

JUNE 2018

THE

New Era



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**ACTUALLY,
I CAN!**

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= TO THE =
FUTURE

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UNDER
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What's Up Where You Are?

Guam



Greece



Calif.



Cuba



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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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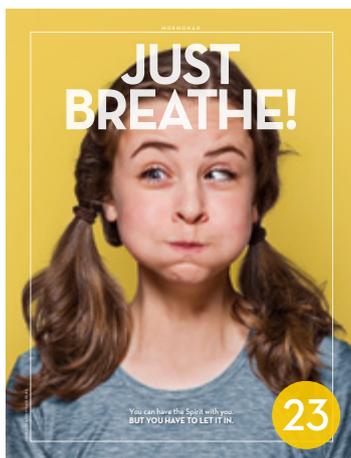
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By President
Russell M. Nelson

LOOK FORWARD TO THE

*You can face the future with optimism and joy
if you have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

IN JANUARY 2018, we laid to rest a giant of a man, a prophet of God—President Thomas S. Monson. No words can do justice to the magnitude and magnificence of his life. I will forever cherish our friendship with gratitude for what he taught me. Now, we must look forward to the future with complete faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose Church this is.

THE DIVINE PLAN OF SUCCESSION

On January 14, all of the living Apostles met in the upper room of the Salt Lake Temple. There, they made a unanimous decision, first, to reorganize the First Presidency now; and second, that I serve as President of the Church. Words are inadequate to tell you what it felt like to have my Brethren—Brethren who hold all the priesthood keys restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith in this dispensation—place their hands upon my head to ordain and set me apart as President of the Church. It was a sacred and humbling experience.

It then became my responsibility to discern whom the Lord had prepared to be my counselors. How could I choose only two of the twelve other Apostles, each of whom I love so dearly? I'm deeply grateful to the Lord for answering my fervent prayers. I am very thankful that President Dallin Harris Oaks and President Henry Bennion Eyring are willing to serve with me as First and Second Counselors, respectively.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT G. WINTERTON, DESERET NEWS

RWARD

FUTURE WITH FAITH





“THOUGH OUR WORLD IS FILLED WITH SERIOUS CHALLENGES, I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE AND FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTAL GOODNESS OF HUMANKIND.”

As we go forward together, I invite you to think about the majestic manner by which the Lord governs His Church. When a President of the Church passes away, there is no mystery about who is next called to serve in that capacity. There is no electioneering, no campaigning, but only the quiet workings of a divine plan of succession, put in place by the Lord Himself.

THE LORD IS AT THE HELM

Each day of an Apostle's service is a day of learning and preparing for more responsibility in the future. It takes decades of service for an Apostle to move from the junior chair to the senior chair in the circle. During that time, he gains firsthand experience in each facet of the work of the Church. He also becomes well acquainted with the peoples of the earth, including their histories, cultures, and languages as assignments take him repeatedly across the globe. This process of succession in the leadership of the Church is unique. I know of nothing else like it. That should not surprise us, because this is the Lord's Church. He does not work after the manner of men.

I've served in the Quorum of the Twelve under five previous Presidents of the Church. I have watched each President receive revelation and respond to that revelation. The Lord always has and always will instruct and inspire His prophets. The Lord is at the helm. We who have been ordained

to bear witness of His holy name throughout the world will continue to seek to know His will and follow it.

KEEP ON THE COVENANT PATH

Now, to each member of the Church I say, keep on the covenant path. Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. As a new Presidency, we want to begin with the end in mind. The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life. The ordinances of the temple and the covenants you make there are key to strengthening your life, your future marriage and family, and your ability to resist the attacks of the adversary. Your worship in the temple and your service there for your ancestors will bless you with increased personal revelation and peace and will fortify your commitment to stay on the covenant path.

Now, if you have stepped off the path, may I invite you with all the hope in my heart to please come back. Whatever your concerns, whatever your challenges, there is a place for you in this, the Lord's Church. You and generations yet unborn will be blessed by your actions now to return to the

“THE RESTORED GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST . . . HAS THE ANSWERS TO THE MOST COMPELLING AND COMPLICATED CHALLENGES FACING US TODAY.”

covenant path. Our Father in Heaven cherishes His children, and He wants each of us to return home to Him. This is a grand goal of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to help each of us to come back home.

A FUTURE OF OPTIMISM AND JOY

We live in a most vibrant era in the history of the world. I wake up every morning eager for the adventures of the day. And I hope you feel that same exuberance for the gift of life. Though our world is filled with serious challenges, I am optimistic about the future and feel confident about the fundamental goodness of humankind.

As the Church moves forward, we wish for people everywhere to have the opportunity to hear the positive message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ because we declare that it has the answers to the most compelling and complicated challenges facing us today. I give

you my assurance that regardless of the world's condition and your personal circumstances, you can face the future with optimism and joy if you have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel.

To each member of the Church, I express my deep love for you—love that has grown over decades of meeting with you, worshiping with you, and serving you.

I encourage each of us to go forward with faith in Jesus Christ, knowing that He is in charge. This is His work and it's His Church. We are His servants. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will continue to go forward to bless every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. I declare my devotion to God our Eternal Father and to His Son, Jesus Christ. I know Them, love Them, and pledge to serve Them—and you—with every remaining breath of my life. **NE**

Adapted from a live broadcast from the annex of the Salt Lake Temple and a press conference at the Church Office Building, both held on January 16, 2018.

WILL RELIEF SOCIETY BE Boring?

I was super nervous to join Relief Society, but because of how they welcomed me, I learned to love it.

By **Charlotte Larcabal**
Church Magazines

When I turned 18, I was definitely happy about it. What teenager isn't? Sure, I was still in high school, still had acne, and still had to do chores around our family's house in California, USA, but I was an adult. I was entering a whole new stage of life, and I was excited about it. What I wasn't exactly excited about was the idea of being with all the "old ladies" in Relief Society. They had kids and careers and Crock-Pots and probably liked to bake pies in house slippers. I had homework and swim meets and blue nail polish and liked to avoid cleaning my room for as long as possible. How could I possibly relate to anyone there? I was sure it was going to be awkward, lonely, and boring. And then I went.

First of all, Relief Society wasn't at all boring. There was a ton of smiling and laughter. They shared interesting and heartfelt comments, but they weren't afraid to laugh either. Second of all, they weren't that different from me. Sure, they were older than me, but they were joking around with each other the same way my

friends and I did. More than once, someone asked the exact question I had been wondering. And when they announced the enrichment meeting that week, I was shocked. They were learning self-defense! I wanted to do that!

I was super nervous when Sister Larsen, the Relief Society president, asked me to stand and introduce myself, but that wasn't bad either. Everyone was beaming at me. Sister Edwards, my sophomore seminary teacher, gave me a thumbs-up, and Sister Richards, who remembered me from Primary, said she couldn't believe I was already "all grown up." And they really treated me like I was "all grown up." I felt like a little kid playing dress-up, but to most of the women that day, I was a new sister.

Since then, I've loved Relief Society, no matter what ward I'm in. As soon as I walk into a Relief Society room, I can feel it: that sisterly bond and sense of belonging. I love doing my best to uplift my Relief Society sisters and learning all I can from them.

And as it turns out, I'm pretty good at baking pies. **NE**

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA SMITH



“Cherish one another, watch over one another, comfort one another and gain instruction, that we may all sit down in heaven together.”

—Lucy Mack Smith, mother of the Prophet Joseph Smith (in *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* [2011], 25).

WHAT EXACTLY IS RELIEF SOCIETY?

The Relief Society was founded by the Prophet Joseph Smith on March 17, 1842, in Nauvoo, Illinois. The organization has two main purposes: to provide relief for the poor and needy and to bring people to Christ. Relief Society continues today as one of the largest women’s organizations in the world. Sisters meet together on Sunday and in other settings as needed.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN RELIEF SOCIETY

- A group of women who will love you and support you.
- The opportunity to love and serve other women as a ministering sister.
- Sunday lessons and other gatherings that will help you in your personal life and provide opportunities to serve and develop your roles as a woman, daughter, sister, aunt, and/or mother.

MY FIRST DAY

IN ELDERS QUORUM

I was young and a brand new elder. What did I have to offer to elders quorum? Turns out, a lot!



“IT IS A DUTY WHICH EVERY SAINT OUGHT TO RENDER TO HIS BRETHREN FREELY—TO ALWAYS LOVE THEM, AND EVER SUCCOR THEM. . . . WE MUST VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOW IN THEIR AFFLICTION.”

—Joseph Smith (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 426)

By Dallin Luedtke

I wasn't exactly nervous to join elders quorum because I felt like I knew what to expect. I also knew everyone in my ward's elders quorum. They were my friends' dads and men I already looked up to as mentors. I knew they were happy to help me understand things, so it wasn't nerve-racking to join them in elders quorum.

What was a little nerve-racking was contributing to the lessons. At first it was hard to think that I could offer anything to men who had so much more life experience and so much more wisdom than I did.

IT WAS DIFFERENT, YET THE SAME

Elders quorum is definitely different from priests quorum. Instead of a bunch of guys your age, you're suddenly with adults. The first couple of times I went, I didn't really say anything. I worried that I was too young and didn't know enough to contribute.

But the more I've been going, the more comfortable I've become, and the more I've come to realize that no matter how old you are, everybody has something to contribute. Everyone has different experiences with the gospel and everyone has different levels of understanding of different principles.

I HAD SOMETHING TO SHARE

One time we were talking about the Savior's Atonement, and I raised my

hand. I just told how thanks to His Atonement, Jesus Christ not only frees us but can also help us become closer to Himself and to God. I talked about my relationship with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and how it has been strengthened as my understanding of the Atonement has grown. After class, a man came up to me and thanked me for my comments. He told me he had never thought about things the way I had said them and really appreciated my insight.

MINISTERING IS COOL!

In elders quorum, you don't just learn from a teacher; you also learn from the Spirit and everyone else in the quorum. All that perspective helps you gain greater insight into the things that you are taught. And that helps you be a better servant of the Lord. For example, since I've become an elder, I've started liking ministering a lot more! I think I take it a little more seriously because I know that when I'm a missionary in a few months, I'll be visiting people and sharing the gospel with them just like I do when I minister. Instead of just sitting there and letting my companion do everything, I've started preparing for our visits. I make sure to speak up. I know it's good preparation for my mission, but it has also made ministering become

WHAT TO EXPECT IN ELDERS QUORUM

- Sunday lessons where quorum members share insights and perspectives that will strengthen your testimony of Jesus Christ and His gospel and will help you prepare for your future roles as a husband, father, and priesthood leader.
- The opportunities to give priesthood service will bless your life and strengthen the bonds between you and your fellow quorum members.
- You will be part of a quorum where you will be supported as you learn your new responsibilities as a Melchizedek Priesthood holder.

more meaningful to me. I now have a greater appreciation for the people in my ward and the people I minister to.

IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT

You don't need to be intimidated by elders quorum, but you can definitely look forward to hear more wisdom about the topics you're learning about. You can look forward to becoming a better teacher, leader, and servant of the Lord. And that is so cool! **NE**

The author lives in California, USA.

PAGE AFTER PAGE SAYS WE BELIEVE

When my classmate said that Mormons don't believe in Christ, I decided to read the Book of Mormon in a whole new way.

By Richard M. Romney
Church Magazines

“Mormons aren't Christians.” The statement from one of my high school classmates caught me off guard.

