mom.

Did I mention I was the only student in her class? Since the school I was going to attend was an hour's train ride from where I lived, my mother decided to teach me early-morning seminary at home so I would be able to reach school on time. I was fortunate to have her teach me every day, but it was also a little nerve-racking. I had to give her my fullest attention, which was especially a struggle at 5:30 in the morning.

When we were studying the Book of Mormon, we came to Moroni, a prophet I really admire. However, I've always wondered: Why was Moroni alone? Why didn't Heavenly Father send someone to

accompany him? Why didn't he complain when the Lord left him all alone to finish the Book of Mormon?

My mother explained that because of his righteousness and



## HOME: THE GOSPEL-LEARNING WORKSHOP

"One place where we best seek to be filled with light and truth is in our own homes. . . . Families are the Lord's workshop on earth to help us learn and live the gospel. We come into our families with a sacred duty to help strengthen each other spiritually.

"Strong eternal families and Spirit-filled homes do not just happen. They take great effort, they take time, and they take each member of the family doing his or her part. Every home is different, but every home where even one individual seeks for truth can make a difference."

Cheryl A. Esplin, first counselor in the Primary general presidency, "Filling Our Homes with Light and Truth," *Ensign*, May 2015, 8.



faith in Heavenly Father, Moroni knew that he was not alone. He had Heavenly Father and Jesus

the companionship of the Holy Ghost, who helps me feel closer to my Heavenly Father and Jesus

*Moroni knew that he was not alone. . . . He knew that Heavenly Father would never leave his side.*

Christ to help him complete the Book of Mormon. I realized then that Moroni didn't need anyone to be physically there because he knew that someone was spiritually there, watching over him. He knew that Heavenly Father would never leave his side.

That had a huge impact on me. I now know that whenever I think I'm alone, I'm not spiritually alone since I have

Christ. I know that as long as I have faith and trust in the Lord, I will never walk alone.

This particular lesson made an impact on my faith and my testimony of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Although I was worried about having seminary at home, I'm now grateful because it has given me special learning experiences with my mom. **NE**  
*Louisa Hoe lives in Singapore.*



**Record spiritual promptings.**

Writing down your impressions can help you be more spiritually aware, including after you've prayed, read the scriptures, or participated in family home evening.



**Share what you learn** from seminary, church, your scripture study, or even ideas from your daily life.

Sharing insights strengthens others.



**Prepare for family home evening.**

For example, you might ask your parents for an assignment, or your family might agree to have everyone read a general conference talk or a chapter of scripture and discuss it together at your next home evening.



**Learn from everyday life.** What situations require you to exercise faith? What opportunities do you

have to keep your covenants? How do the things around you testify of Christ?

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ABOUT LEARNING THE GOSPEL?

"Apply thine heart to understanding." —Proverbs 2:2

"The Spirit of truth . . . will guide you into all truth."  
—John 16:13

"Learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God." —Alma 37:35

"Seek learning, even by study and also by faith."  
—Doctrine and Covenants 88:118

By Schantell Remington

was 13 when I found myself faced with what I felt was a no-win scenario. I had been friends with this girl for a few months. She was not a member of the Church, nor did she share all of our values of always striving to be Christlike. She preferred to settle her disagreements with her fists. During lunch that day, I had been sitting quietly, listening to the conversation around me. Then my friend suddenly started bad-mouthing another friend of mine. This other friend I knew to be a nice, polite girl, who always tried to treat everyone kindly. My heart started to pound, sounding in my ears. I knew it wasn't right for me to sit there and say nothing, so I spoke.

"You want to take this outside?" my friend asked, challenging me to a fight.

"Please don't talk about her like that."  
My friend glared at me. "I can talk about her if I want," she responded.  
"I'm asking you not to," I said a little louder.  
That's when she stood—face flushed and eyes wide. "You want to take this outside?" she snarled.  
There I sat, unsure of how to keep one friend while defending another, who I knew didn't deserve to have her reputation slandered.

I remember a story about Joseph Smith, who found himself in a more severe situation. It was 1838 when he was visiting his mother, Lucy Mack Smith, in Far West. A group of armed militiamen came to him, enraged, believing Joseph to have committed a crime they felt was worthy of death.

When they came upon him, Joseph reached out and shook each one of their hands, giving them a friendly smile. Then he sat down and explained to them the beliefs of the Church and the

# FACING a Friend's



# FISTS

members' mistreatment. The militiamen were so shocked by his unusual behavior that not one of them wanted to harm Joseph.<sup>1</sup> They had come to falsely accuse and then kill Joseph, but he treated them as friends rather than foes. I stood up to meet my friend's eyes, praying that Heavenly Father would help me be a peacemaker.

I spoke calmly but sincerely. "You're my friend," I told her, "and it hurts me to hear you talk badly about another friend I care about." That was all it took. The wrinkles between her brows disappeared and her eyes softened. She shrugged, "Fine." Then, she sat back down.

That may not have been our last disagreement, but that was the last time she ever wanted to fight me. I learned then that treating others as friends and fellow sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father is the right thing to do,

no matter the situation. And I'm grateful for the example that our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Prophet Joseph Smith set for me so that I could learn this for myself. **NE**  
*Schantell Remington lives in Arizona, USA.*

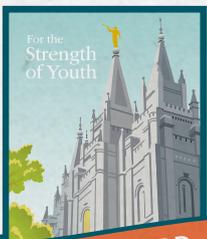
**NOTE**  
1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 339–40.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTON TODD

