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



General Conference IS FOR YOU pp. 2-25, 49

118 YOUTH, 4 DAYS, 7,084 ORDINANCES *p. 30*

TIME OUT FOR DINNER p. 40 IS IT REVELATION OR ME?



MAY 2014

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To subscribe:

By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express. Online: Go to store.lds.org.

By mail: Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

To change address:

Send old and new address information to: Distribution Services P.O. Box 26368 Salt Lake City, UT 84126-O368, USA. Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.

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POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS (see DMM 707.4.12.5). NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FA-CILITIES: Send address corrections to Distribution Services, Church Magazines, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA,

Canada Post Information: Publication Agreement #40017431

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

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Cover photograph: Cody Bell

To submit manuscripts or art: Online: Go to newera.lds.org and ck "Submit Your Wo Email: newera@ldschurch.org

Mail: New Era Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA. For return, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



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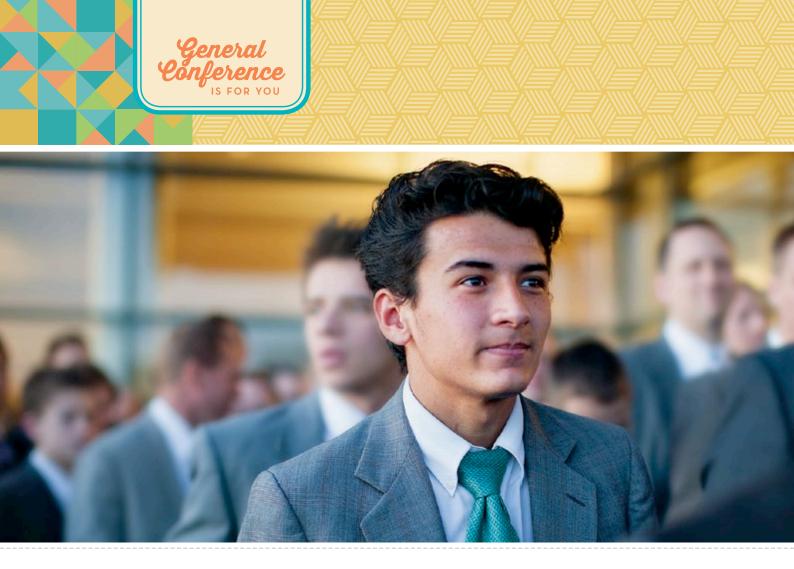
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President Thomas S. Monson

VIDEOS AND QUOTES

Share designed quotes and short video highlights from President Monson's conference addresses at lds.org/go/541, lds.org/ go/542, lds.org/go/543, and lds.org/go/544.

COURAGE AND LOVE

Be Strong and of a Good Courage

"We live in a world where moral values have, in great measure, been tossed aside, where sin is flagrantly on display, and where temptations to stray from the strait and narrow path surround us. . . .

"Because of these and other challenges, decisions are constantly before us which can determine our destiny. In order for us to make the correct decisions, courage is needed—the courage to say no when we should, the courage to say yes when that is appropriate, the courage to do the right thing because it is right.

"Inasmuch as the trend in society today is rapidly moving away from the values and principles the Lord has given us, we will almost certainly be called upon to defend that which we believe. Will we have the courage to do so? . . .

"We can help ourselves in our desire to do what is right if we put ourselves in places and participate in activities where our thoughts are influenced for good and where the Spirit of the Lord will be comfortable....

"... Inner courage ... includes doing the right thing even though we may be afraid, defending our beliefs at the risk of being ridiculed, and maintaining those beliefs even when threatened with a loss of friends or of social status. He who stands steadfastly for that which is right must risk becoming at times disapproved and unpopular...

"Not all acts of courage bring . . .

spectacular or immediate results, and yet all of them do bring peace of mind and a knowledge that right and truth have been defended. . . .

"We will all face fear, experience ridicule, and meet opposition. Let us—all of us—have the courage to defy the consensus, the courage to stand for principle. Courage, not compromise, brings the smile of God's approval. . . . As we move forward, striving to live as we should, we will surely receive help from the Lord."

Love-the Essence of the Gospel

"We cannot truly love God if we do not love our fellow travelers on this mortal journey. Likewise, we cannot fully love our fellowmen if we do not love God, the Father of us all. . . . We are all spirit children of our Heavenly Father and, as such, are brothers and sisters. As we keep this truth in mind, loving all of God's children will become easier. . . .

"There are many attributes which are manifestations of love, such as kindness, patience, selflessness, understanding, and forgiveness. . . .

"Usually our love will be shown in our day-to-day interactions one with another. All important will be our ability to recognize someone's need and then to respond. . . .

"... Some of our greatest opportunities to demonstrate our love will be within the walls of our own homes. Love should be the very heart of family life, and yet sometimes it is not. There can be too much impatience, too much arguing, too many fights, too many tears.... The reasons do not matter. If we would keep the commandment to love one another, we must treat each other with kindness and respect....

"I would hope that we would strive always

to be considerate and to be sensitive to the thoughts and feelings and circumstances of those around us. Let us not demean or belittle. Rather, let us be compassionate and encouraging. We must be careful that we do not destroy another person's confidence through careless words or actions.