“Of course we are,” I said.

“Then why do you read the Book of Mormon?” he said as he walked away, leaving me no chance to reply.

I thought about his question a lot. The answer is, of course, that Mormons *are* Christians and the Book of Mormon *is* another testament of Jesus Christ. We read it along with the Bible to learn even more about the Savior.

I had read the Book of Mormon before. I knew it was true. But because of my classmate's question, I felt prompted to study it in a new way, keeping track of how often it mentions Jesus Christ. As I did, I was amazed.

I had hardly opened the book when I read on the title page that the Book of Mormon is written to convince readers “that Jesus is the Christ,

the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations.”

In the introduction to the Book of Mormon, I read, “The crowning event recorded in the Book of Mormon is the personal ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ among the Nephites soon after His resurrection.” It said that those who gain a witness from the

Holy Ghost that the record is true “will also come to know by the same power that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.”

I turned to “The Testimony of Three Witnesses,” who said that an angel showed them the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, and that “we know that



YOUR OWN SEARCH

As you study the Book of Mormon, it's easy to learn about Jesus Christ. You can make notes as you read or use study helps like the Guide to the Scriptures, which lists many Book of Mormon references to Jesus Christ. The Book of Mormon truly is another testament of Jesus Christ.



it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true.”

Next, “The Testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith” told of the visit of angel Moroni, who said the Book of Mormon contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel “as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants” of America.

I hadn’t even made it to 1 Nephi, and already I had found a lot!

My search continued. In 1 Nephi, I found that Lehi knew about the coming of the Messiah (see 1 Nephi 1:19). I read his prophecies about the Redeemer, “who should take away the sins of the world” (1 Nephi 10:10; see verses 4–10). I read Nephi’s description of the birth of Jesus Christ, His ministry, death, Resurrection, and future visit to ancient America (see 1 Nephi 10–12).

I read prophecies that the Book of Mormon would affirm Bible truths

that “the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him” (1 Nephi 13:40). And I read Nephi’s testimony that “all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people shall dwell safely in the Holy One of Israel if it so be that they will repent” (1 Nephi 22:28).

After one day, I was on page 53. I had finished just *one* of the books in the Book of Mormon, but what powerful witnesses I had already received!

In the weeks that followed, I found page after page of testimonies of Jesus Christ, visions in which He appeared to prophets, and the detailed description of His ministry among the ancient Americans. I concluded my reading with Moroni’s powerful testimony of Jesus Christ

(see Moroni 9); his challenge to, “ask God, the Eternal Father, *in the name of Christ*, if [the Book of Mormon is] true” (Moroni 10:4; emphasis added); and, on the last page, his tender and compelling invitation to “come unto Christ” (Moroni 10:30, 32).

I found that the Book of Mormon refuted my classmate’s statement completely. If a Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ, then page after page in the Book of Mormon says, “We believe!”

Eventually, I saw my friend again. I told him about my experience and invited him to read the Book of Mormon. He politely declined but said he was happy that I accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. And after our discussion, I think he understood better what I mean when I say, “Of course we are Christians.” **NE**

3 HELPS

FOR BEING
YOUR HAPPIEST
AND BEST SELF



If pleasing God becomes an inner compass for you, it will answer a lot of questions and prevent much heartache!

I was the fifth child in a family of six children. In our home, our parents gave us chores to do. One chore each of us had was to wash dishes after dinner one night each week. Our family rule was you couldn't go to bed until you had washed the dishes.

I never went to bed without doing the dishes, but it wasn't because I was super obedient. It was because my mother wouldn't let me! There was no escape! I would whine, complain, and pester my poor mother because I wanted to watch TV or play with my friends. But eventually, I would do the dishes. Although I was technically obedient and did what my mother asked, I am sure my attitude didn't please her.

My oldest sister, on the other hand, discovered she could jump up from dinner; put away the food; wash, dry, and put away the dishes; clean off the countertop; clean the kitchen floor; and still have time to play. She was more than just obedient; she was doing what pleased her mother.

TWO WORDS TO HELP YOU

The way my sister served my mother reminds me of the way the Savior serves His Father. The Savior said, "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me" (John 8:28). Which is to say, He was always obedient.

He further explained, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29).

May I suggest two words to give you direction, comfort, and hope? They are *Please God*. If those two words become an inner compass for you, they will answer a lot of questions and prevent much heartache!

For example, how should you dress for a high school dance? Modestly, of course! But how do you judge what's modest? You can review the standards of the Church in *For the Strength of Youth*. You could also ask yourself, "Is the way I'm dressed pleasing to my Heavenly Father?" Then you can ask Him in prayer, and He will tell you!

It shouldn't be a mystery to know what pleases Heavenly Father. As you strive to please God, the Spirit will move your heart to feel what does or does not meet with His approval. And "then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God" (D&C 121:45). There are many ways we can please God. Here are three ways I have found to be powerful.



By Elder J. Devn Cornish
Of the Seventy

SEEK HIS WILL

1 PRAY IN WAYS THAT PLEASE GOD

At about age 14, while praying, I had a surprising thought: "I wonder what Heavenly Father thought about what I just said in my prayer?" This had a profound impact on me. It changed the way I pray. Suppose I had an algebra test coming up that I was worried about. While praying for help, if I would ask, "I wonder what Heavenly Father thought about what I just said in my prayer?" I would be more aware of what I was asking, which would lead me to think that He would want me to finish my algebra homework and spend more time studying before the test. If I did so, He would be much more pleased with my prayer.

Seeking His will for us will help us recognize His answers to our prayers. It pleases God when we communicate with Him. He is also pleased when we learn how He speaks to us through the Holy Ghost. Learning to recognize when God is speaking is more like learning to play the piano or learning a new language than it is like just turning to you, and you can recognize it each time it comes. Revelation is like a light inside us. It's real, it's identifiable, and it's memorable, however it comes. The Lord taught, "He that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day" (D&C 50:24).

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA GONZALEZ

LOOK FOR WAYS TO SERVE



2 GET OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF

We please Heavenly Father when we look for ways to serve others. When I was Young Men president in a ward in San Antonio, Texas, the bishop suggested that the priests quorum help a woman whose husband was on military deployment. She lived in a trailer home with her small children. The steps to her trailer were rotted and damaged. She needed help replacing them.

We met at her home and got to work. Shortly after we started, it began to rain. The priests decided to work through the rain. Soon new steps were in place. They were high quality when we were done! Some years later I had an occasion to talk to one of those priests. I asked him what he remembered from our time in the priests quorum. He remembered that the service did for him was much more important than what it did for this dear sister and her family.

Christ's teaching is infinitely wise: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25). Two wonderful things happen when you serve others: first, those you serve are happier and better, and second, you are happier and better. This works anytime and anyplace.

3 GO FOR THE LONG WIN

Think about what you want to be years from now. What can you contribute to the world and to your family? What can you do to bring happiness to others? It pleases God when we go for what I call the long win. This means we don't take the easy way out, we focus on things that have lasting importance and impact, and we do the right thing for the right reasons.

You can gain so much confidence by saying, "I'm going to do what I know is right." Instead of being shortsighted, think about how you want things to turn out further down the road. You may not know how a situation will end, but if you can have the courage to say, "I know what's right, and I'm going to do it no matter what," you will win in the long run. Always.

Going for the long win will also help you stay away from sin. People often fall into sin because it seems enjoyable in the moment. The problem with the moment is that it only lasts a moment. In the end, sin always causes harm and pain. Going for the long win will lead you to make wiser decisions in the short term and be much happier in the long term.

FOCUS ON LASTING IMPACT

YOU CAN DO THIS!

Here is one more thought. You may feel discouraged as you try to please God and do what's right. Doing right can sometimes be hard. Everyone experiences discouragement from time to time. Sometimes we're discouraged because we've made a mistake or committed a sin. But feeling discouraged shouldn't lead to lingering hopelessness. If we take advantage of the tremendous blessing of repentance, Heavenly Father will give us power to rise to our true potential. Repentance is there to redirect and correct our course minute by minute, day by day. We can repent and try again! As you strive to please God, you will be on the path to becoming the best and the happiest you can be. NE

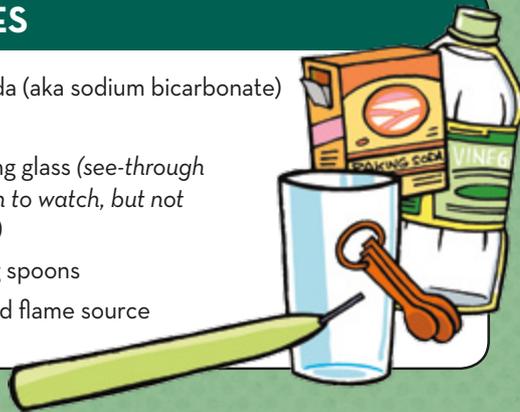
Stopping Anger in Its Tracks

Use this object lesson to show how we can avoid adding fuel to the fire of anger.

By David Dickson
Church Magazines

SUPPLIES

- Baking soda (aka sodium bicarbonate)
- Vinegar
- Tall drinking glass (*see-through is more fun to watch, but not necessary*)
- Measuring spoons
- Candle and flame source



Fire has been used to describe a wide range of things, from romantic love to a “burning” testimony. Another common association with fire is anger. Ever heard of someone being described as “hotheaded” or as having a “fiery” temper?

Anger, like fire, can appear suddenly and without warning. Both can destroy anything they touch. Yet there’s something intriguing about fire. If you cut off its access to fuel, the flames vanish. The same principle applies to anger.

Object lesson time!

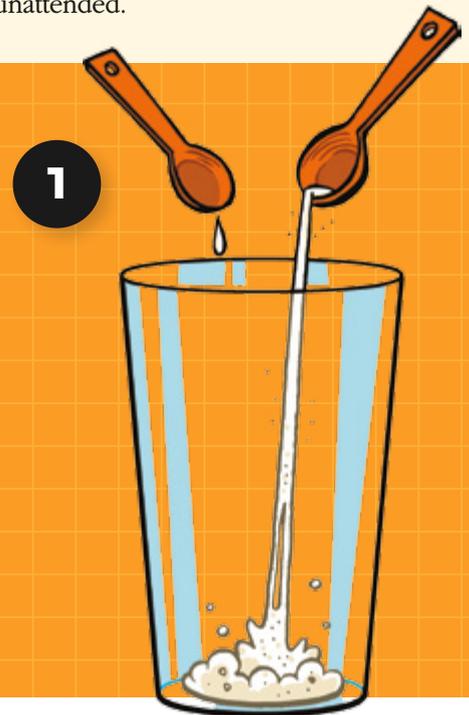
HEADS UP!
This object lesson
will likely
improve your
relationships.

A Flash of Fire

Explain to your family that in this object lesson, fire represents anger. Ask somebody to read the following story by President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008). As they read the story, light the candle.

“Many years ago I worked for one of our railroads. A switchman was aimlessly strolling about the platform one day. I asked him to move a car to another track. He exploded. He threw his cap on the pavement and jumped up and down on it, swearing like a drunken sailor. I stood there and laughed at his childish behavior. Noting my laughter, he began to laugh at his own foolishness. He then quietly climbed on the switch engine, drove it over to the empty car, and moved it to an empty track.”¹

Talk about this story for a bit. What are some things that cause anger to come out of nowhere? What can happen if that anger keeps growing? You might point to the candle and discuss what that small flame could actually do if left unattended.