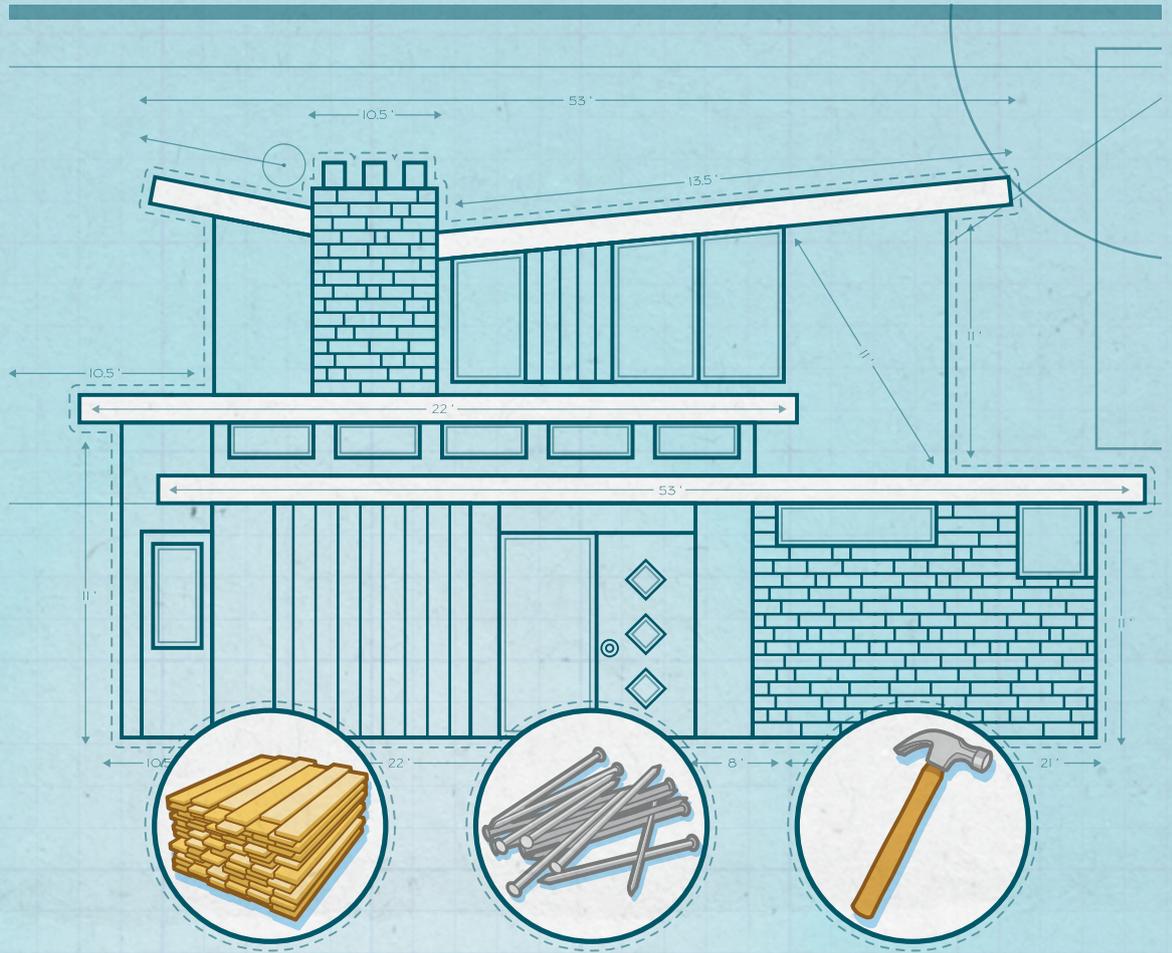
# LET GOD BE Your Architect

Your life can become better  
than you've ever imagined.

By David Dickson  
Church Magazines



GO FORWARD  
WITH FAITH



**Y**ou can get through a lot in life by figuring things out as you go along. Whether that means blissfully ignoring written instructions on how to assemble furniture that came in a million pieces or teaching yourself to play a musical instrument by pounding out whatever notes sound the best, your capacity to learn through trial and error is practically unlimited.

Only thing is, it's usually not very easy that way.

Imagine something truly complicated. What if you were in charge of building your own home and had all the raw materials set out in front of you. Can you picture that huge pile of stuff? Boards, nails, pipes, wires, tools, and everything else you'd need to build an awesome house for you and your family.

Would you still want to make it up as you went along? Or would you want help from somebody who actually knows how to make the most of the materials?

Our path through life is the same way. We all need help building our lives. And there's no better builder to turn to than God.

As explained in *For the Strength of Youth*: “The Lord will make much more out of your life than you can by yourself. He will increase your opportunities, expand your vision, and strengthen you. He will give you the help you need to meet your trials and challenges. You will gain a stronger testimony and find true joy as you come to know your Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ, and feel Their love for you” ([2011], 43).

When we obey God’s commandments and involve Him in our plans, we become who we need to become—not who we thought we wanted to be.

Here are a few people who, with God’s help, found a better path than the one they had picked for themselves.

## LETTING GO OF VIOLENCE

In a video series on [mormonchannel.org](http://mormonchannel.org), a young man named Bubba shares his story about how his life was headed for disaster.<sup>1</sup> He had grown up in a violent home, where his father was murdered when Bubba was only three years old.

Bubba grew up choosing the same life he’d always seen. He joined a gang and started fights with anybody who crossed him. By high school he figured he would end up in prison before long. And he didn’t care.

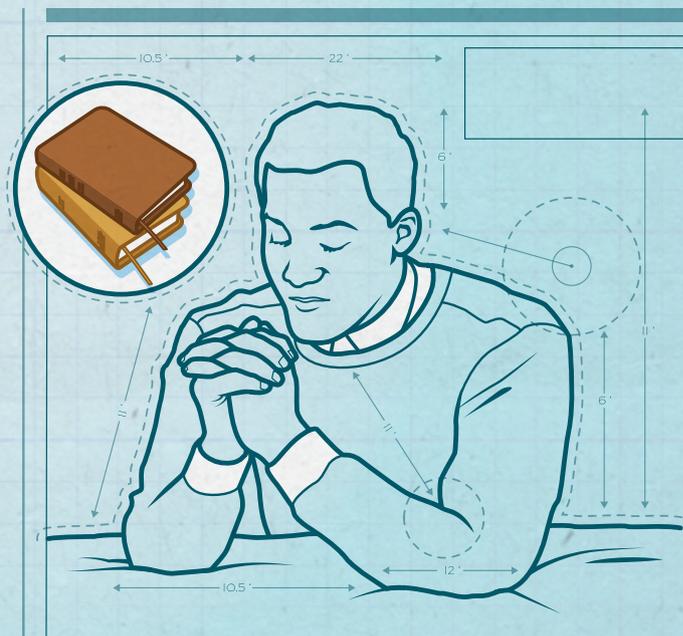
God intervened. At this dangerous crossroads in his life, Bubba met a Latter-day Saint family who showed him loving kindness and goodness. He’d never been around people like this before—people who showed compassion and love. He started spending as much time with them as possible. When he asked the family why they acted the way they did, they said it was because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

He wanted to find out what they knew. He began praying and studying the scriptures. And soon he felt something he’d never felt before. “Surely there is a God, and He loves

me!” Bubba says. With God’s help, Bubba began to build his life over again with Jesus Christ as the foundation, leaving his old life behind.

“My nature changed. Who I am as a human being is different than who I was. Now I have a purpose. I have a destiny,” he says. “I have somewhere that I’m going.”

These days Bubba sees his future with brightness, faith, and hope. “I know that it is only through Jesus Christ, my faith in Him, that will help me get to where I want to get to,” he says.<sup>2</sup>



**WHEN WE OBEY GOD’S COMMANDMENTS  
AND INVOLVE HIM IN OUR PLANS, WE  
BECOME WHO WE NEED TO BECOME—NOT  
WHO WE THOUGHT WE WANTED TO BE.**

## CHANGING DIRECTION

President Hugh B. Brown (1883–1975), a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and of the First Presidency, shared an experience where God made more out of his life than he would have done on his own.

Hugh had been serving in the Canadian military and was in line to be promoted to general. He had been working, hoping, and praying for that promotion for 10 years.