"Forgiveness should go hand in hand with love. In our families, as well as with our friends, there can be hurt feelings and disagreements. Again, it doesn't really matter how small the issue was. It cannot and should not be left to canker, to fester, and ultimately to destroy. Blame keeps wounds open. Only forgiveness heals. . . .

"May we begin now, this very day, to express love to all of God's children, whether they be our family members, our friends, mere acquaintances, or total strangers. As we arise each morning, let us determine to respond with love and kindness to whatever might come our way."

Resolve to Do Better

"As we ponder the messages we have heard, may we resolve to do a little better than we have done in the past. May we be kind and loving to those who do not share our beliefs and our standards. The Savior brought to this earth a message of love and goodwill to all men and women. May we ever follow His example. . . .

"May heaven's blessings be with each of us. May our homes be filled with love and courtesy and with the Spirit of the Lord. May we constantly nourish our testimonies of the gospel, that they will be a protection for us against the buffetings of the adversary. May the Spirit . . . abide with us as we go about those things which occupy us each day, and may we ever be found doing the work of the Lord."



can take from this April's conference is to 'do a little better than we have done in the past.' as President Monson and many others challenged us to do. As I prayed and listened with an open heart, I gained a stronger testimony of this gospel. In the next six months I hope to focus on being more courageous, more loving, and more firm in the faith. This conference has been a renewing call to arms for all that is good and true. Why waste another second?" Joseph V., 16, Idaho, USA



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President Henry B. Eyring First Counselor in the First Presidency

VIDEOS AND QUOTES

Share designed quotes and short video highlights from President Eyring's conference addresses at **Ids.org/ go/545**, **Ids.org/go/546**, and **Ids.org/go/547**.

HOPE AND SERVICE

A Priceless Heritage of Hope

"Wherever you are on the path to inherit the gift of eternal life, you have the opportunity to show many people the way to greater happiness. When you choose whether to make or keep a covenant with God, you choose whether you will leave an inheritance of hope to those who might follow your example....

"The greatest of all the blessings of God, eternal life, will come to us only as we make covenants offered in the true Church of Jesus Christ by His authorized servants. . . .

"The Lord has given us all the source of hope as we struggle to help those we love



accept their eternal inheritance. He has made promises to us as we keep trying to gather people to Him, even when they resist His invitation to do so. Their resistance saddens Him, but He does not quit, nor should we. He sets the perfect example for us with His persistent love."

The Priesthood Man

"Each of you will be a model of a priesthood man whether you want to be or not. ... You can be a great model, an average one, or a bad model. You may think it doesn't matter to you, but it does to the Lord....

"I have observed three common characteristics of the priesthood holders who are my heroes. One is a pattern of prayer, the second is a habit of service, and the third is a rockhard decision to be honest. . . .

"... Each of us can make a difference. We have been prepared for our time and place in the last days of that sacred work."

Daughters in the Covenant

"Heavenly Father taught you before you were born about the experiences you would have as you left Him and came to earth. You were taught that the way back home to Him would not be easy. He knew that it would be too hard for you to make the journey without help.

"You have been blessed not only to find the way to make those covenants in this life but also to be surrounded by others who will help—who, like you, are covenant daughters of Heavenly Father. . . .

"Heavenly Father smiles on you as well whenever He sees you help a daughter of His move along the covenant path toward eternal life. And He is pleased every time you try to choose the right. He sees not only what you are but also what you may become."





President Dieter F. Uchtdorf Second Counselor in the First Presidency

VIDEOS AND QUOTES

Share designed quotes and short video highlights from President Uchtdorf's conference addresses at **Ids.org/go/ 548** and **Ids.org/go/549**.

GRATITUDE AND ZEAL

Be Grateful in Any Circumstances

"It might sound contrary to the wisdom of the world to suggest that one who is burdened with sorrow should give thanks to God. But those who set aside the bottle of bitterness and lift instead the goblet of gratitude can find a purifying drink of healing, peace, and understanding. . . .

"But some might say, 'What do I have to be grateful *for* when my world is falling apart?"...

"It is easy to be grateful *for* things when life seems to be going our way. But what then of those times when what we wish for seems to be far out of reach?



"Could I suggest that we see gratitude as a disposition, a way of life that stands independent of our current situation? In other words, I'm suggesting that instead of being thankful *for* things, we focus on being thankful *in* our circumstances—whatever they may be....

"We sometimes think that being grateful is what we do *after* our problems are solved, but how terribly shortsighted that is. How much of life do we miss by waiting to see the rainbow before thanking God that there is rain?...

"True gratitude is an expression of hope *and* testimony. It comes from acknowledging that we do not always understand the trials of life but trusting that one day we will."

Don't Sleep through the Restoration

"Sometimes we think of the Restoration of the gospel as something that is complete, already behind us. . . . In reality, the Restoration is an ongoing process; we are living in it right now. . . . The exciting developments of today are part of that long-foretold period of preparation that will culminate in the glorious Second Coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. . . .

"I suppose there are a variety of reasons why it is easy to become a bit sleepy with regard to building the kingdom of God. Let me mention three major ones. . . .

"Don't allow selfishness! Don't allow habits that could lead to addiction! Don't allow competing priorities to lull you into indifference or detachment from blessed discipleship and ennobling priesthood service!

"There is too much at stake for us as individuals, as families, and as Christ's Church to give only a halfhearted effort to this sacred work.

"Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not an effort of once a week or once a day. It is an effort of once and for all."