A Sneaky Fire Extinguisher

How did President Hinckley help to diffuse the anger in this situation? By replacing it with laughter!

Talk about that strategy. Come up with ideas for what you can use to replace angry feelings. Humor is only one solution. What about going for a walk? Turning on Church music? Lowering your voice (see Proverbs 15:1)? You could even try something silly, such as a family rule that all arguments must be done in a singing voice.

STEP 1. Once you've listed "sneaky fire extinguishers," mix 1 rounded teaspoon of baking soda and then 1 level tablespoon of vinegar in the glass. As the bubbles die down, explain that there is now something invisible in the glass that represents the items on the list you've just created.

Here comes the fun part.

A Cool Success

We've all blown out birthday candles with a puff of air. What happens next is far sneakier than trying to overpower flame with breath. Instead, you're replacing what fire needs—oxygen—with something it can't use (carbon dioxide).

STEP 2. You might want to practice this bit ahead of time. The idea is to tip the glass above the flame as if you were going to pour out liquid. But *don't* let any liquid spill. Instead, you'll be pouring out an invisible gas (carbon dioxide) that is heavier than air.

STEP 3. This invisible fire extinguisher—which, again, represents any of the items on your list—will completely snuff out the flame! It's crafty, subtle, and oh, so effective.

Connecting the Dots

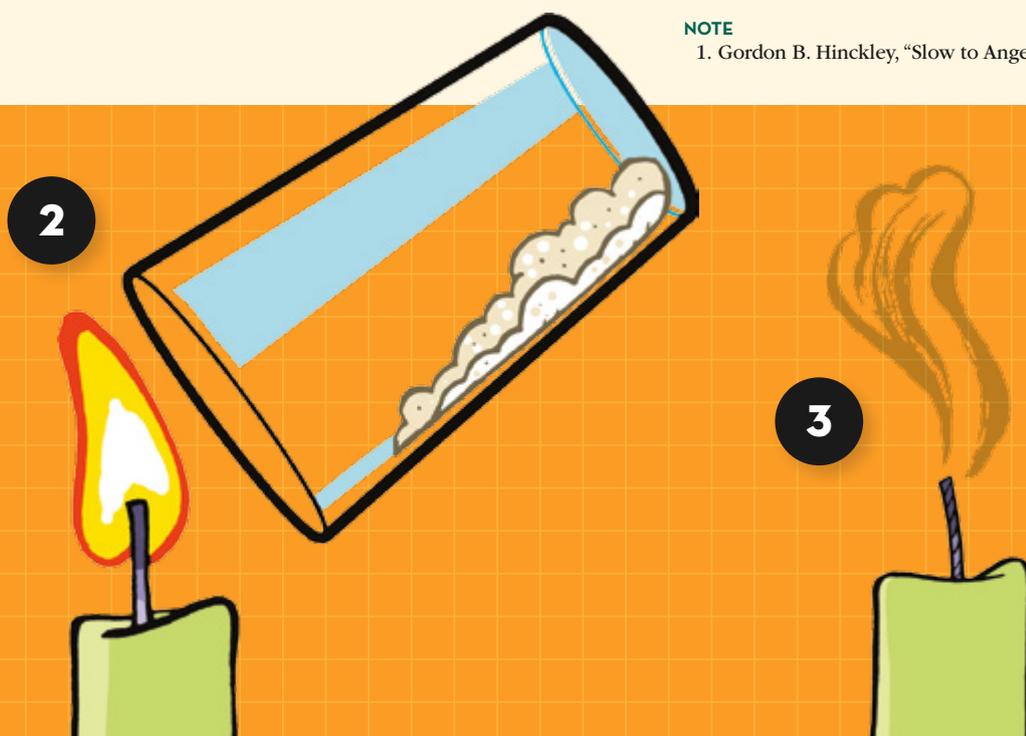
Discuss what just happened in terms of replacing anger with better emotions. As an example, ask everybody to imagine that they're sitting on a couch and starting to feel angry. Now, ask them to imagine that somebody just plopped a tail-wagging puppy into their lap. What would change? That's the general idea, here.

You'll find that once the dangerous emotion of anger is removed, it's much easier and safer to solve whatever problems you're facing.

With a few "sneaky fire extinguishers" at the ready, anger won't stand a chance. **NE**

NOTE

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Slow to Anger," Oct. 2007 general conference.



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.)



sat anxiously in the back seat of the car as my parents and I made our way to our stake patriarch's house to receive my patriarchal blessing.

A few weeks before, I had been praying earnestly about receiving my patriarchal blessing, and realized that I had many questions that I felt would be answered if I received it.

Those same thoughts filled my mind as we arrived at the patriarch's house. When we got inside, he asked me questions, mainly about my life and my interests so he could get to know me better. Then he gave me my patriarchal blessing.

I had faith that my questions would be answered, and they were. But one thing that I didn't anticipate—a feeling that I will never forget—is how well Heavenly Father knows me.

There are many benefits to getting a patriarchal blessing. One of the most important to me is personal guidance. A question that I think many youth have is, "What does the future hold for me?" We have a lot of questions, such as where to go to college, who am I going to marry, and about preparing and serving a mission. My patriarchal blessing does not tell me which college to go to, but after receiving it, I realized that I can pray to Heavenly Father and ask Him anything. He will help me find the way with the Holy Ghost as my guide.

The personal guidance of a patriarchal blessing extends to other important life choices, such as choosing right from wrong.

That leads to another important benefit: protection. My patriarchal blessing contains warnings. Looking back, I've realized that I am human and there have been times where I have not heeded those warnings. He knows what choices will make me happy and which ones will not. I realize that I feel closer to my Heavenly Father when I heed the warnings in my blessing.

MY BLESSING

By Abby Miles



A PERSONAL LIAHONA

"Your blessing is not to be folded neatly and tucked away. It is not to be framed or published. Rather it is to be read. It is to be loved. It is to be followed. Your patriarchal blessing will see you through the darkest night. It will guide you through life's dangers. . . . Your patriarchal blessing is to you a personal Liahona to chart your course and guide your way."

President Thomas S. Monson (1927-2018), "Your Patriarchal Blessing: A Liahona of Light," Oct. 1986 general conference.

My
patriarchal
blessing
answered
my most
important
questions
about
my life.



OF LOVE AND COMFORT

Our patriarchal blessings are precious and priceless treasures. Not only do they provide personal guidance and protection, but a patriarchal blessing is also a source of comfort. Reading our patriarchal blessings often can strengthen and comfort us.

One day I was feeling down and I remembered something someone told me: "If you don't know that Heavenly Father loves you, ask Him." So I did just that. I didn't hear a small voice say, "Yes, absolutely" or "Of course I love you," but I did feel prompted to read my patriarchal blessing. So I pulled it out. Before I read a single word, I was overcome with emotion. I felt the Spirit testify to me in my heart boldly that my Heavenly Father loves me and that my patriarchal blessing is not just a blessing about the future but also a blessing of love and comfort whenever I need it. **NE**

The author lives in Washington, USA.

The Lord remembers us on the isles of the sea, including Guam.

CHURCH UNDER A



By Grant Williams



Guam is a small island where the Pacific Ocean meets the Philippine Sea. It is a U.S. Territory and my home. It's also home to hundreds of remarkable members of the Church.

When my family moved here in August 2016 as part of the U.S. military, we were overwhelmed with new weather and a new culture, but we also met wonderful people and began to experience the strong presence of the gospel here.

After we adjusted to our new ward for a few weeks, our bishop invited us to attend

the Talofofo Group, located in the village of Talofofo, several miles away from the chapel. Here a group of faithful saints met outside under a canopy each Sunday.

There were many challenges when meeting outside: the heat, dogs, rain, mud, mosquitos, ants, chickens, and so on. Regardless of these challenges, I have never felt the Spirit so strongly before. It reminds me of how the Saints in the time of Joseph Smith met outdoors in open weather, lacking necessities, with many distractions.

I love the scripture 2 Nephi 29:7. It testifies

CANOPY



MEET GRANT

FAVORITE HOBBIES: reading, folding origami, sketching, and hanging out with his siblings. Also likes to go snorkeling, scuba diving, hiking (called “boonie stomping” on Guam), and runs cross-country at school.

FAVORITE SUBJECTS AT SCHOOL: math, chemistry, and science

FAMILY: lives with parents, one sister, and two brothers

FAVORITE FOOD FROM GUAM: BBQ pork, chicken *kelaguen* with red rice (a light chicken salad), and *tinaktak* (a ground beef dish)

GRANT SAYS: “My favorite local customs are the night markets and festivals. People make food and merchandise by hand to sell at the markets. Villages celebrate different festivals throughout the year, such as the Banana Festival, Mango Festival, and Pepper Festival. Each village celebrates their patron saint with a festival or fiesta, so basically there’s always a party going on somewhere.”

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GUAM

- Guam is located in Micronesia in the western Pacific Ocean.
- A territory of the United States since 1898.
- The largest island in Micronesia—210 square miles (540 km), 30 miles (50 km) long and 4 to 12 miles (6 to 19 km) wide.
- The natives are called *Chamorros*, descendants of Austronesians from Southeast Asia.
- First visited by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 and still a major stopover point in the Pacific.
- Tropical rainforest climate, with average temperature 86° F (30° C).
- Language: English and Chamorro (the native language).
- Total population: 167,358.



THE CHURCH IN GUAM

- The Church first came to Guam in 1944 when servicemen fighting in World War II came to the island.
- Number of Church members in Guam: 2,430.
- First Stake, the Barrigada Guam Stake, was created in December 2010 by Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. There are 4 wards on Guam.
- Part of the Micronesia Guam Mission in the Asia North Area.



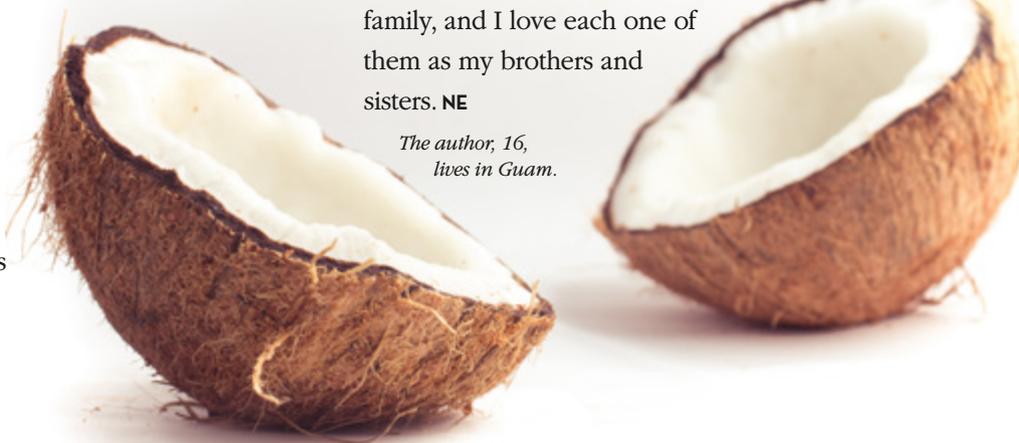
that Jesus Christ “created all men” and that He remembers those “who are upon the isles of the sea.” To me, this says that His kingdom is everywhere, even down to the smallest island, and that God will bless our efforts in establishing His kingdom. I know that He is looking out for me, and will help me wherever I am.