When the position became available, however, he was passed over simply because he was a member of the Church. That was literally the only reason, and they told him so.

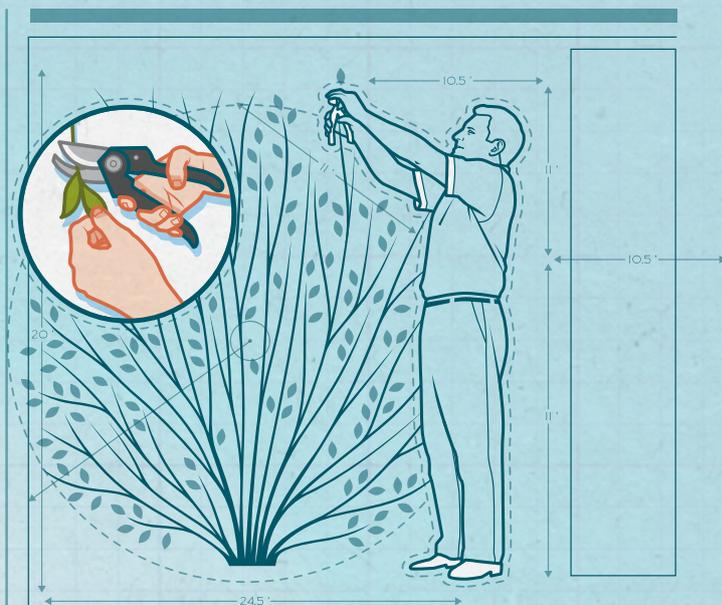
Hugh was furious. He said: “I got on the train and started back . . . with a broken heart, with bitterness in my soul.

. . . When I got to my tent, . . . I threw my cap . . . on the cot. I clenched my fists, and I shook them at heaven. I said, ‘How could you do this to me, God? I have done everything I could do to measure up. There is nothing that I could have done—that I should have done—that I haven’t done. How could you do this to me?’ I was as bitter as gall.”<sup>3</sup>

Then Hugh remembered an experience from years earlier. He’d once bought a neglected farm that had an overgrown currant bush. Without trimming, that bush would never provide fruit. All it wanted to do was grow taller.

So Hugh trimmed it back severely. Afterward, he saw little drops of liquid at the end of each cut branch. They looked like tears. “I am the gardener here,” he told the currant bush. Hugh knew what he wanted that bush to become, and it wasn’t a shade tree.

That experience came to his mind as he battled anger over being passed up for promotion. “I heard a voice, and I recognized the tone of this voice. It was my own voice, and the voice said, ‘I am the gardener here. I know what I want you to do.’ The bitterness went out of my soul, and I fell on my knees by the cot to ask forgiveness for my ungratefulness. . . .



**“I AM THE GARDENER HERE. I KNOW WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO.”**

“ . . . And now, almost 50 years later, I look up to [God] and say, ‘Thank you, Mr. Gardener, for cutting me down, for loving me enough to hurt me.’”<sup>4</sup>

Hugh never became a general. The Lord had other plans for President Brown. With the Lord as his architect, President Brown’s life became a masterful structure.

## BUILDING FROM SCRATCH

Being called a “child of hell” by a prophet of God probably doesn’t sound like your life’s headed in a good direction. But that’s exactly what happened to Zeezrom, a lawyer in the Book of Mormon. (See Alma 11:23.)

Alma and Amulek were preaching in the land where Zeezrom was trying to gain money as a lawyer by stirring up the people against Alma and Amulek. Zeezrom tried to trick Alma and Amulek with his questions, but they answered and rebuked him. Zeezrom’s thoughts were revealed to them by the Spirit. (See Alma 11–12.)

As the conversation continued, Zeezrom was stunned into silence. He began to recognize his faults and felt

## TEMPORAL VS. ETERNAL

In this life we have many opportunities to use our agency. All social networks, popularity, and friends may seem pretty important in this life, but in the end it is the kingdom of God that will matter. There's a quote I love that Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926-2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said in general conference: "If you have not chosen the kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead."<sup>5</sup>

Sometimes we are so focused in this life, we forget what is most important. If we could take the veil away from us, our whole perspective would change. We would become more humble and give more importance to the Lord and not so much importance to man.

I am convinced I want to be righteous and follow God. I want to have an eternal perspective, so I can enter His mighty kingdom. This will be better than having all the money and power of the world. In this life we shall live for only a short period in comparison to the eternities. The glory we will receive will be the glory we will have forever.

Isabelle A., 19, Mexico

### NOTES

1. "His Grace" video series, [mormonchannel.org](http://mormonchannel.org).
2. "From Gang Member to 'Good Man'" (video), [mormonchannel.org](http://mormonchannel.org).
3. Hugh B. Brown, "The Currant Bush," *New Era*, Jan. 1973, 15.
4. Hugh B. Brown, "The Currant Bush," *New Era*, 14, 15.
5. Neal A. Maxwell, "Response to a Call," *Ensign*, May 1974, 112.

serious guilt over his sins and what he'd done to lead the people away. He soon tried to undo some of the damage he'd caused, saying, "Behold, I am guilty, and these men are spotless before God" (Alma 14:7).

But it didn't work. The people cast Zeezrom out of their city. His guilt and despair over what he'd done—including a mistaken fear that his preaching against Alma and Amulek had led to their death—caused Zeezrom to fall sick with fever, "scorched with a burning heat" (Alma 15:3).

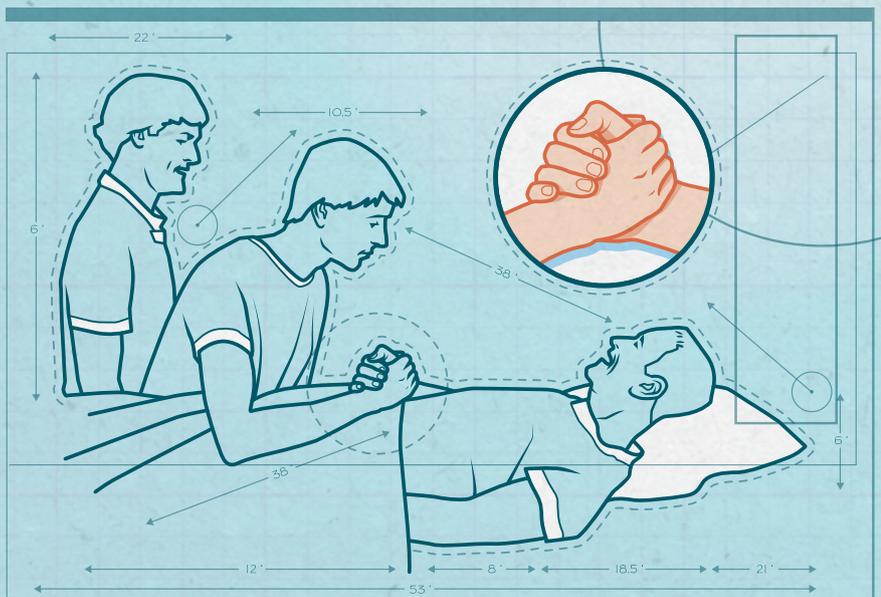
The structure he'd built for his life had crumbled to its foundation. But that's not where Zeezrom's story ends.