E

THE WITNESS

"In the Church we know who He is: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the Only Begotten of the Father. He is He who was slain and He who liveth again. He is our Advocate with the Father. ... He is the anchor that holds us and protects

us and our families through the storms of life....

"... With all that I have experienced, there is one great truth that I would share. That is my witness of the Savior Jesus Christ.

"Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon recorded the following after a sacred experience:

"And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

"'For we saw him' (D&C 76:22-23).

"Their words are my words.

"I believe and I am sure that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that He lives. He is the Only Begotten of the Father, and 'by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God' (D&C 76:24).

"I bear my witness that the Savior lives. I *know* the Lord. I am His witness. I know of His great sacrifice and eternal love for all of Heavenly Father's children. I bear my special witness in all humility but with absolute certainty, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



OBEDIENCE THROUGH OUR FAITHFULNESS

"To succeed in life, we must teach our spirit and body to work together in obedience to God's commandments....

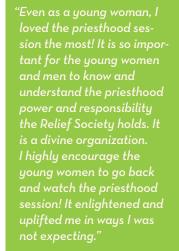
"Our third article of faith teaches us about the importance of obedience: 'We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.'...

"Too often we think of obedience as the passive and thoughtless following of the orders or dictates of a higher authority. Actually, at its best, obedience is an emblem of our faith in the wisdom and power of the highest authority, even God.... When we demonstrate our faithfulness through obedience, God will ultimately rescue us.

"Those who rely solely on themselves and follow only their own desires and self-inclinations are so limited when compared to those who follow God and tap into His insight, power, and gifts. It has been said that someone who is all wrapped up in himself or herself makes a very small package. Strong, proactive obedience is anything but weak or passive. It is the means by which we declare our faith in God and qualify ourselves to receive the powers of heaven. Obedience is a choice. It is a choice between our own limited knowledge and power and God's unlimited wisdom and omnipotence."

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





Maggie S., 18, Missouri, USA



LET YOUR FAITH SHOW

"We might each ask ourselves, where is our faith? Is it in a team? Is it in a brand? Is it in a celebrity? Even the best teams can fail. Celebrities can fade. There is only One in whom your faith is always safe, and that is in

the Lord Jesus Christ. And you need to let your faith show!...

"... Living the Lord's pure religion, which means striving to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ, is a way of life and a daily commitment that will provide divine guidance. As you practice your religion, you are exercising your faith. You are letting your faith show....

"... Danger lurks when we try to divide ourselves with expressions such as 'my private life' or even 'my best behavior.' If one tries to segment his or her life into such separate compartments, one will never rise to the full stature of one's personal integrity-never to become all that his or her *true* self could be.

"The temptation to be popular may prioritize public opinion above the word of God.... Even if 'everyone is doing it,' wrong is never right. Evil, error, and darkness will never be truth, even if popular....

"... Immorality is still immorality in the eyes of God, who one day will judge all of our deeds and desires....

"... Day after day, on your path toward your eternal destiny, increase your faith. Proclaim your faith! Let your faith show!"

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



THE KEYS AND AUTHORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD

"Priesthood power blesses all of us. Priesthood keys direct women as well as men, and priesthood ordinances and priesthood authority pertain to women as well as men....

"Ultimately, all keys of the priesthood are held by the Lord Jesus Christ, whose priesthood it is. He is the one who determines what keys are delegated to mortals and how those keys will be used....

"We are not accustomed to speaking of women having the authority of the priesthood in their Church callings, but what other authority can it be? When a woman—young or old—is set apart to preach the gospel as a full-time missionary, she is given priesthood authority to perform a priesthood function. The same is true when a woman is set apart to function as an officer or teacher in a Church organization under the direction of one who holds the keys of the priesthood. Whoever functions in an office or calling received from one who holds priesthood keys exercises priesthood authority in performing her or his assigned duties....

"In the eyes of God, whether in the Church or in the family, women and men are equal, with different responsibilities.

"... Unlike priesthood keys and priesthood ordinations, the blessings of the priesthood are available to women and to men on the same terms. The gift of the Holy Ghost and the blessings of the temple are familiar illustrations of this truth."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





FOLLOWING UP

"I'm a great believer in the principle of follow-up. As it says in the missionary guide *Preach My Gospel,* 'extending an invitation without following up is like beginning a journey without finishing it or buying a ticket to a

concert without going into the theater. Without the completed action, the commitment is hollow' [(2004), 200]....

"... There is much more to missionary work for members than simply extending invitations to people to listen to the missionaries. It also includes follow-up with the missionaries in the cultivation of faith, the motivation to repentance, the preparation for making covenants, and enduring to the end....

"... We can all be more consistently involved in missionary work by replacing our fear with real faith, inviting someone at least once a quarter—or four times every year—to be taught by the full-time missionaries....

"... I invite all members ... to obtain a copy of *Preach My* Gospel.... Read it, study it, and then apply what you learn ... to bring souls to Christ through invitation and follow-up....

"If we follow up, the Lord will not let us down. I have seen the unspeakable joy that accompanies testimony-driven inviting and faithful follow-up ... the world over....

"... As we work together, seeking the one, inviting, and following up with trust and faith, ... hundreds of thousands of God's children will find purpose and peace in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE"

"When you focus your life on the basic principles of the plan of salvation, you will better concentrate on sharing what you know because you understand the eternal importance of the ordinances of the gospel. You will share what

you know in a way that encourages your friends to want to be strengthened spiritually. You will help your loved ones want to commit to obey all of His commandments and take upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ.