Throughout my time here and around the local *Chamorros* (indigenous people of Guam), I have learned that everyone has worth and that our Heavenly Father loves

us equally. I come each Sunday to feel the Spirit, learn gospel principles, and make friends in the Talofoto Group. We are able to find peace, strength, and guidance in the time we spend together.

The Saints in the group feel like family, and I love each one of them as my brothers and sisters. **NE**

The author, 16, lives in Guam.



MORMONAD

JUST BREATHE!

You can have the Spirit with you.
BUT YOU HAVE TO LET IT IN.

FINISH TOGETHER

Crossing the finish line was important to Sean. Crossing it with Blake was even more important.

By Richard M. Romney

Church Magazines

Blake Lewis, 17, was among the leaders at the Utah 6A state high school cross-country championships, and his best friend and teammate, Sean Rausch, 18, was right behind him. “Our team, Riverton, had never won state before, and we were going for it,” Sean says.

The race was intense, but Riverton was doing well. With only 200 meters (220 yards) left in the three-mile race, the first runners were about to leave the hills and grass behind, make a sharp turn, and enter the stadium where they would sprint to the finish.

Then, Blake fell. Not from a trip or a stumble. He collapsed. The tibia bone in his lower leg had snapped.

“I came around a corner and saw Blake lying on the ground, holding his leg and screaming in pain,” Sean remembers.





FINISH STRONG



NO HESITATION

Even though Sean was a senior and this was his last chance to race at state, he didn't hesitate. "I had no thought of leaving Blake and just finishing the race," he says. "He wanted to finish and so did I, and I was ready to help him the whole way. So, I put him on my back and carried him to the finish line."

Two hundred meters is a long way to carry somebody that's your same height and weight. "I wanted to comfort him," Sean says. "So, I kept reminding him of the years we'd been running together, of the 1,250 miles (2,012 km) we'd run together over the summer."

In between Blake's groans, Sean kept repeating, "We're a team, and we're a family." An official rushed up to tell them giving assistance to another runner wasn't allowed, but Sean said it didn't matter. "We're in this together," he said, "and we're



"We're a **TEAM,**
and we're a **FAMILY.**"

going to finish it together.” The official disqualified them both, but allowed them to continue.

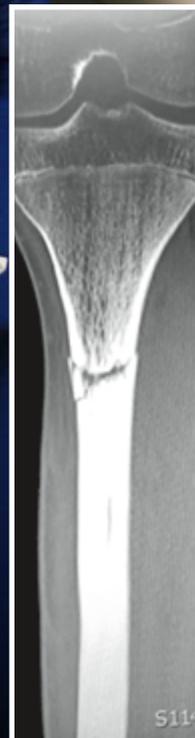
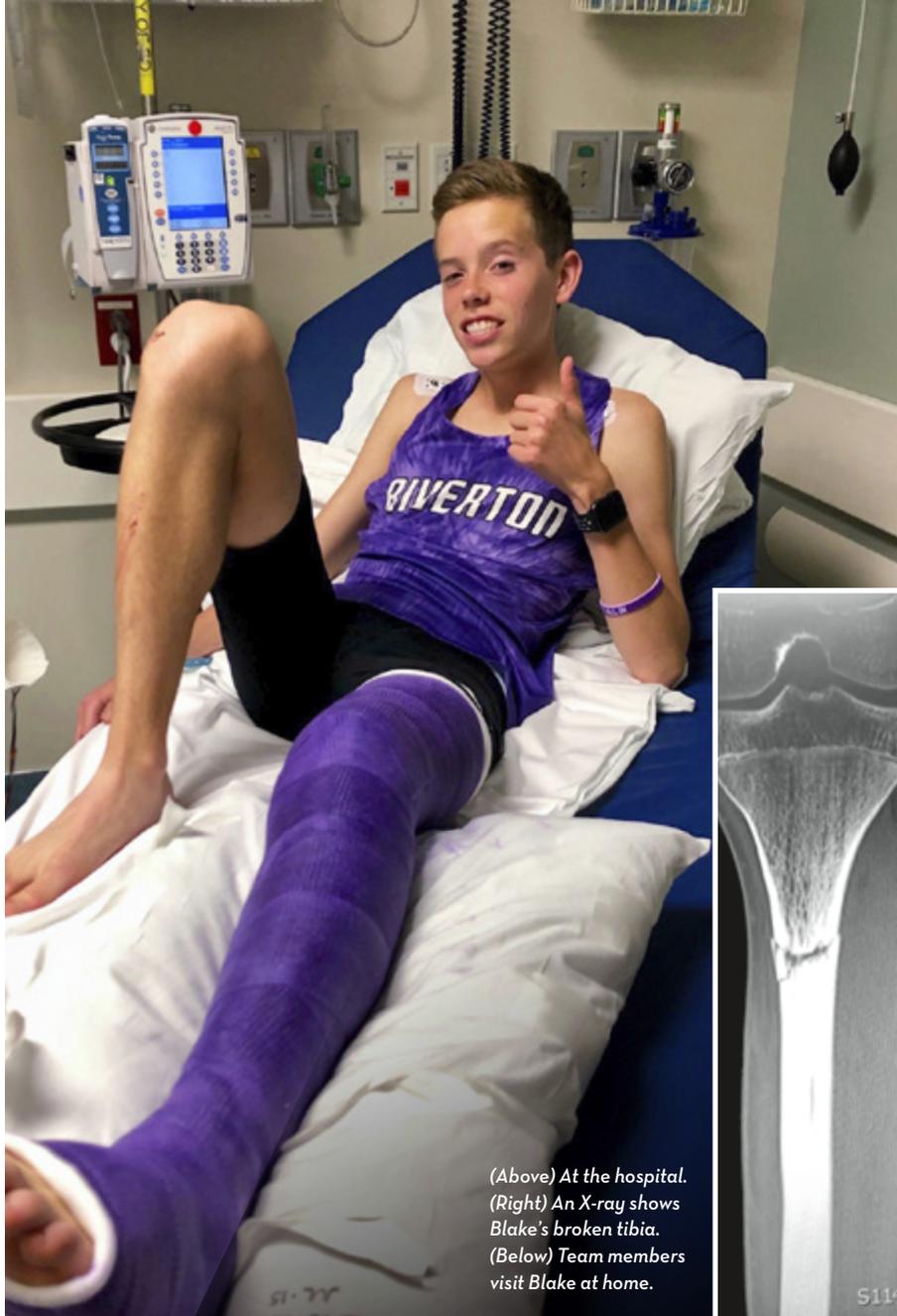
At the end of their ordeal, Sean gently set Blake down so that he could step—actually, hop—over the finish line. Then Blake, with help, climbed into an ambulance.

TEAM PRAYER

The Riverton men’s team took third place as a team, but they didn’t celebrate. Instead, they knelt and prayed for Blake. And when the women’s team found out about Blake, they did the same.

“I was in the hospital when I heard they had prayed for me,” Blake said. “That was so emotional, that my teammates would do that for me.”

“We prayed that Blake would be all right, and that nothing too serious would result,” Sean says. And he believes the prayer was answered. “The doctor said the injury could have been a lot worse if Blake had tried to finish the race on his own.”



(Above) At the hospital.
(Right) An X-ray shows Blake’s broken tibia.
(Below) Team members visit Blake at home.





AIDAN'S VICTORY

Ever dream of winning a national championship? So did Aidan Troutner, 18, from Timpview High School in Provo, Utah, USA. But he did more than dream about it. He trained hard and listened to his coach. Just the same, no one figured he really had a chance to win the individual cross-country championship—until it came to the final sprint. Enjoy his inspiring story, “The Final Sprint,” at newera.lds.org.



READY ON ARRIVAL

These three cross-country athletes—Blake, Sean, and Aidan—will all soon be missionaries. But even with all the time they spend on running, school, and other activities, they will arrive in the mission field ready to share the gospel. See how they have learned to strengthen gospel teaching by using personal experiences in the article “How to Teach from Life” at newera.lds.org.

“People like to

be reminded

there’s still

**GOOD IN THE
WORLD.”**



At a community event, Blake sounds the horn to start the race.



Sean and Blake with family members. Sean is recognized as a “local hero.”

The local community also celebrated Sean’s good deed. At Riverton’s annual Veteran’s Day celebration, which features a 5K and a one-mile run, Sean was recognized as a “local hero,” and Blake was invited to sound the horn to start the race.

In a short speech, Sean said, “I’m not a hero. I was just taking care of my brother.”

ULTIMATE VICTORY

Both young men feel their experience reinforced gospel principles to them.

“We all have hardships in our lives,” Blake says. “But just like Sean was there for me, the Savior is there for us. If we let Him, He’ll pick us up and help us finish.”

“If any one of us on the team went down,” Sean says, “the rest of the team would be there for him.” The same is true for his priesthood quorum. “We’re always there as a team, serving together. For Mutual, Church meetings, sacrament, and any service that anybody needs, we’re always trying to help and support each other.”

“When we run, we always set goals, then train to meet those goals,” Blake said. “If you don’t train, you’re not going to get better. Our ultimate eternal goal is to have eternal life and to return to our Heavenly Father. So, we have spiritual goals, and we train through prayer, scripture study, service, staying worthy, repentance—so that we can make it to the spiritual finish line.” **NE**



Sharing their experience in Sunday School and quorum meetings.



“And the doctor told my mom it was a miracle that it was a clean break, lined up so straight that no surgery was necessary,” Blake says. “Otherwise they would have placed a metal rod in my leg, and running would have become painful.”

AROUND THE WORLD

Websites, TV stations, and newspapers across the USA featured

accounts of Sean carrying Blake to the finish line. A social media video went viral, and the story popped up in Asia, Australia, South America, and Europe.

“I think our story became popular because people like to be reminded there’s still good in the world,” Blake says. Sean agrees: “It’s nice to see that a simple act of kindness can touch so many lives.”

WHAT, WHY, AND HOW:

A BREAKDOWN OF THE RESTORATION

By Faith Sutherlin Blackhurst
Church Magazines

Say you're on a weeklong trip to the beach with your friend's family. You've had lots of fun, but you're beginning to miss your own family. Then your dad sends you a text message to see how things are going—it's just what you needed to feel loved and remembered.

Life on earth is a little like that. God doesn't send us texts, but we are away from our heavenly home, so one way Heavenly Father communicates His love for us is by sending prophets.