Once he learned that Alma and Amulek were still alive, Zeezrom took courage and asked for them to come to him. When they did, Zeezrom asked to be healed. Through his faith Zeezrom was healed fully. He was then baptized and began to preach from that time forth (see Alma 15:11-12).

Zeezrom's new life, this time with God as his architect, had just begun.

## BEYOND HAMMER AND NAIL

The good news is we were never meant to go through life alone. God wants to help us every step of the way. And when we let Him help, there's no limit to what we can become. **NE**





“GET

OVER

YOURSELF”

By Collin Braithwaite

*An Apostle’s unexpected advice helped me know how I should prepare to serve a mission.*

**E**ver since I was young, I knew I wanted to serve a mission. And when I opened my mission call, I felt the Spirit stronger than I ever had before.

During the time I was preparing to receive my mission call, I had the opportunity to attend a devotional where Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles spoke to a group of youth and young single adults. I had no idea that he'd be coming, and when I saw him, I couldn't wait to hear what he had to say. He said he wanted to have a question-and-answer session. And when he asked for questions, I jumped at the opportunity.

"What is the most important thing I can do to prepare to be an effective missionary?" I asked.

He looked right at me and said, "Get over yourself." At first I was taken aback. I had to think twice to make sure I hadn't said something wrong, thinking maybe I was being scolded a little.

But then he explained that serving a mission is not about me; instead, it's about serving the Lord and completely losing myself in that service. This advice completely changed my missionary preparation and my outlook on missionary service.

For future missionaries, including me, it can be easy to become prideful and say, "I can't wait to baptize lots of people." But this isn't a good mind-set to have. Instead, it would be better to say, "I can't wait to serve the Lord. I will do what He wants me to do

because I'm serving Him and He is giving me a chance to participate in His work." It's all about getting over yourself and serving others.

Since Elder Bednar gave me that advice, I've thought about it every day. If I'm ever tempted to not read my scriptures because I'm too tired, I imagine Elder Bednar saying, "Get over yourself." While it would be nice to get some extra sleep, studying the scriptures is something that Heavenly Father wants me to do every day. Besides, it's not about me; it's about serving Him.

I've also started putting more effort into my scripture study since I received this advice. My goal is to not just read them, but also to understand them so I'll be more prepared for my mission. Now when I read my scriptures, I take out my journal and write down a question. As I read, I look for answers to that question and write those answers down. One time I wrote down the question, "What are the traits of an effective missionary?" As I studied the scriptures, I learned about traits I can develop as I prepare for my mission.

I can't wait to serve a mission. I'm excited to lose myself in missionary service as an instrument in God's hands. It's a chance to just focus on the Lord and His people. It's not about me. It's about doing all of the small and simple things the Lord wants me to do. **NE**

*Collin Braithwaite received a mission call to the California San Bernadino Mission and is now serving there.*



## FORGET YOURSELF

"Those first few weeks [of my mission], because of illness and the opposition which we felt, I was discouraged. I wrote a letter home to my good father and said that I felt I was wasting my time and his money. . . . He was a wise and inspired man. He wrote a very short letter to me which said, 'Dear Gordon, I have your recent letter. I have only one suggestion: forget yourself and go to work.' Earlier that morning in our scripture class my companion and I had read these words of the Lord: 'Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.' (Mark 8:35.)

"Those words of the Master, followed by my father's letter with his counsel to forget myself and go to work, went into my very being. With my father's letter in hand, I went into our bedroom . . . and got on my knees and made a pledge with the Lord. I covenanted that I would try to forget myself and lose myself in His service."

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910-2008), "Taking the Gospel to Britain: A Declaration of Vision, Faith, Courage, and Truth," *Ensign*, July 1987, 7.

# HOLY SMOKE!



*First you see it. Then you don't. Then you do.*

By David Dickson  
Church Magazines

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- › A tapered candle (not flat-top or recessed), preferably with a thick wick.
- › Matches or a lighter.
- › Your family's favorite cookies. You won't need them for the object lesson, but all proper lists should have at least three items.

**E**ver noticed how President Thomas S. Monson seems to remember the tiniest details from his life? When he shares a childhood story it's like it happened yesterday.

Well, in general conference President Monson mentioned one of his tricks of the trade. Before sharing some personal stories about prayer, he said, "My daily journal, kept over all these years, has helped provide some specifics which I most likely would not otherwise be able to recount."<sup>1</sup>

Capturing memories preserves them forever. But if we rely on our minds alone? They vanish like smoke.

Object lesson time!



1

### LIGHT THE CANDLE.

Discuss something awesome you and your family have done together lately. This could be anything from going to the temple to playing laser tag. Tell your family that the flame represents this activity. Talk through as many details as you can remember.

*Disclaimer:* This activity involves fire, which can potentially be hazardous. Find an adult to help you before doing this experiment. (Also, remember that open flames or lighted candles can't be used in Church buildings.)



2

### BLOW OUT THE CANDLE.

Watch the thinning smoke. What does it make you think of? In this lesson, the vanishing smoke trail represents the details of your family event being lost over time. (Sniff. So sad.) But hey, no long faces. You're only getting started.



3

### RE-LIGHT THE CANDLE

(the good stuff is right around the corner).

Tell your family that you're winding back the clock. The flame represents the same family memory as before. Only, this time you've got something special up your sleeve. Get your original flame source (match or lighter) up and running. Then snuff the candle by blowing straight down on the flame, and subsequently blow minds with what you do next.



4

### HOLY SMOKE!

Hold the flame source directly in the smoke trail. If you blew down on the flame, the smoke trail should rise straight up. When the flame touches the smoke, a tiny spark travels down the trail and lights the candle all over again! Rest assured it's a crowd pleaser. This tiny bit of pyrotechnic prowess can be compared to capturing your family activity through journaling or other techniques. By recording events, you form a powerful link right back to the occasion and have access to crystal clear memories even decades later. The vanishing smoke of memory becomes a strong flame once more.

## MEMORIES MATTER

Some final food for thought. Who doesn't love the inspiring account of Samuel the Lamanite as he preached to the wicked Nephites? The thing is, the fulfillment of one of his prophecies was not written down. It might've been lost forever. However, when the Savior visited the Americas, He commanded the people to record what they had missed (see 3 Nephi 23:6–13).