"Remember that the conversion of individuals is only part of the work. Always seek to strengthen families. Teach with a vision of the importance of families being sealed in the temple. ... When you have the vision of the sealing ordinances of the temple, you will help build the kingdom of God on earth....

"Your personal testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ is a powerful tool. Accompanying resources are prayer, the Book of Mormon and the other scriptures, and your commitment to priesthood ordinances. All of these will facilitate the direction of the Spirit, which is so crucially important for you to rely upon.

"To be effective ..., concentrate on this basic principle of the gospel: the Atonement of Jesus Christ makes possible our becoming more like our Father in Heaven so that we can live together eternally in our family units....

"... May we remember to do as He has done by sharing our love, trust, and knowledge of truth with others who have not yet embraced the brilliant light of the gospel."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





"I invited a friend to go to conference with me. Now I'm going to practice what I learned: follow up and help my friend to accept the gospel."

Einy Sariah, 18, Bolivia



"IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS"

"At times we may be tempted to practice what I call 'natural man's obedience,' in which we disobediently reject God's law in favor of our wisdom or our desires or even popularity. Because this is

widely practiced by so many, this perversion of obedience diminishes God's standards in our culture and in our laws.

"At times members may participate in 'selective obedience,' claiming to love God and honor God while picking and choosing which of His commandments and teachings–and the teachings and counsel of His prophets–they will fully follow....

"As our understanding of obedience deepens, we recognize the essential role of agency....

"Spiritually mature obedience is 'the Savior's obedience.' It is motivated by true love for Heavenly Father and His Son....

"Using our agency to obey means choosing to 'do what is right [and letting] the consequence follow' [*Hymns*, no. 237]. It requires self-mastery and brings confidence, eternal happiness, and a sense of fulfillment ...; and it always includes a deep personal commitment to sustain priesthood leaders and follow their teachings and counsel....

"To rationalize disobedience does not change spiritual law or its consequences but leads to confusion, instability, wandering in strange paths, being lost, and grief. As disciples of Christ, we have a sacred obligation to uphold His laws and commandments." 3

THE COST-AND BLESSINGS-OF DISCIPLESHIP

"I say to all and especially the youth of the Church that if you haven't already, you will one day find yourself called upon to defend your faith or perhaps even endure some personal

abuse simply because you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Such moments will require both courage and courtesy on your part....

"And therein lies a message for every young man and young woman in this Church. You may wonder if it is worth it to take a courageous moral stand in high school or to go on a mission only to have your most cherished beliefs reviled or to strive against much in society that sometimes ridicules a life of religious devotion. Yes, it is worth it....

"Sadly enough, my young friends, it is a characteristic of our age that if people want any gods at all, they want them to be gods who do not demand much, comfortable gods, smooth gods who not only don't rock the boat but don't even row it, gods who pat us on the head, make us giggle, then tell us to run along and pick marigolds.

"Talk about man creating God in his own image!...

"...It is obvious that the bumper sticker question 'What would Jesus do?' will not always bring a popular response....

"Be strong. Live the gospel faithfully even if others around you don't live it at all. Defend your beliefs with courtesy and with compassion, but defend them."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles







"No matter how hard or lonely life may seem and no matter the difficulties, the Savior knows exactly how we feel and how to help us. I have determined to change to rely on Jesus Christ even more. I will need that as I'm serving as a missionary!"



BEAR UP THEIR BURDENS WITH EASE

"Each of us ... carries a load. Our individual load is comprised of demands and opportunities, obligations and privileges, afflictions and blessings, and options and constraints....

"Sometimes we mistakenly may believe that happiness is the absence of a load. But bearing a load is a necessary and essential part of the plan of happiness....

"Consider the Lord's uniquely individual invitation to 'take my yoke upon you' [Matthew 11:29]. Making and keeping sacred covenants yokes us to and with the Lord Jesus Christ. In essence, the Savior is beckoning us to rely upon and pull together with Him....

"The unique burdens in each of our lives help us to rely upon the merits, mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah (see 2 Nephi 2:8). I testify and promise the Savior will help us to bear up our burdens with ease (see Mosiah 24:15). As we are yoked with Him through sacred covenants and receive the enabling power of His Atonement in our lives, we increasingly will seek to understand and live according to His will. We also will pray for the strength to learn from, change, or accept our circumstances rather than praying relentlessly for God to change our circumstances according to our will. We will become agents who act rather than objects that are acted upon (see 2 Nephi 2:14). We will be blessed with spiritual traction."

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



ROOTS AND BRANCHES

"The doctrine of the family in relation to family history and temple work is clear. The Lord in initial revelatory instructions referred to 'baptism for *your* dead' [D&C 127:5; emphasis added]. Our doctrinal

obligation is to our own ancestors. This is because the celestial organization of heaven is based on families.... We need to be connected to both our roots and branches....

"Temple and family history work is not just about us. Think of those on the other side of the veil waiting for the saving ordinances that would free them from the bondage of spirit prison....

"The leadership of the Church has issued a clarion call to the rising generation to lead the way in the use of technology to experience the spirit of Elijah, to search out their ancestors, and to perform temple ordinances for them. Much of the heavy lifting in hastening the work of salvation for both the living and the dead will be done by you young people.