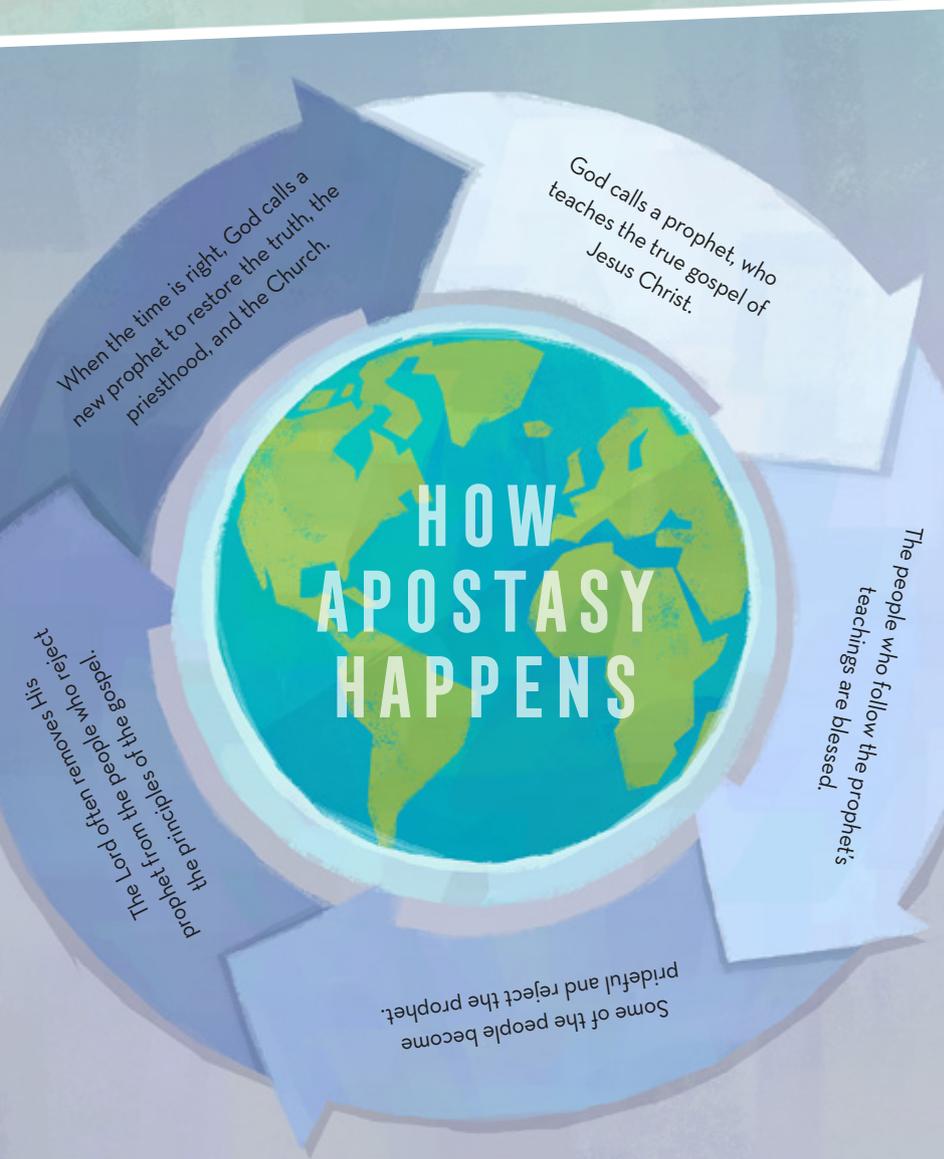
== DISPENSATION ==

Prophets lead what are called *dispensations*, periods of time when (1) God has at least one authorized priesthood leader on the earth and (2) this leader, a prophet, learns about the plan of salvation directly from God. The prophet then teaches, or *dispenses*, the gospel to the people.

Thanks to the scriptures, we know about many of the dispensations. Some important ones were those of Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, and Joseph Smith. The Lord began a dispensation through each of these prophets.



TO TEACH THE GOSPEL, YOU'LL NEED TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT APOSTASY, DISPENSATIONS, AND THE RESTORATION ARE. THIS CHART CAN HELP.



== APOSTASY ==

Apostasy=wickedness. When an individual or group turns away from the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ, rejects the prophets, and falls into sin, they are in apostasy.

== RESTORATION ==

A restoration is the act of returning something to its original condition. It is not a reformation, which alters something existing to create something new. For example, if you wanted to restore an old house, you would rebuild it with the same layout that it had originally. You might want to add a new fireplace, but then you would be changing the house, not restoring it.



The gospel of Jesus Christ needed to be restored because it was lost during the Great Apostasy. The people had lived for centuries without the true Church. So the Lord *restored* His Church and gospel through Joseph Smith, just as ancient prophets had prophesied (see Isaiah 2:1–3; 29:13–14; Acts 3:19–21; Revelation 14:6–7; 2 Nephi 3:3–15).

The true gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay—so will you stay with it? Even though the world grows more and more wicked, Jesus Christ's Church will remain to the end.

You have a choice to make—the same choice that has faced mortals since the beginning of time: will you follow the prophet? If you do, you will be blessed and have the Spirit to guide you.



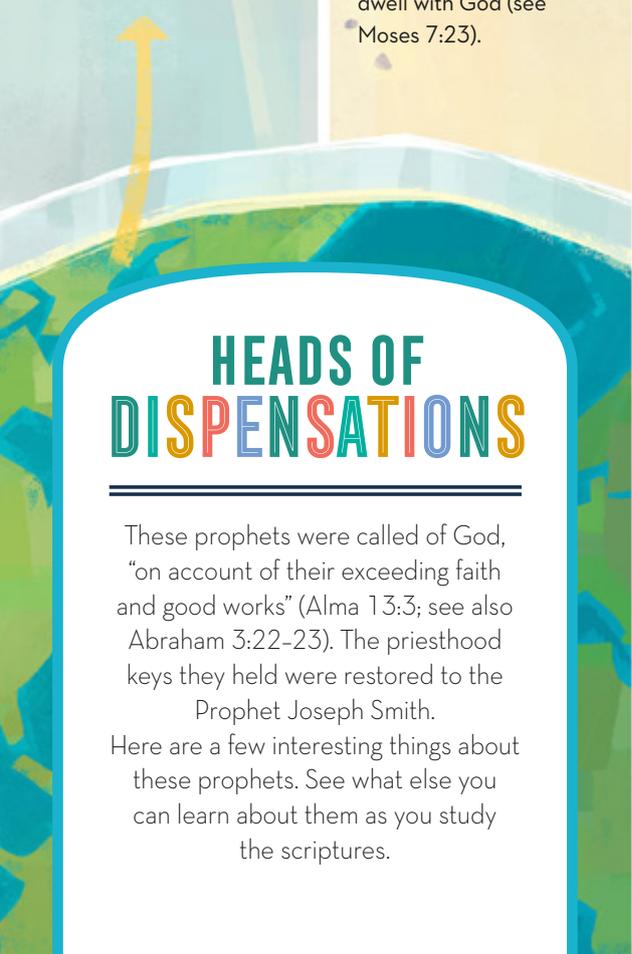
ADAM

Adam was a true pioneer: he was the first man on earth and the first prophet! He taught his family the gospel, but even in the beginning, many “sought their own counsels in the dark” and rejected the truth (Moses 6:28).



ENOCH

Have you ever heard of an entire city being taken up to heaven? Well, the city of Zion—established by Enoch—was so righteous that the people went to dwell with God (see Moses 7:23).



HEADS OF DISPENSATIONS

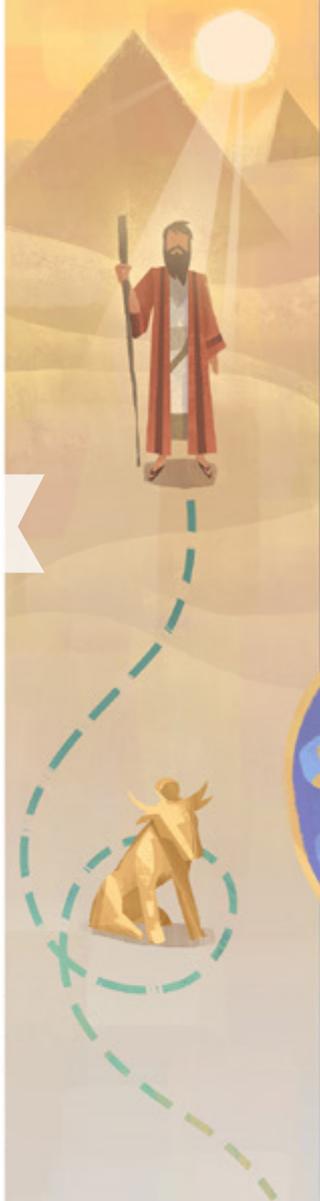
These prophets were called of God, “on account of their exceeding faith and good works” (Alma 13:3; see also Abraham 3:22–23). The priesthood keys they held were restored to Prophet Joseph Smith.

Here are a few interesting things about these prophets. See what else you can learn about them as you study the scriptures.



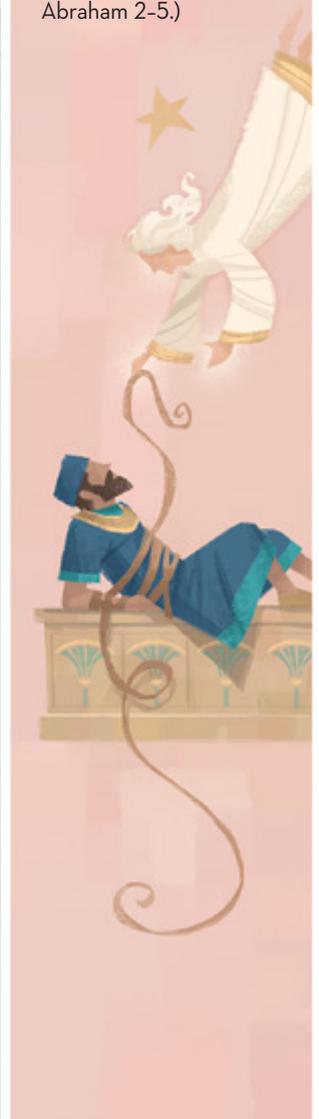
NOAH

You know about Noah's ark. Only eight people—Noah's family—survived the Flood because they listened to Noah's warnings (see Genesis 7; Moses 8). But did you know that he received the priesthood when he was 10 years old (see D&C 107:52) and that “giants ... sought Noah to take away his life”? (Moses 8:18).



ABRAHAM

Abraham was almost sacrificed by wicked priests, but an angel saved him (see Abraham 1). He had some amazing revelations, including a vision of the premortal life. Members of the Church are his descendants, and the Abrahamic covenant is named after him. (See Abraham 2–5.)



MOSES

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and helped them gain freedom. He “sought diligently to sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God; but they hardened their hearts and could not endure his presence” (D&C 84:23–24). In fact, because of their apostasy, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years!



JESUS CHRIST

Not only did Jesus Christ teach the gospel and perform many miracles, but He also established His Church on the earth. He atoned for our sins and was crucified and resurrected to enable us to overcome spiritual and physical death. He is the head of His Church today, and He and Heavenly Father are the source of priesthood authority.



THE GREAT APOSTASY

After the Savior's Resurrection, His Apostles and other Church leaders tried to spread the gospel, but people rejected their teachings and even killed most of the Apostles. Because of the people's wickedness, the fulness of the gospel was lost from the earth. The world fell into spiritual darkness (see Isaiah 60:2).

- For more than 1,000 years, the people had no access to the ordinances of salvation, the blessings of the temple, or the guidance of a prophet.
- Precious truths were lost from the Bible.
- False ideas were taught about the true nature of God.
- Some of the ordinances of salvation were changed or taught incorrectly (see Isaiah 24:5).
- This apostasy eventually led to the formation of many churches.



THE REFORMATION

During the Great Apostasy, some religious-minded people in Europe realized that the gospel of Jesus Christ was not being taught correctly. These reformers were not prophets, but they did their best to teach the truth as they understood it. They helped make the Bible available to more people. Many fought for religious freedom and opened the way for the Restoration of the gospel.