You fit right into this pattern. "Our service and personal ministry are not limited to the living on this earth," said Elder Hugo E. Martinez of the Seventy. "We can also keep a journal and write our family histories to turn the hearts of the living toward the living—as

well as the hearts of the living toward their ancestors."<sup>2</sup>

Capturing the blow-by-blow account of an especially epic snowball fight with your family may create a bond with great-great-great grandchildren you'll never meet. Cool! Consider, too, that describing in a journal how you found strength during a trial or gained testimony about a gospel truth might just be the answer to a prayer that won't be uttered for another 100 years.

So, preserve your precious memories. They'll burn brightly forever. **NE**

#### NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, "Consider the Blessings," *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 86.
2. Hugo E. Martinez, "Our Personal Ministries," *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 103.



*Fame, Fortune, and*  
**FUNNY  
VIDEOS**

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JOSEPH SIM, PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK



## His dreams were about to come true. There was just one thing . . .

It all started with a joke: “You guys should make a commercial. They make millions!”

Joseph Sim of Alberta, Canada, had been chatting with his friend about how to save money for their missions when his friend’s dad joked that they ought to try their skills behind a camera and strike it rich.

The idea stuck, if only for the adventure factor. They began working together to create a fake commercial even though they didn’t expect fame or fortune to knock on their door anytime soon. The two friends started a YouTube channel and began uploading funny videos that were all about their quest of finding a way to make a commercial.

Things kind of snowballed from there.

### An unexpected offer

While they were living it up creating the short videos, Joseph realized quickly how much he loved the art. He wanted to do more. “I had found my passion for filmmaking and started an LDS film group with my friends,” he said.

Those first videos from the LDS film group were goofy and funny shorts about Mormon culture, boasting such titles as “Stuff Mormons Say.”

After the new videos began gaining an audience Joseph decided to step up his game. He launched a web series about an ambitious young filmmaker looking for his break. These new comedy videos started getting more attention than ever before—so much attention, in fact, that the web series caught the eye of a major Canadian restaurant chain who wanted to partner with Joseph.





They contacted Joseph and said they wanted to advertise their product through the storyline. Joseph couldn't believe his luck. "In my mind, this was the chance, the break," he said. "I knew film production was where I wanted to end up."

The restaurant chain liked his material so much they offered to re-shoot the existing four episodes he'd already finished. That meant better cameras and equipment, a budget, the works. Fame and fortune came a-knockin' after all.

But then came the catch.

### The big question

"They wanted to change the material," Joseph said. "They wanted to taint the humor with sexual references and immoral situations."

Joseph began feeling uneasy as soon as they started telling him their vision of reshaping his web series into something other than the clean material he'd created. They had a specific bar-and-grill type audience in mind and wanted the videos to appeal to that group. "Are you with us?" they asked.

Joseph's head was spinning. "They had everything I thought I wanted," he said. "But then I was reminded of a scripture, 3 Nephi 13:24: 'No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.' I knew there was no middle path. This was a simple choice."

A simple choice, maybe, but not easy in the moment. "I felt panicked, worried, and scared I'd be left with regret," he said. "But when I did in fact decline their

offer, I felt total reassurance that I had made the right choice."

They parted ways. The deal was off.

### Looking back

Fast-forward a couple years since that big decision. Joseph Sim is now Elder Sim of the England Leeds Mission. He still hopes to pursue film in the future, but he doesn't regret in the slightest having turned down the offer.

"At the time I'm pretty sure I thought the earth itself would shatter in two," he says. "But with a bit of hindsight, I'm fairly confident I simply stood in front of something all of us have faced: the crossroads of the world and the gospel. I'm also confident that this crossroads is a daily thing, not some milestone event in our lives. We're constantly making the decision between convenience and covenants."

Even though the web video deal didn't go through, Elder Sim still learned a ton from his time behind the camera. A lot of which helps him as a missionary.

"I've noticed that a major key to success in filmmaking and missionary work is creativity, anything that makes us unique," he said. "We spend so much time worrying about what other people will think and trying to be someone else that the world ends up missing out on us altogether."

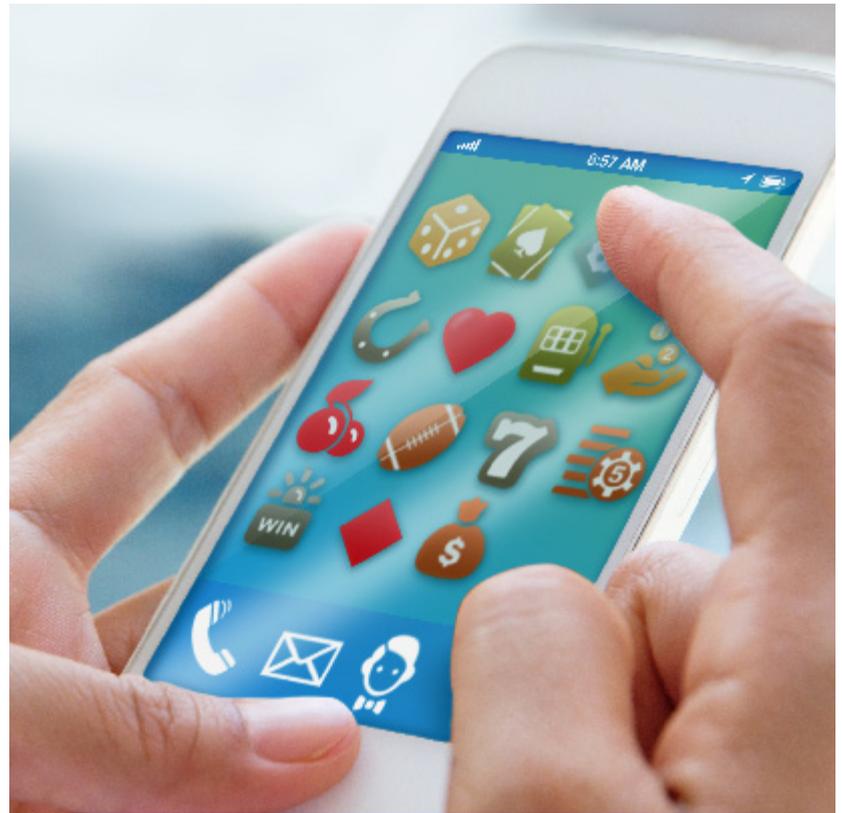
No matter who you are, your life's a story in the making. Make sure you tell a good one. **NE**

My friend  
has drifted from  
the Church because  
others make  
fun of it.  
What should I do?

The best things to do in that situation are: (1) be kind, loving, and accepting of your friend and (2) never waver in your testimony.

If you do these things, your friend will hopefully feel your love and acceptance and want to be around you. Also, he'll hopefully see that ridicule and mockery are ugly things and that anyone worthy of his admiration and friendship wouldn't attack another person's beliefs in that way.