"If the youth in each ward will not only go to the temple and do baptisms for their dead but also work with their families and other ward members to provide the family names for the ordinance work they perform, both they and the Church will be greatly blessed. Don't underestimate the influence of the deceased in assisting your efforts and the joy of ultimately meeting those you serve. The eternally significant blessing of uniting our own families is almost beyond comprehension."

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles







"I have many nonmember friends, and it was great for them to see and messages I was sharing on





THE RESURRECTION **OF JESUS CHRIST**

"By His Atonement and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has overcome all aspects of the Fall.... We can have ultimate trust and confidence in His power to overcome all else and grant us

everlasting life....

... The Savior makes all things right. No injustice in mortality is permanent, even death, for He restores life again. No injury, disability, betrayal, or abuse goes uncompensated in the end because of His ultimate justice and mercy.

"By the same token, we are all accountable to Him for our lives, our choices, and our actions, even our thoughts. Because He redeemed us from the Fall, our lives are in reality His....

...Because He was resurrected, Jesus cannot have been only a carpenter, a teacher, a rabbi, or a prophet. Because He was resurrected, Jesus had to have been a God, even the Only Begotten Son of the Father.

"Therefore, what He taught is true; God cannot lie.

"Therefore, He was the Creator of the earth, as He said.

"Therefore, heaven and hell are real, as He taught.

"Therefore, there is a world of spirits, which He visited after His death.

"Therefore, He will come again, as the angels said, and 'reign personally upon the earth' [Articles of Faith 1:10].

'Therefore, there is a resurrection and a final judgment for all."

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



SPIRITUAL WHIRLWINDS

"More concerning than the prophesied earthquakes and wars are the spiritual whirlwinds that can uproot you from your spiritual foundations and land your spirit in places you never imagined possible, sometimes with your

barely noticing that you have been moved.

"The worst whirlwinds are the temptations of the adversary. Sin has always been part of the world, but it has never been so accessible, insatiable, and acceptable. There is, of course, a powerful force that will subdue the whirlwinds of sin. It is called repentance....

"...Don't let the whirlwinds drag you down. These are your days-to stand strong as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Build more firmly your foundation upon the rock of your Redeemer.

"Treasure more completely His incomparable life and teachings.

"Follow more diligently His example and His commandments. "Embrace more deeply His love, His mercy and grace, and the powerful gifts of His Atonement.

"As you do, I promise you that you will see the whirlwinds for what they are-tests, temptations, distractions, or challenges to help you grow. And as you live righteously year after year, I assure you that your experiences will confirm to you again and again that Jesus is the Christ. The spiritual rock under your feet will be solid and secure."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Why aren't women ordained to the priesthood?

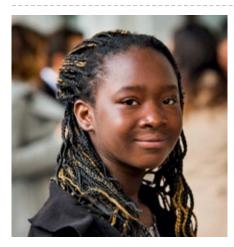


The divine nature of the limitations put upon the exercise of priesthood keys explains an essential contrast between decisions on matters of Church administration and decisions affecting the priesthood. The First Presidency and the Council of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve, who preside over the Church, are empowered to make many

decisions affecting Church policies and procedures—matters such as the location of Church buildings and the ages for missionary service. But even though these presiding authorities hold and exercise all of the keys delegated to men in this dispensation, they are not free to alter the divinely decreed pattern that only men will hold offices in the priesthood....

"The Lord has directed that only men will be ordained to offices in the priesthood. But, as various Church leaders have emphasized, men are not 'the priesthood.' Men hold the priesthood, with a sacred duty to use it for the blessing of all of the children of God."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



"In the Church magazines I read about a young girl who before conference wrote down questions. I did the same. My questions, decisions, and doubts were answered. I know those messages are inspired. Thanks to leaders, we can be protected."

Sara, 15, Spain

Why keep trying when I can't change certain things because it's just the way I am?



"Once any of us conclude ... 'That's just the way I am,' we give up our ability to change. We might as well raise the white flag, put

down our weapons, concede the battle, and just surrender—any prospect of winning is lost. While some of us may think that does not describe us, perhaps every one of us demonstrates by at least one or two bad habits, 'That's just the way I am.'

"... Who we are is not who we can become.... [Christ's] Atonement gives every one of us-no matter our weaknesses, our frailties, our addictions-the ability to change. We meet with the hope that our future, no matter our history, can be better.

"When we participate in this meeting with the 'real intent' to change (Moroni 10:4), the Spirit has full access to our hearts and minds."

Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Presidency of the Seventy



Why do Church leaders keep talking about supporting traditional marriage?



"While many governments and well-meaning individuals have redefined marriage, the Lord has not. In the very

beginning, God initiated marriage between a man and a woman–Adam and Eve. He designated the purposes of marriage to go far beyond the personal satisfaction and fulfillment of adults to, more importantly, advancing the ideal setting for children to be born, reared, and nurtured. Families are the treasure of heaven.

"Why do we continue to talk about this? As Paul said, 'We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen' [2 Corinthians 4:18]. As Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have the responsibility to teach our Creator's plan for His children and to warn of the consequences of disregarding His commandments."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



How can I **avoid** pornography?