JOSEPH SMITH

So was the fulness of the gospel lost forever? No! God revealed important truths to Joseph Smith again. Heavenly messengers restored all of the necessary priesthood keys to him (see D&C 27:8-13; 110; 128:18-21), making this the "dispensation of the fulness of times" (D&C 138:48). It is also known as the latter-days because it's the last dispensation before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.



THE RESTORATION

Guess what? YOU have the blessings of the Restoration. Yes, you!

- The Church of Jesus Christ was restored with a prophet and apostles to lead it.
- The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and other modern revelation restored precious truths that had been lost (see 2 Nephi 27).
- Joseph Smith received the Aaronic Priesthood from John the Baptist (see D&C 13) and the Melchizedek Priesthood from the Apostles Peter, James, and John (see D&C 128:20).
- Authorized priesthood holders perform the ordinances of salvation properly.
- And we know that the truth will never be lost through an apostasy again (see Daniel 2:44). **NE**

BANDWAGON FANS OR CONTRIBUTORS ON THE TEAM?



GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL!!!!!!

Depending on which team you're cheering for, this yell either leads you to feel crazed enthusiasm or devastating disappointment. And every four years, teams from around the world represent their countries hoping to hear that cry over and over again until their nation is crowned champion of the World Cup.

Some teams have been there many times before—Germany, Argentina, France, Brazil. Other teams, like Panama and Iceland, are playing for the first time ever on the world's biggest stage.

Fans can get pretty passionate about their team. From painted faces to vuvuzelas, fans will do just about anything to show how much they love their country's side. The most



ARE YOU AS PASSIONATE ABOUT BEING ON GOD'S TEAM AS YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY'S TEAM OR YOUR SCHOOL'S TEAM?

By J. Ryan Jensen
Church Magazines

common way to tell who someone is rooting for is their jersey. Most teams have a distinct look. Vertical or horizontal stripes. Plain white. Bright yellow. Blinding orange. When fans converge on a stadium, it's easy to see who is rooting for which team. And when you put on your team's colors, you feel a part of something bigger than just you. You feel like part of the team.

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

The big questions come when the game starts and things don't go according to plan. How do fans act when their player gets beat for a goal? How do his or her teammates react? What does the coach say or do? Is the team met with boos or cheers of encouragement? Do the teammates buoy each other up or blame each other for the breakdown?

Any of these things could happen in a game. But whether the team has been there a dozen times before or is appearing for the first time, there are some things you won't likely see. The teams won't give up; they play until the final whistle blows. Players don't walk off the field when their team is losing. They'll change strategy or tactics or lineups or positions or shoes or any of a variety of things,

but they don't walk away during a game. Coaches don't head to the airport while the team is still on the field playing. And fans don't switch to the opposing team's jersey when their team is behind or even if they lose. They all stick it out.

As teammates on God's team, we shouldn't quit either. Heavenly Father knows us. We are His children. He knows our strengths and weaknesses in the eternally important game of

HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS US. HE MADE US. HE KNOWS OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN THE ETERNALLY IMPORTANT GAME OF LIFE.

life. And there are many examples in the scriptures and in the history of the restored Church that show us what our Father in Heaven expects of us when we hit a rough spot on the pitch.

HOW DO WE HANDLE TOUGH TIMES?

How do we act when something happens that we didn't want to happen? There's a great example in the Book of Mormon of handling things well—it's when Nephi's bow broke at a bad time (see 1 Nephi 16:11–33). His family was traveling. There was no hunting equipment store. There was no two-day delivery from Jerusalem to the wilderness. But giving up and going home was not a real option for Nephi. He knew his family couldn't return either. Ever heard someone say, "Do or die," when it comes to scoring a goal? Well, this was "find-food-or-die" time for Nephi.

How would you have reacted as Nephi's teammate at that moment?

He was the superstar on the family hunting team. He had the best equipment. That is, until that equipment broke. How would you have reacted? How *do* you react now? If your parent loses a job, or if the family car breaks down, or if paying rent is going to be really hard this month, how do you react?

You can be like Nephi, who did his part and trusted God to help with the rest.

OUR HEAVENLY COACH

Speaking of God, if the Coach is Heavenly Father, we learn a lot about how He works with us as teammates from Nephi's example. Nephi's solution to his broken bow was to improvise by making a new bow and an arrow and gathering a sling and stones. Then he went to his father to ask where to hunt. In turn, when Lehi asked God where Nephi should go, Heavenly Father took the opportunity to coach

a humbled Lehi ("he was chastened" [1 Nephi 16:25]). Heavenly Father didn't make a substitution, but He did show Lehi how to use one of the tools he had provided as a new way for the team to move in the right direction together. The Lord had already given them the Liahona. Now He showed them that it worked, "according to the faith and diligence and heed" they gave to its instructions (1 Nephi 16:28).

If Nephi, his family, and Ishmael's family stayed loyal to Heavenly Father, they would win the match and arrive in the promised land. If not, they would wander around the field aimlessly with no direction and no hope of achieving their goal.

And of course, the Liahona worked. Nephi followed its instructions and was able to hunt and bring back food for his family. And you can bet there was a lot of cheering when he got back!

So regardless of how your sports team performs, remember that you're part of an even bigger team—Heavenly Father's team. And He *wants* you to win. Live loyal to Heavenly Father as your ultimate Coach, and follow His instructions. He will always be there to help you along the way. **NE**



COMING SOON



SAINTS: THE STORY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE LATTER DAYS VOLUME 1: THE STANDARD OF TRUTH

THIS STORY IS YOUR STORY

Saints is a new four-volume history of the Church written with you in mind. It's not the usual history book with just dates, names, and places. It's the exciting story of the people who witnessed the Restoration and tells the story of the challenges and difficulties the early Saints faced and how they overcame them. Their stories of faith, devotion, and courage will inspire you.



CHECK IT OUT!

One chapter of *Saints* has appeared monthly in the *Ensign* and *Liahona* magazines since February 2018.

Get *Saints* at:

- Gospel Library app (Church History section).
- Online at saints.lds.org.
- Pre-order now at store.lds.org.



“ACTUALLY, I CAN”

is my personal motto. When people meet me for the first time, they don't realize that I can do a lot of things if I'm creative and put my mind to it.

When I was eight years old, I was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. I thought I would have to give up all the things I love to do—dance, softball, volleyball—but my medication allowed me to keep living my normal life. I stayed super active and kept doing what I loved. I even started playing the snare drum in marching band.

Then in 10th grade, my arthritis flared up and I got really sick. I couldn't hold up my snare drum anymore. And I had to quit dance because it was too difficult for me to participate.

I tried to stay positive. But I really missed my snare drum. Even though I wanted to give up, my family encouraged me to find hope. We figured out how to attach my snare drum to my wheelchair, and soon I was playing in the marching band again!

Lots of times when we're faced with challenges, we automatically think we can't do it. But the truth is that “actually, I can.”

Jess P., 17, Utah, USA



Tristan K., 14, Arizona, USA

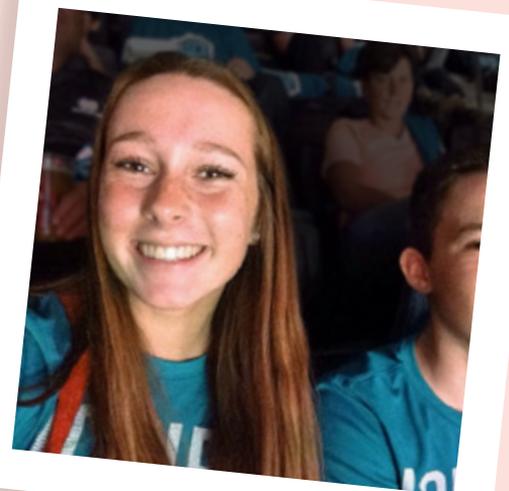
I'm thankful for my friends and family. My testimony has been strengthened remarkably in the past few months. My best friend, Hailey, helps me keep my thoughts clean and directs me down the Savior's path. She's encouraged me to do what the Lord asks. I've been reading my scriptures every day and saying prayers whenever I need. Doctrine and Covenants 19:23 has given me strength. Maybe it will help you too.

I play quarterback and love football, basketball, and track.

Elizabeth F., 16, North Carolina, USA

One of my favorite scriptures is Romans 13:12: "Let us put on the armour of light." We put on this armor to show the Light of Christ and stand as witnesses of God. When I think about how I can show light to those around me, I think about showing kindness in small ways. Can I give her a compliment? Can I put a smile on his face? We can shine our light and give more good back to the world.

Piano, tennis, basketball, and reading are things I really love to do.



For more stories For more stories about awesome youth from around the world, go to [@LDSYouth](#) on Instagram. Send your own photos and testimonies to newera@ldschurch.org.

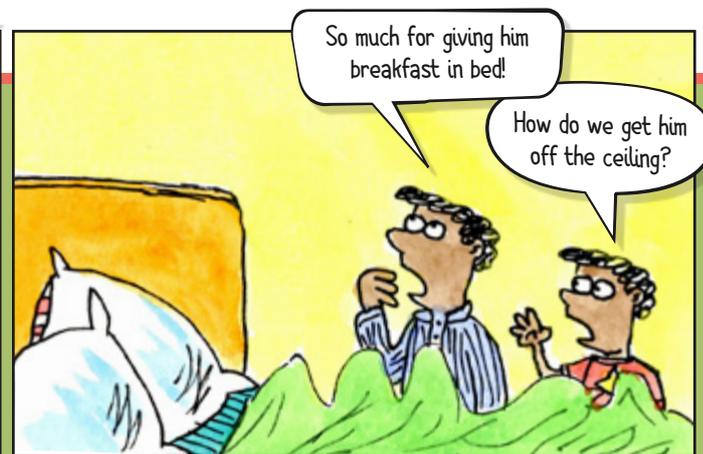
FUN STOP

Scripture Sudoku

In regular Sudoku, the goal is to fill the 9×9 grid so that each column, row, and 3×3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 only once. This time, to complete the puzzle, **use the nine bolded words from 2 Nephi 26:33:**

“He inviteth them all to come unto him . . . ; and **he denieth none** that come unto him, . . . ; **and all are alike unto God.**”

alike			he				and
		unto		are	God		
and	he					none	all
		unto	and	none	alike		
	unto						God
	alike		all		are		
			alike			unto	
	denieth					God	
God	all	none		and	he		



Rhyme Time

A hink pink is a rhyming pair of words with the same numbers of syllables that answers a riddle. So the tool a cobra uses to remove leaves from his front lawn would be a . . . *snake rake!* (You'll know you're doing it right if you groan at the answer.)

Can you solve the following groan-worthy hink pinks?