Your example can be one of the best things your friend can have. Be like those people from Lehi's dream who partook of the fruit of the tree of life and were mocked by those in the great and spacious building but "heeded them not" (1 Nephi 8:33). If your friend sees you upholding your beliefs and standing up to others' mockery with dignity, respect, and good humor, he may see that it's possible for him to do the same. If there's still a seed of testimony in his heart, the example you set and the testimony you bear may be some of the things that help him feel the Spirit and remember what he once knew. **NE**



## What is the Church's position on gambling?

The Church is against all gambling of any kind, including lotteries (see *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2007], 21.1.19). The reason we're counseled not to waste our time and money on it is simple: "Gambling is wrong. . . . It is addictive and can lead to lost opportunities, ruined lives, and broken families. It is false to believe that you can get something for nothing" (*For the Strength of Youth* [2011], 41). **NE**

# What's so “amazing” about seminary?

Attending seminary is a great way to add spiritual food to your day as you learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Where else during the school week can you feel the Spirit, visit with friends, and have a break from the pressures of school, all while learning more about topics and scriptures that will bless you all of your life? A seminary class from Washington, USA, shared some of the reasons why they think seminary is amazing:

“A lot of our high school life is spent worrying over tests and stressing over our busy schedules. But going to the church every morning gives us peace, so pure and so strong that we could miss it if we're not careful. The enlightening powers of the Spirit and the scriptures help uplift us amidst our busy lives,” says Alexa P., 17.

Michelle R., 17, agrees. She says, “Quite often the lessons that we have are exactly what I need to hear. Learning about the people in the scriptures helps me know that other people have had similar questions and feelings to mine, and I can learn from their examples.”

Students also appreciate learning more about the scriptures. Caleb W., 16, says: “Every single day of the week I get to strengthen my connection with my Heavenly Father and learn some things about the gospel that I never knew. It makes the scriptures so much more interesting, and I feel a deep connection to them. Sometimes it can be a sacrifice to come to seminary, but it becomes that much more of a blessing.”

As you attend seminary, consider this from [seminary.lds.org](http://seminary.lds.org): “The objective of seminary is to help youth understand and rely on the teachings and Atonement of Jesus Christ, qualify for the blessings of the temple, and prepare themselves, their families, and others for eternal life with their Father in Heaven.” **NE**



## A Place to Escape the Adversary

Seminary is a place where I can go and learn more about the gospel and share my insights with others. It is a place where I can get away from the rest of the world to feel the Spirit and escape the adversary.

*Adam S., 16, Washington, USA*

## An Inspired Program

In seminary I am able to gain a better understanding of gospel doctrine and the scriptures because of the perspectives and insights of my teacher and classmates. Seminary is a welcome reprieve from the hassles and temptations of the world, and I always leave with a renewed energy and determination to endure and do good. Seminary has helped my faith and testimony grow, and I know that it is an inspired program designed to prepare us to be future missionaries and disciples of Christ.

*Ashley W., 17, Utah, USA*

## A Place to Worship

Seminary is a place where you can worship and share your knowledge of the gospel with others. Seminary will never be forgotten in your heart when you participate and share what you know. Plus, when you have amazing teachers who have a testimony of our Savior and our Heavenly Father, your seminary class is bound to have the Spirit there.

*Hayden H., 14, Utah, USA*

## Gaining Knowledge

The knowledge we gain from seminary is amazing. When you study the scriptures and pray for guidance to understand them, not only will you gain that knowledge, but you will also feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, and that is an amazing thing to have.

*Makenna F., 18, Hawaii, USA*



## Helps Start the Day Right

Although getting up early each morning for seminary is difficult, it is always worth it. Going to seminary each morning helps me start the day off on the right foot; I get to learn new things about the gospel every day. Seminary has taught me about how important it is to ponder the scriptures and think more about what I'm reading. I know that by learning more about the scriptures I can gain a stronger testimony and be able to answer questions that my friends have about the gospel.

*Emma J., 15, California, USA*



## I Feel Peace

Seminary is the place to get away from the worldly things and focus on Christ and our personal conversion. We are anxiously engaged in class devotionals, testimonies, singing hymns, scripture studying, and sincere prayer. The reason it's so amazing is because of

the feeling that we receive from the Holy Ghost. I feel peace, joy, acceptance, and motivation every time I attend seminary.

*Alison C., 16, Utah, USA*

## Gives a Better Understanding of the Scriptures

Seminary has given me a better understanding of the scriptures. Seminary also gives me a spiritual start to my day. I can go to school having already felt the Spirit, which helps me make the right choices.

*Braden C., 16, Washington, USA*

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



## PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARY

“Seminary will help you understand and rely on the teachings and Atonement of

Jesus Christ. You will feel the Spirit of the Lord as you learn to love the scriptures. You will prepare yourselves for the temple and for missionary service.

“Young people, I ask you to participate in seminary. Study your scriptures daily. Listen to your teachers carefully. Apply what you learn prayerfully.”

**President Thomas S. Monson, in “Why Seminary?” *New Era*, Apr. 2012, 24.**

## UPCOMING QUESTION

“How can I make my prayers more meaningful?”

Send your answer and photo by February 15, 2016.

Go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org), click “Submit Your Work,” sign in with your LDS account, and then under “Choose Magazine,” select “New Era.” 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.