"Filters are useful tools, but the greatest filter in the world, the only one that will ultimately work, is the personal internal

filter that comes from a deep and abiding testimony of our Heavenly Father's love and our Savior's atoning sacrifice for each one of us."

Linda S. Reeves, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency "I'm going to make sure I plug in to my true source of power each morning by reading my scriptures and praying earnestly, as Brother Randall L. Ridd spoke of in priesthood session!"

Bobby E., via Facebook







How can we know the truth?



"First, we can know the truth by observing its fruits....

"Second, we can find truth by experimenting on the word ourselves....

"... There is yet a third way to know the truth, and that is by personal revelation."

Elder Marcos A. Aidukaitis of the Seventy





How can I get really good at sharing the gospel?



"How can each of us become such a significant influence? We must be sure to sincerely love those we want to help in

righteousness so they can begin to develop confidence in God's love. For so many in the world, the first challenge in accepting the gospel is to develop faith in a Father in Heaven, who loves them perfectly. It is easier to develop that faith when they have friends or family members who love them in a similar way.

"Giving them confidence in your love can help them develop faith in God's love. Then through your loving, thoughtful communication, their lives will be blessed by your sharing lessons you have learned, experiences you have had, and principles you have followed to find solutions to your own struggles. Show your sincere interest in their well-being; then share your testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"My perspective on day-to-day life was changed as Elder David A. Bednar remarked, 'Sometimes we mistakenly may believe that happiness is the absence of a load.' I realized that lately I've had the wrong attitude. I am going to change the way I approach my day-to-day workloads by choosing to be happy NOW."

Kirsten A., 17, Utah, USA

Why are **feelings** of **attraction** so **strong**?



"One reason we are here on earth is to learn to manage the passions and feelings of our mortal bodies. These God-given

feelings help us want to marry and have children. The intimate marriage relationship between a man and a woman that brings children into mortality is also meant to be a beautiful, loving experience that binds together two devoted hearts, unites both spirit and body, and brings a fulness of joy and happiness as we learn to put each other first."

Linda S. Reeves, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency

What does it mean to **be perfect?**



"The word *perfect* in this account was translated from a Greek word that means 'complete.' As we try our best to move

forward along the covenant path, we become more complete and perfect in this life."

Linda K. Burton, Relief Society general president

Nobody knows what I'm going through. How can I find help?



"There is no physical pain, no spiritual wound, no anguish of soul or heartache, no infirmity or weakness you or l ever

confront in mortality that the Savior did not experience first. In a moment of weakness we may cry out, 'No one knows what it is like. No one understands.' But the Son of God perfectly knows and understands, for He has felt and borne our individual burdens. And because of His infinite and eternal sacrifice (see Alma 34:14), He has perfect empathy and can extend to us His arm of mercy. He can reach out, touch, succor, heal, and strengthen us to be more than we could ever be and help us to do that which we could never do relying only upon our own power. Indeed, His yoke is easy and His burden is light."

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





"One of the messages I liked most was by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, because it was just what I needed to hear—that if we are grateful at all times, we will be happy and the Lord will bless us. Another message was by our beloved prophet: If we love God and Jesus, we must love everyone all over the world. I am totally grateful for belonging to the gospel. I can say that it's changed my life for good." Estephany C., 17, Dominican Republic

If loving others is the great commandment, then why can't we just let people live their lives?



"At the zenith of His mortal ministry, Jesus said, 'Love one another, as I have loved you' [John 15:12]. To make certain they understood exactly what kind of love that was, He said, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments' [John 14:15], and 'whosoever ... shall break one of [the] least commandments, *and shall teach men* so, he shall be ... the least in the kingdom of heaven'

[Matthew 5:19; emphasis added]. Christlike love is the greatest need we have on this planet in part because righteousness was always supposed to accompany it. So if love is to be our watchword, as it *must* be, then by the word of Him who is love personified, we must forsake transgression and any hint of advocacy for it in others. Jesus clearly understood what many in our modern culture seem to forget: that there is a crucial difference between the commandment to forgive sin (which He had an infinite capacity to do) and the warning against condoning it (which He never ever did even once)."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



How can I overcome an addiction?



"Please know, first of all, that there is hope. Seek help from loved ones, Church leaders, and trained counselors. The

Church provides addiction recovery help through local Church leaders, the Internet [see, for example, lds.org/ topics/addiction], and in some areas, LDS Family Services.

"Always remember, with the Savior's help, you can break free from addiction. It may be a long, difficult path, but the Lord will not give up on you. He loves you. Jesus Christ suffered the Atonement to help you change, to free you from the captivity of sin.

"The most important thing is to keep trying—sometimes it takes several attempts before people find success. So don't give up. Don't lose faith. Keep your heart close to the Lord, and He will give you the power of deliverance. He will make you free."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency



STORIES FROM CONFERENCE

TRUTH IS TRUTH



"Clinicians, academicians, and politicians are often put to a test of faith. In pursuit of their goals, will their religion show or will it be hidden? Are they tied back to God or to man?

"I had such a test decades ago when one of my medical faculty colleagues chastised me for failing to separate my professional knowledge from my religious convictions. He demanded that I *not* combine the two. How could I do that? Truth is

truth! It is not divisible, and any part of it cannot be set aside.

"Whether truth emerges from a scientific laboratory or through revelation, all truth emanates from God. All truth is part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet I was being asked to hide my faith. I did not comply with my colleague's request. I let my faith show!