1. When 16-year-old Aaronic Priesthood holders enjoy a fabulous meal.

2. A music-and-lyrics tribute to weight lifting.

3. A married Spanish woman who loves wide-brimmed hats.

4. Where Little Red Riding Hood can pick up a dozen roses on her way to Grandmother's.

5. A four-legged, extremely-long-necked troublemaker.

6. What Nephi might've packed for dunking veggies in while on their voyage across the ocean.

7. A large, banana-colored stringed instrument.

8. A wooden mallet a judge takes with him on a trip.

9. A magical crab who grants you and your family extra time off of school and work.

10. What you might call someone who spends time doing origami.

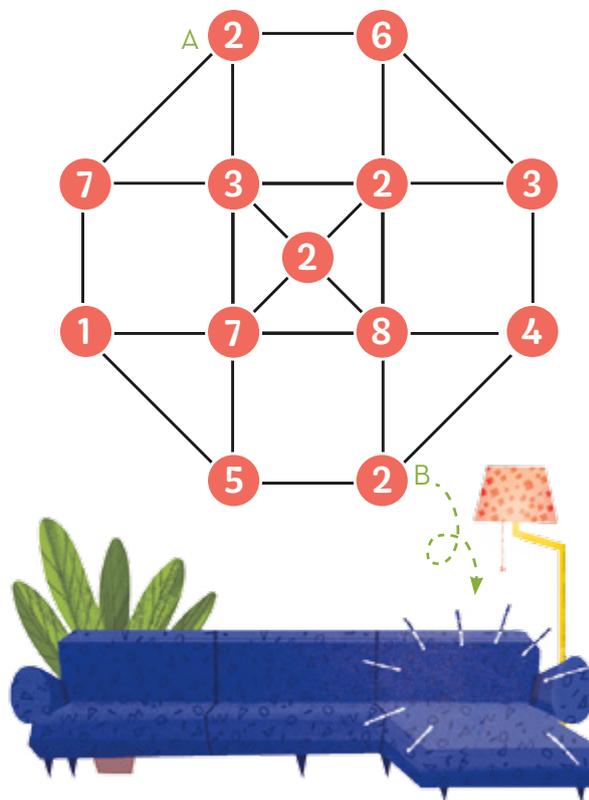
11. A Friday-night social outing where you strap four wheels on each foot.

12. A court entertainer for King Ahasuerus's second wife.

Best Spot on the Couch

It's movie night at Grandpa's house! This time, he's decided to hold a short contest to see who in your family earns the prime viewing seat on his sofa. All you have to do is be the first to correctly answer Grandpa's riddle.

Moving from point A to point B, what's the lowest sum possible? Move only along the lines and add the numbers in each circle (including A and B). But hurry! Your family is already crunching the numbers.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS

ILLUSTRATED BY ANTHONY HOLDEN



"Show respect for the Lord and yourself by dressing appropriately for Church meetings and activities."
— *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 8.



ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY HOLDEN

WHO KNEW?

Church facts, news, & trends

FROM SOCIAL MEDIA



My father, 1939



Me, 1939



"Today ... I am thinking of my father, Lloyd E. Oaks, who was born ... in 1902. I was not yet 8 years old when he died, but his influence lives on for me and his descendants...."

"... Thanks to the gospel of Jesus Christ, I know I will see my father again. Families are forever."

President Dallin H. Oaks, First Counselor in the First Presidency, Sept. 25, 2014, [facebook.com/lids.dallin.h.oaks](https://www.facebook.com/lids.dallin.h.oaks).

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

LET'S CELEBRATE



Father's Day is most commonly celebrated on the third Sunday in June. But in some countries, it's celebrated on a different pattern. Here're some examples:

- Australia:** First Sunday in September
- Denmark:** June 5
- Brazil:** Second Sunday in August
- Portugal:** March 19

Happy Birthday!

Elder David A. Bednar's birthday is on **June 15.**



"As a Church, we believe in fathers."

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Apr. 2016 general conference.

143 YEARS!

On June 10, 1875, the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association was organized. This later became the Young Men organization.

WORDS OF WISDOM
Hymn Vocab

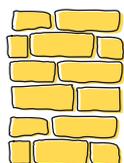


APPROBATION:
approval

"With your mutual approbation

Let me come and dwell with you."

(Hymn 292, "O My Father").



BULWARK:
defensive wall

"Thou hast led us here in safety

Where the mountain bulwark stands"

(Hymn 35, "For the Strength of the Hills").



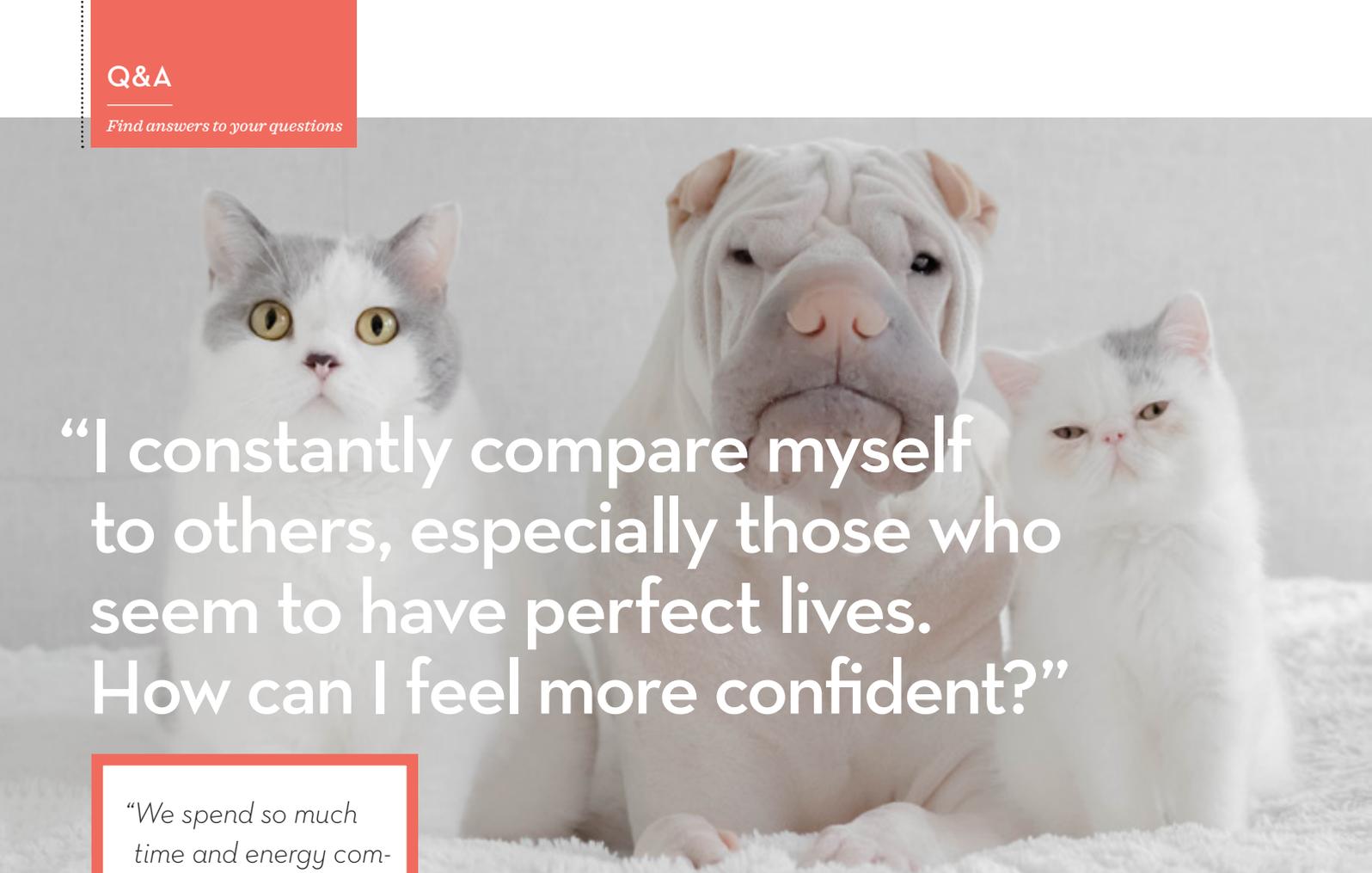
EFFULGENT:
shining brightly

"Come, follow me," a simple phrase,

Yet truth's sublime, effulgent rays"

(Hymn 116, "Come, Follow Me").





“I constantly compare myself to others, especially those who seem to have perfect lives. How can I feel more confident?”

“We spend so much time and energy comparing ourselves to others. . . . This drives us to create expectations for ourselves that are impossible to meet. . . .

“... [God] wants us to become perfect, and if we stay on the path of discipleship, one day we will. It’s OK that you’re not quite there yet. Keep working on it, but stop punishing yourself.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Forget Me Not,” Oct. 2011 general conference.



Pray to Know Your Gifts

You have so many talents and spiritual gifts that Heavenly Father has

given you personally. There are ways that only you can bless other people’s lives. This is Heavenly Father’s plan. Pray to know what gifts you have been given, and if you need more guidance, ask those close to you. By listening to the Spirit and striving to discover and develop your talents and divine qualities, you can find confidence in yourself that you may have never found before.

Amy P., 17, Kentucky, USA



Get to Know Them Better

Whenever I find that I am comparing myself to someone else, I try to get

to know that person a little bit better. When I become acquainted with my “idol,” the reality hits hard that every human being on earth faces trials in their life. The more I talk to that person, the more I begin to view them as a friend and not someone who is seemingly flawless.

Amelia C., 15, Idaho, USA



Only Heavenly Father's Opinion Matters

In his October 2016 conference address “Am I Good Enough? Will I Make It?” Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy says, “The only opinion of us that matters is what our Heavenly Father thinks of us. Please sincerely ask Him what He thinks of you. He will love and correct but never discourage us.” When I think I will never be as good as the people around me, I turn to my Heavenly Father and try to remember that I am the daughter of a loving God who is willing to help me reach my full potential and be who He knows I can be if I seek Him.

Amanda M., 19, Paraná, Brazil

Pray for Confidence

I used to compare myself to others who I thought were far ahead of me, particularly people who were more financially stable. Whenever I prayed to Heavenly Father, He gave me confidence in myself. I knew that no matter the challenge, God would help me because He does not give us a duty save it be that He prepares a way for us to accomplish it (see 1 Nephi 3:7; 17:3).

Joshua O., 19, Lagos, Nigeria

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



What is the gift of discernment?

The scriptures talk about the “discerning of spirits” as a gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10; D&C 46:23). It means “to understand or know something through the power of the Spirit. . . . It includes perceiving the true character of people and the source and meaning of spiritual manifestations” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Discernment, Gift of,” scriptures.lds.org).

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught that the gift of discernment can help us (1) “detect hidden error and evil in others,” (2) “detect hidden errors and evil in ourselves,” (3) “find and bring forth the good that may be concealed in others,” and (4) “find and bring forth the good that may be concealed in us” (“Quick to Observe,” *Ensign*, Dec. 2006, 35).