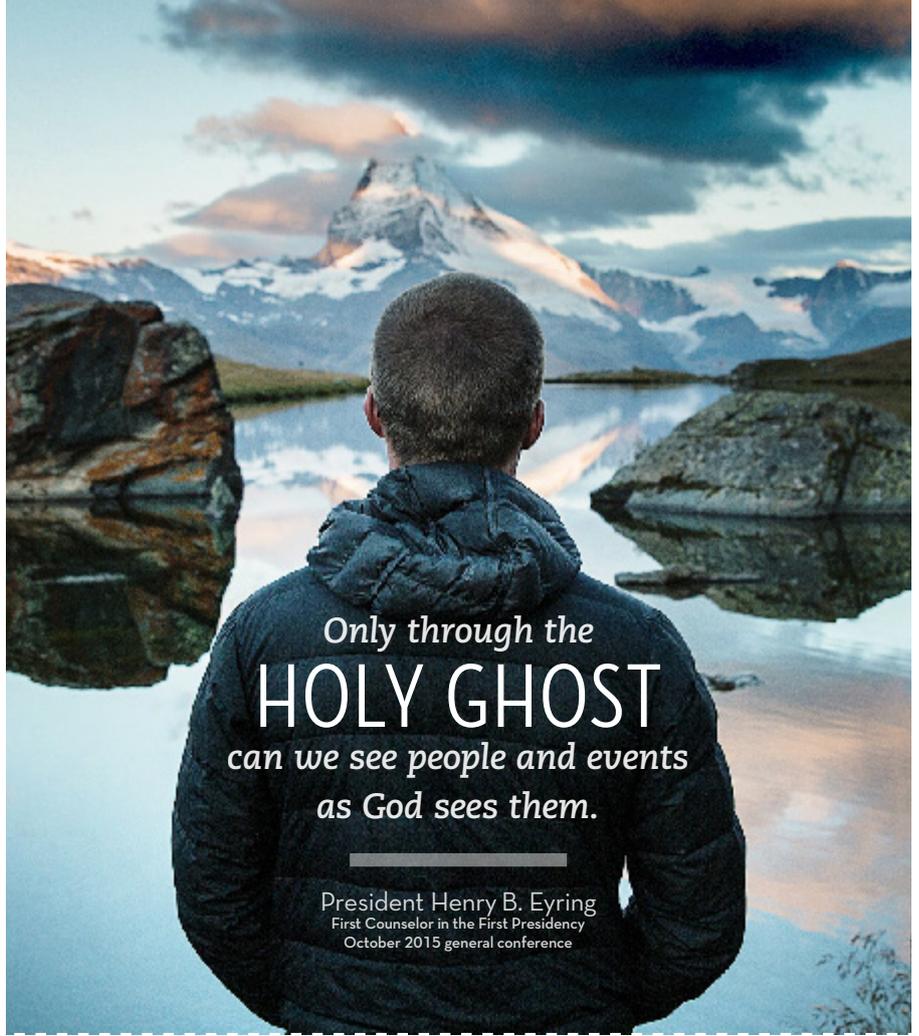
## The Godhead

You'll be studying about the Godhead in your Sunday classes this month. As you study and discuss this topic, you may ponder these questions: What are the roles of each member of the Godhead? What is my relationship to each of Them? How does the Holy Ghost affect my life?

For some answers to these questions, read the scriptures listed in the Topical Guide under the various headings that begin with "God," "Jesus Christ," and "Holy Ghost." You'll also find teachings on the commandments in October 2015 general conference talks at [conference.lds.org](http://conference.lds.org).

### Share These Cards

Give yourself an easy reminder to think about this month's theme. Just place these cards in your scriptures, locker, or bedroom. You can also download or share them online at [lds.org/go/cardsNE116](http://lds.org/go/cardsNE116).



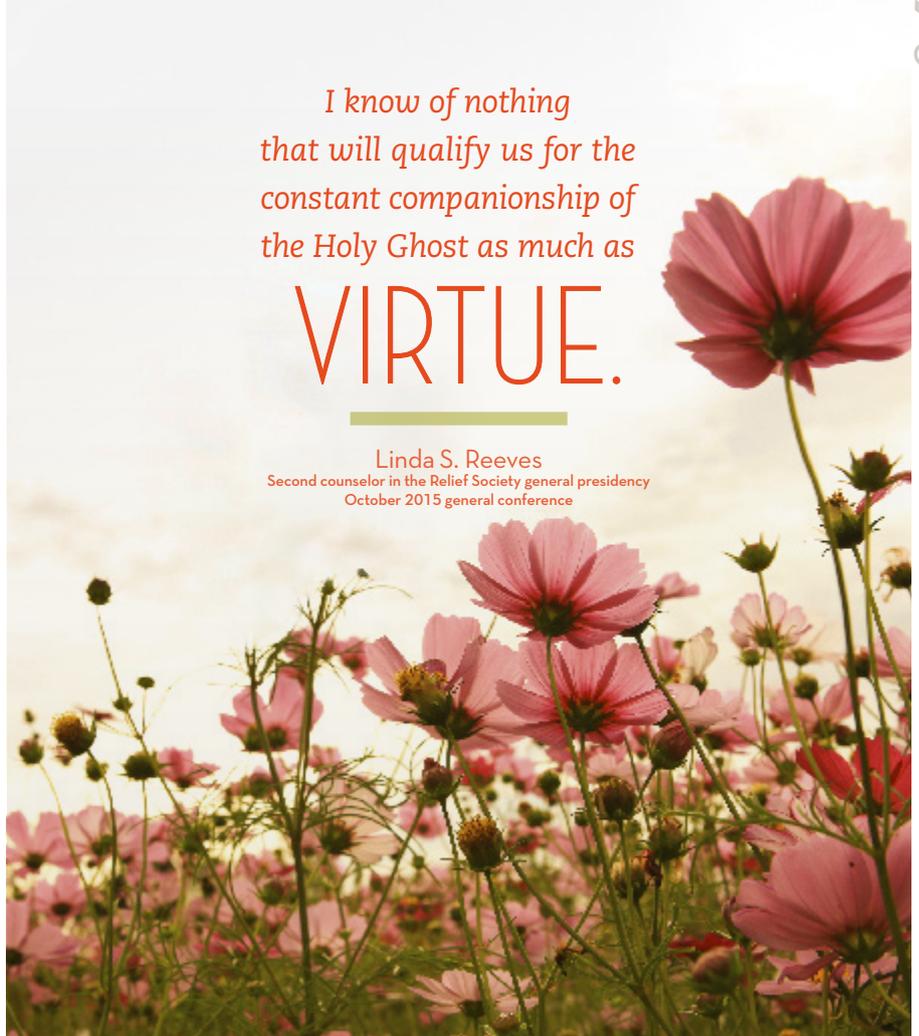
*Only through the*  
**HOLY GHOST**  
*can we see people and events  
as God sees them.*

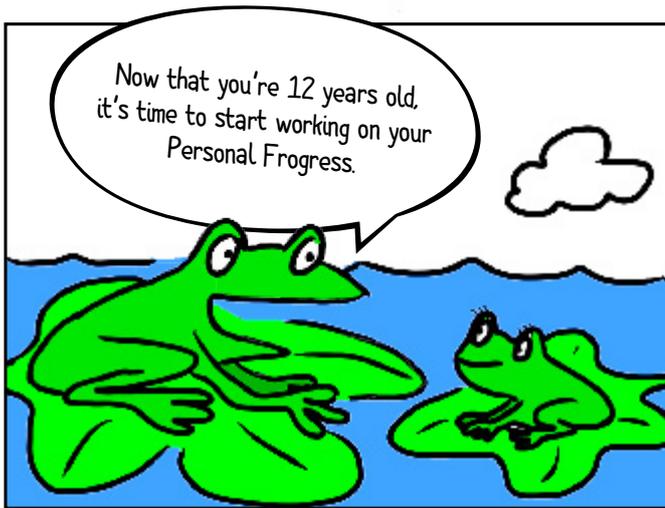
President Henry B. Eyring  
First Counselor in the First Presidency  
October 2015 general conference

*I know of nothing  
that will qualify us for the  
constant companionship of  
the Holy Ghost as much as*

**VIRTUE.**

Linda S. Reeves  
Second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency  
October 2015 general conference







## A MISSION WAS BETTER THAN EXPECTED

**A**s a young man, I looked forward to the day when I would serve a full-time mission. When I finally entered the mission field, I discovered that missionary service was not what I had expected—it was better. It was harder than I thought, but the satisfaction that came from doing what the Lord asked of me was indescribable.