"In all professional endeavors, rigorous standards of accuracy are required. Scholars cherish their freedom of expression. But full freedom cannot be experienced if part of one's knowledge is ruled 'out-of-bounds' by edicts of men."

> Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"I liked it when Elder Russell M. Nelson said, 'Let your faith show.' I know that a lot of us are scared to share the gospel or just don't know what to say, but Elder Nelson also said that 'faith is the antidote for fear,' so if we pray and just ask for help, we will know what to say."

Matt K., via Facebook

COURAGE ON FACEBOOK

"You are judgmental."

. You need to catch up with the times. with the safe changing Things are chould you.



"Recently, I spoke with a Laurel from the United States. I quote from her email:

"This past year some of my friends on Facebook began posting their

position on marriage. Many favored same-sex marriage, and several LDS youth indicated they "liked" the postings. I made no comment.

"I decided to declare my belief in traditional marriage in a thoughtful way.

"'With my profile picture, I added the caption "I believe in marriage between a man and a woman." Almost instantly I started receiving messages. "You are selfish." "You are judgmental." One compared me to a slave owner. And I received this post from a great friend who is a strong member of the Church: "You need to catch up with the times. Things are changing and so should you."

"'I did not fight back,' she said, 'but I did not take my statement down.'

"She concludes: 'Sometimes, as President Monson said, "You have to stand alone." Hopefully as youth, we will stand together in being true to God and to the teachings of His living prophets.'"

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



"President Boyd K. Packer gave one of the most powerful testimonies of Heavenly Father and of our Savior I have ever heard. Every word was so sincere that I could not listen without feeling the power of Whom he was testifying so boldly of. This conference has strengthened my determination to believe in Heavenly Father and to make more time for Him every day." Caroline M., 17, Idaho, USA

A GLIMPSE OF WHO HE WAS



"Knowing who you really are makes decisions easier.

"I have a friend who learned this truth in a very personal way. His son was raised in the gospel, but he

seemed to be wandering spiritually. He frequently declined opportunities to exercise the priesthood. His parents were disappointed when he declared that he had decided not to serve a mission. My friend prayed earnestly for his son, hoping that he would have a change of heart. Those hopes were dashed when his son announced that he was engaged to be married. The father pleaded with his son to get his patriarchal blessing. The son finally agreed but insisted on visiting the patriarch alone.

"When he returned after the blessing, he was very emotional. He took his girlfriend outside, where he could talk to her privately. The father peeked out the window to see the young couple wiping away each other's tears.

"Later the son shared with his father what had happened. With great emotion he explained that during the blessing, he had a glimpse of who he was in the premortal world. He saw how valiant and influential he was in persuading others to follow Christ. Knowing who he really was, how could he not serve a mission?"

Randall L. Ridd, second counselor in the Young Men general presidency

"I WANTED TO KNOW!"



"World War II was a time of great spiritual turmoil for me. I had left my home in Brigham City, Utah, with only embers of a testimony, and I felt the need for something more.... While

stationed on the island of Ie Shima, just north of Okinawa, Japan, I struggled with doubt and uncertainty. I wanted a personal testimony of the gospel. I wanted to *know!*

"During one sleepless night, I left my tent and entered a bunker which had been formed by lining up 50-gallon fuel drums filled with sand and placed one on top of the other to form an enclosure. There was no roof, and so I crawled in, looked up at the star-filled sky, and knelt to pray.

"Almost mid-sentence it happened. I could not describe to you what happened if I were determined to do so. It is beyond my power of expression, but it is as clear today as it was that night more than 65 years ago. I knew it to be a very private, very individual manifestation. At last I knew for myself. I *knew* for a certainty, for it had been given to me. After some time, I crawled from that bunker and walked, or floated, back to my bed. I spent the rest of the night in a feeling of joy and awe.

"Far from thinking I was someone special, I thought that if such a thing came to me, that it could come to anyone. I still believe that." President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Focusing on **serving** our brothers and sisters can guide us to make **divine decisions** in our daily lives and prepares us to value and **love what the Lord loves.**"

Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy

"We can choose to be grateful, no matter what."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

"May we realize how close to us [our Father] is willing to come, how far He is willing to go to help us, and how much **Je loves us.**"

resident Thomas S. Monson

"Regardless of what Satan would try to persuade us to think about who we are, our true identity is that of a disciple of Jesus Christ!" "Of all the service you give, none is greater than to help people choose to qualify for eternal life."

Linda K. Burton, Relief Society general president

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

"Defend YOUR BELIEFS."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"We can and should participate in continuing civil dialogue, especially when we view the world from differing perspectives.

"... A 'soft answer' [Proverbs 15:1] ... does not mean we never speak directly or that we compromise doctrinal truth. Words that may be firm in information can be soft in spirit....

"There exists today a great need for men and women to cultivate respect for each other across wide distances of belief and behavior and across deep canyons of conflicting agendas." Elder W. Craig Zwick of the Seventy



"Each of us must come to our own personal testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. We then **share** that testimony with our **family and others**."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostle



"CHALLENGES will come to you, but as you trust in God, they will STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"How often do we make a mistake about the right way, letting ourselves be led along by the trends of the world? We need to continually ask ourselves if we are being doers of the words of Jesus Christ."