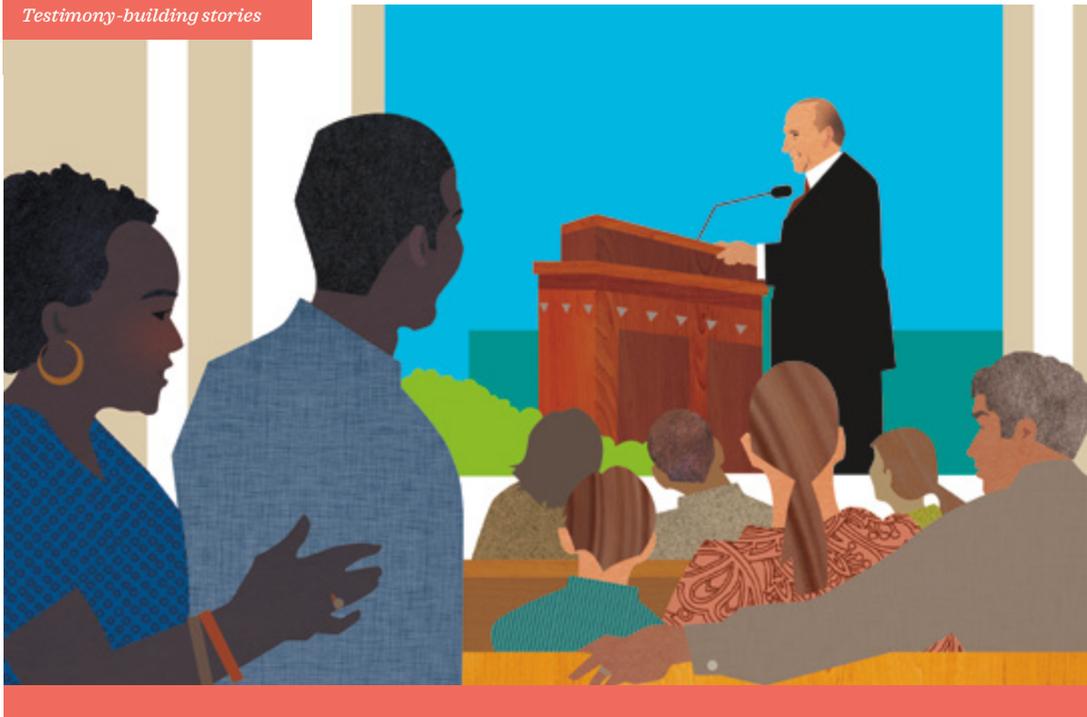
Tell Us What You Think?

“How do I keep my electronics from distracting me, especially at church and seminary?”

Send your answer and photo by March 15, 2018.

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

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



TOUCHED BY THE WORDS OF A LIVING PROPHET

WHEN I WAS 15 YEARS OLD, I spotted two missionaries in front of a supermarket. One of them invited me to come to church. I wasn't very interested, so I told them, "Maybe someday," and walked away.

The next day, my aunt called and asked my mother to come to her house to hear a special message. My mother and I ran over and saw the same missionaries I had seen the day before sitting in my aunt's house! My mother was interested by their message, and I started listening as well. However, when the missionaries asked me if I believed in a living prophet,

"In a future day, looking back on our mortality, we will rejoice that we walked the earth at the time of a living prophet."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Apr. 2018 general conference.

I responded with a resolute no. One of the elders held up a picture of Thomas S. Monson and testified that President Monson was a prophet. They invited me to come to general conference the next day to decide for myself. Curious, I agreed to come.

The next day, we reached the chapel just as the opening prayer was finishing. As I walked into the room, I saw President Monson come onto the screen. He smiled and said, "My dear brothers and sisters, I greet you . . ."

As soon as President Monson opened his mouth, a strong feeling swept over me, confirming that he was a prophet of God. At the end of conference, I told the missionaries, "I want to be baptized." I have since served a mission myself and have taught many others the wonderful truths of the restored gospel.

I know that God has blessed us by calling prophets again. God loves us and speaks to us through modern-day prophets.

Maicon B., São Paulo, Brazil



How can we sustain prophets and apostles?

1. Pray for a testimony that God called them as His prophets to teach the world (see Jeremiah 1:5, 7).
2. Love them and pray for them.
3. Support them, even when it's unpopular.
4. Study their teachings and their examples.
5. Follow them. Believe what they say, and strive to do what they teach (see D&C 21:4-6).

I AM NOT ASHAMED

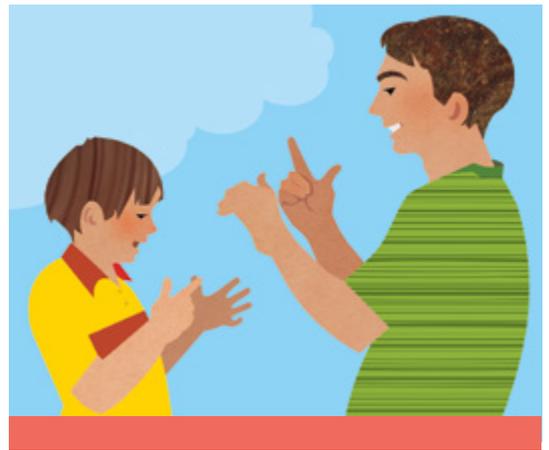
WHILE ATTENDING A BOARDING SCHOOL, I lived in a hostel with other students. I tried my best to live the principles of the gospel by praying and studying the scriptures often.

One day a classmate noticed me studying the Book of Mormon on my bed. She began to angrily list all the ways she thought that my church was false. She then told everyone else in the hostel about my “strange” beliefs. Some classmates began to mock me and my religion; others just avoided me. I finally hid my Book of Mormon under a box of my clothes and studied only the Bible so my classmates would stop taunting me.

I went on studying the Bible until I came across Romans 1:16, which proclaims: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.” I realized that by hiding the Book of Mormon, I was showing my classmates that I was ashamed of my beliefs. I retrieved my Book of Mormon and asked Heavenly Father for forgiveness. Then I went to my peers and bore my testimony of the restored gospel. Most of them stopped insulting me and became my friends again.

I know that God understands the trials we pass through. When we stand up for our beliefs and show that we are “not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,” He will provide us with His power, protection, and direction.

Pamela O., Abuja, Nigeria



SERVICE THROUGH SIGNING

WHEN I WAS SIX MONTHS OLD, my first sign was “milk” and, several weeks later, I verbally said “panda.” I am capable of hearing, yet my first language was American Sign Language. My mom had served an ASL mission and then continued to study sign language in school, and she wanted me to know it too.

Sign language has been an incredible blessing in my life. It’s allowed me to see and learn so much more than I would have without it. It brings people together. I love being able to teach people what I know through one-on-one teaching and giving presentations in school and in church. It’s also really fun to watch general conference and other Church videos in sign language with my mom.

Having sign language in my life has been an incredible testimony builder. I am able to get to know more children of God than I would without it, and it’s also a great tool to use as a service for others. I am grateful for this blessing in my life and for the amazing people I have been able to meet and learn from.

Israel H., Oregon, USA

ILLUSTRATIONS BY J. BETH JEPPSON



The Light Is Always There

By Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

From an October 2017 general conference address, when Elder Uchtdorf was Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

During my flights as an airline captain across our planet earth, I was always fascinated by the beauty and perfection of God's creation. I found especially captivating the relationship between the earth and the sun. I consider it a profound object lesson of how darkness and light exist.

As we all know, within every 24 hours night turns to day and day turns to night.

So, then, what is night?

Night is nothing more than a shadow.

Even in the darkest of nights, the sun does not cease to radiate its light. It continues to shine as bright as ever. But half of the earth is in darkness.

The absence of light causes darkness.

When the darkness of night falls, we do not despair and worry that the sun is extinguished. We do not postulate that the sun is not there or is dead. We understand that we are in a shadow, that the earth will continue to rotate, and that eventually the rays of the sun will reach us once again.

Darkness is not an indication that there is no light. Most often, it simply means we're not in the right place to receive the light.

Spiritual light continually shines upon all of God's creation.

It is up to us to be in the right place to see the divine light and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even when night has fallen and the world seems dark, we can choose to walk in Christ's light, keep His commandments, and courageously testify of His reality and His greatness.

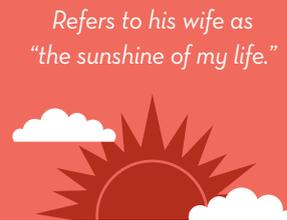
Every time you turn your hearts to God in humble prayer, you experience His light. Every time you seek His word and will in the scriptures, the light grows in brightness. Every time you notice someone in need and sacrifice your own comfort to reach out in love, the light expands and swells. Every time you reject temptation and choose purity, every time you seek or extend forgiveness, every time you courageously testify of truth, the light chases away darkness and attracts others who are also seeking light and truth. **NE**



Born in **Ostrava, Czechoslovakia**, on November 6, 1940.



His family **joined the Church** in 1947 in Zwickau, Germany.

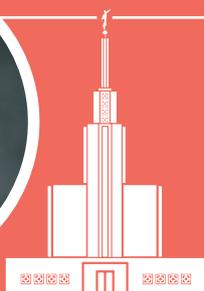


Refers to his wife as "the sunshine of my life."

Elder **DIETER F. UCHTDORF**



Has two children, six grandchildren, and soon four great-grandchildren.



Married Harriet Reich. Their marriage and their children's marriages were all sealed in the **Bern Switzerland Temple**.

Served for **10 years** as a counselor to President Monson.



He was baptized in an indoor **swimming pool**.



As a boy, he rode his bicycle to **deliver laundry**, helping his family's small business.



As a boy, he and his family were **refugees**, fleeing from Czechoslovakia to Germany and then from East Germany to West Germany.



He joined the **German Air Force** in 1959.



Served as a **fighter pilot** for 6 years.

He worked for **Lufthansa (a German airline)** as a pilot.

He became a captain at age 29.

His go-to recipes:

fried eggs sunny-side up and Knusperchen (slices of French bread toasted twice).



In 1973, he helped to bring back safely a 737 that had been **hijacked by terrorists**.

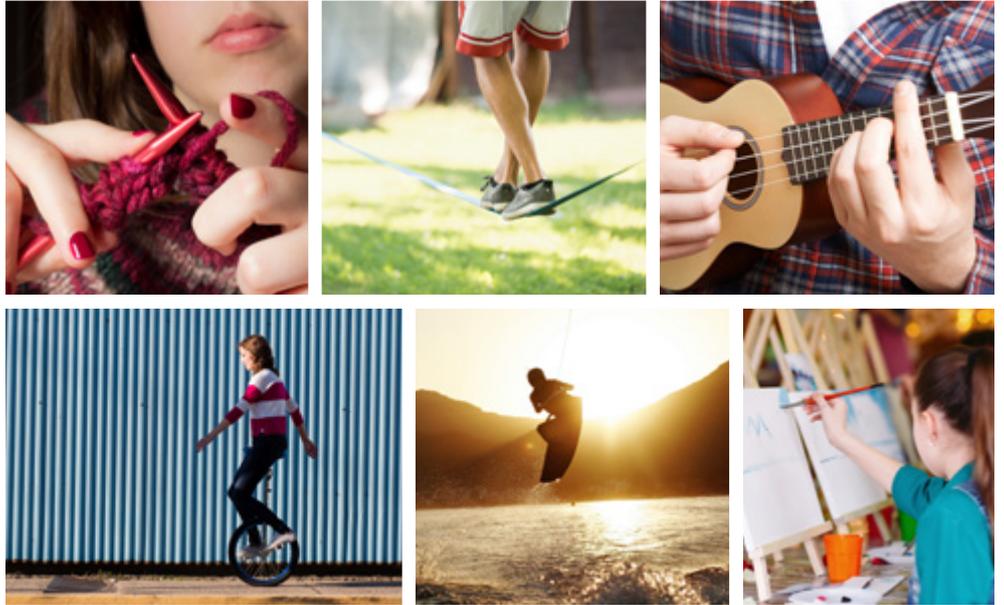


Sustained as a member of the **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles** on October 2, 2004.



Threw the first pitch at a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game.

WHAT ARE YOUR
UNIQUE TALENTS?



LET US KNOW WHAT TALENTS HEAVENLY FATHER HAS BLESSED YOU WITH AND HOW YOU HAVE USED THEM TO BLESS THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

AND watch next month for a special message from Elder Ronald A. Rasband about 3 ways you can strengthen your talents.