Never before had I experienced the joy of helping someone attend church. Never before had I felt the thrill of hearing someone say, “Sure, come on in” so that they could hear the restored gospel. Never before had I sensed the reality of the power that came as we declared repentance. Never before had I prayed with

such real intent. Never before had an hour of scripture study gone by so fast. Never before had I been brought to tears by the realization of my imperfections. Never before had I experienced the devastation that comes with the words, “Elders, please don’t come by my house anymore.” Never before had I gotten a blister on my foot the size of my thumb. Never before had I felt so protected. Never before had I felt so much responsibility for my actions because I wore the name “Jesus Christ” on my chest.

Never before had I been so close to my Heavenly Father as I came to be during my full-time mission.

**Nahuel Cabranes, Peru**

## TALENTS CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

**W**ith the help of my mother and sister, I painted a banner for the Relief Society sports festival held in our stake. My mother recommended me to the Relief Society president, who asked me to make their banner for them. I accepted their request and started to make rough sketches. Through the combined efforts of my family and me, we were able to create a beautiful work of art that represents the theme, “Find Nobility in Motherhood and Joy in Womanhood.”

I know that if we use our talents to serve other people, we not only bring them happiness but we also develop our own abilities. The Lord blesses those who use their gifts from Him to build up His kingdom. As the parable of the talents teaches, if we do not share our gifts with others, we lose those gifts (see Matthew 25:24–29). But if we use our talents for good, we can make the world a better place.

**Vanessa Pamittan, Philippines**

## RECEIVING MY YOUNG WOMEN MEDALLION

I am so happy to have received my Young Womanhood Recognition.

I am proud to say that I kept myself pure and clean and that I can wear my medallion with pride. “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10).

The Young Women organization is wonderful. It helps young women progress and prepare themselves for marriage in the holy temple. I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for this organization. By earning my medallion, I have completed one of the goals I set for my life, and I know that I can continue to do much good in the work of the Lord.

**Katherine Moreno, Venezuela**



## WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM DUTY TO GOD

**A**ctively participating in the activities in *Fulfilling My Duty to God* requires your whole heart, dedication, strength, and more than anything, faith. Duty to God is truly inspired.

As a young man, you can learn marvelous things that you can apply throughout the rest of your life by completing the goals in Duty to God: spiritual, temporal, physical, and much more.

I can say that it's well worth the

effort to dedicate yourself to completing these goals. I have learned to be a better man, I've grown in my testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and I have better prepared myself to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood. It's gratifying to know that I will be able to be a good example to my future children one day because I have accomplished this wonderful, significant goal.

**Jonathan Argüello, Venezuela**



**Elder Neil L. Andersen**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

## HOW TO PRESS FORWARD

**P**ress forward implies something more than simply going forward. *Press* implies something is preventing your advancement, and you must push through it. To go forward in this life, you must **press temptations aside, press through obstacles, press the doubt and the fear under your feet, and embrace the divine qualities** of faith, hope, and love.

How do you press forward? Nephi answers, “Ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men” (2 Nephi 31:20).

Pressing forward with steadfastness in Christ means **having faith in Him**. It means **making Him the central focus of your thoughts and actions**. When it is He you are following, pressing forward is the ultimate adventure.

Pressing forward means **pushing away** the “temptations and cares” of the world and **keeping the commandments** with exactness. “If ye love me,” Jesus said, “keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

Nephi adds that with our steadfastness in Christ comes a perfect brightness of hope and a love of God and all men. Hope smiles brightly before us. We find peace even in difficulties. Discipleship allows us to see our true purposes on the earth. Those purposes center in **helping our family, those we love, and those around us**. They include **building the kingdom of God**, and as we do, we become who we should become.

Nephi tells us that we must press forward, **feasting upon the words of Christ**. He tells us that with the gift of the Holy Ghost, we can speak with (and understand) the tongue of angels (see 2 Nephi 32:2–5). I know this voice. It is a voice we must continually be ready to hear.

As you righteously press forward, Jesus Christ “will lead you along” (D&C 78:18) and you will know with even greater certainty of His reality and His love for you. As you press forward in faith, the Holy Ghost will tell you and show you those things that you should do (see 2 Nephi 32:5). **NE**

*From an address given at Brigham Young University–Hawaii on December 14, 2013.*



### HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

My favorite scripture is Mark 4:39 because of these three words the Savior spoke: “Peace, be still.” Just as the disciples lost themselves in the woe of the storm, I have found myself lost in misery without hope of escape. That can happen to anybody. But I learned that the Savior can calm real storms by saying those simple words. If He can calm a real storm, then I am content knowing that if I put my trust in Him, He can calm the storms of everyday life.

**Anneka W., 18, Utah, USA**



#### Share Your Experiences

Share how you press forward with faith in Christ and read the experiences of other youth at [lds.org/go/pressNE116](https://lds.org/go/pressNE116).



YOUR FAITH  
WILL GROW  
*not by chance, but*  
**BY CHOICE.**

Elder Neil L. Andersen  
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles  
October 2015 general conference

## WHAT'S ONLINE



### #LDSFACE2FACE EVENT with Elder Rasband and Auxiliary Presidents!

In January, join youth around the world and find answers to your questions with Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, as well as Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson and Brother Stephen W. Owen, Young Women and Young Men general presidents. Submit questions at [youth.lds.org](http://youth.lds.org) or by using the hashtag #LDSface2face. Then join the event at [face2face.lds.org](http://face2face.lds.org).



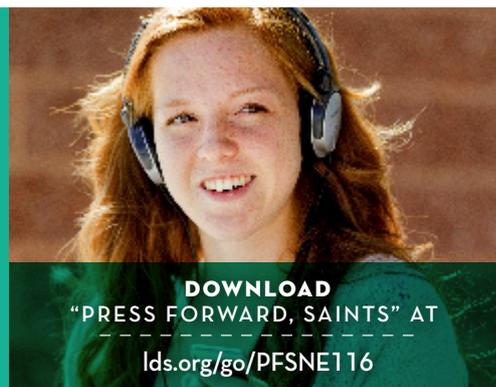
**CHECK OUT**  
"O REMEMBER, REMEMBER" AT  
[lds.org/go/rememberNE116](http://lds.org/go/rememberNE116)

### FINDING GOD in Your Life

When was the last time you saw Heavenly Father's hand in your life? Well, it might happen more often than you think! Watch President Henry B. Eyring share his story of finding and remembering God's blessings, and then record blessings of your own.

### "PRESS FORWARD, SAINTS" Free Music Download

As you think about this year's Mutual theme, you might find yourself humming the tune to the hymn "Press Forward, Saints." Download the Mormon Tabernacle Choir version of the hymn to inspire you this month (see the link at the right). And don't forget about all of the new music on [lds.org/youth/theme/2016](http://lds.org/youth/theme/2016).



**DOWNLOAD**  
"PRESS FORWARD, SAINTS" AT  
[lds.org/go/PFSNE116](http://lds.org/go/PFSNE116)

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