Elder Claudio D. Zivic of the Seventy



"As the world slips away from the Lord's law of chastity, WE DO NOT."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"As individuals, we are STRONG. Together with God, we are UNSTOPPABLE."

Rosemary M. Wixom, Primary general president

"The adversary would have us be critical or judgmental of one another. He wants us to concentrate on our differences and compare ourselves to one another....

"... We just need to relax and rejoice in our divine differences. We need to realize that we all desire to serve in the kingdom, using our unique talents and gifts in our own ways."

Bonnie L. Oscarson, Young Women general president "Of all the lessons we learn from the life of the Savior, none is more clear and powerful than the lesson of obedience."

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles "There is **no end** to what the world has to offer, so it is **critical** that we learn to **recognize when we have enough.** If we are not careful, we will begin to **chase after the temporal more than the spiritual.** Our **pursuit for the spiritual** and eternal will then **take a backseat,** instead of the other way around. Sadly, there appears to be **a strong inclination to acquire more and more** and to own the latest and the most sophisticated."







"IT IS ONE THING TO KNOW THAT JESUS CHRIST

came to the earth to *die* for us. But we also need to appreciate that the Lord desires, through His Atonement and by the power of the Holy Ghost, to *enliven* us–not only to guide but also to strengthen and heal us."

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"The children of Father in Heaven can **do amazing things** when they **feel trusted.** Every **child of God** in mortality **chose the Savior's plan.** Trust that given the opportunity, *they will do so again.*"

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"With [the Internet] you can accomplish great things in a short period of time, or you can get caught up in endless loops of triviality that waste your time and degrade your potential. With the click of a button, you can access whatever your heart desires. That's the key what does your heart desire? What do you gravitate toward? Where will your desires lead?"

Randall L. Ridd, second counselor in the Young Men general presidency



"We should be different because we hold the priesthood—not arrogant or prideful or patronizing but humble and teachable and meek. Receiving the priesthood and its various offices should mean something to us. It should not be a perfunctory 'rite of passage' that automatically happens at certain ages but a sacred act of covenant thoughtfully made."

Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Presidency of the Seventy



"Truly our **Father knows** us and hears the pleadings of **our hearts.** He accomplishes His **miracles one prayer** at a time, **one person** at a time." Jean A. Stevens, first counselor in the "Opposition, criticism, and antagonism are companions to the truth. Whenever the truth with regard to the purpose and destiny of man is revealed, there will always be a force to oppose it. ... There has always been and will ever be an effort to deceive, derail, oppose, and frustrate the plan of life."

Elder Lawrence E. Corbridge of the Seventy

"If members learn to use the correct name of the Church in connection with the word Mormon, it will underscore that we are Christians, members of the Savior's Church."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles "EVEN THOUGH MULTI-TUDES FOLLOWED AFTER [CHRIST], HIS MINISTRY ALWAYS CONSISTED OF **BLESSING PEOPLE ONE BY ONE.**"

Elder Carlos H. Amado of the Seventy

"Family commitments and expectations should be at the *top of our priorities* to protect our *divine destiny."*

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"You may be thinking to yourself, 'I already blew it. . . . I may as well give up.' If so, stop thinking that, and never think it again. The miracle of the Atonement can make up for imperfections in our performance." Bishop Gary E. Stevenson, Presiding Bishop

"The more connected we feel to our righteous forefathers, the more likely we are to make wise and righteous choices." Elder William R. Walker of the Seventy





President Boyd K. Packer President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles April 2014 general conference



Elder Marcos A. Aidukaitis of the Seventy April 2014 general conference



"Faith is the antidote for fear.... "When we speak of faith-the faith that can move mountains-we are not speaking of faith in general but of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in the Lord

Jesus Christ can be bolstered as we learn about Him and live our religion. The doctrine of Jesus Christ was designed by the Lord to help us increase our faith....

"We might each ask ourselves, where is our faith? Is it in a team? Is it in a brand? Is it in a celebrity? Even the best teams can fail. Celebrities can fade. There is only One in whom your faith is always safe, and that is in the Lord Jesus Christ. And you need to let your faith show!"

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, April 2014 general conference



"We cannot truly love God if we do not love our fellow travelers on this mortal journey. Likewise, we cannot fully love our fellowmen if we do not love God, the Father of us all. The Apostle John tells us,

This commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also' (1 John 4:21). We are all spirit children of our Heavenly Father and, as such, are brothers and sisters. As we keep this truth in mind, loving all of God's children will become easier.

"Actually, love is the very essence of the gospel, and Jesus Christ is our Exemplar. His life was a legacy of love. The sick He healed; the downtrodden He lifted; the sinner He saved. At the end the angry mob took His life. And yet there rings from Golgotha's hill the words: 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34)–a crowning expression in mortality of compassion and love."

President Thomas S. Monson, April 2014 general conference



"The Internet provides many opportunities for learning. However, Satan wants us to be miserable, and he distorts the real purpose of things. He uses this great tool to promote doubt and fear

and to destroy faith and hope.

"With so much available on the Internet, we must carefully consider where to apply our efforts. Satan can keep us busy, distracted, and infected by sifting through information, much of which can be pure garbage.

"One should not roam through garbage.

"Listen to this guidance, provided by the scriptures: 'The Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know ... it is of God' (Moroni 7:16)."

Elder Marcos A. Aidukaitis of the Seventy, April 2014 general conference



"Let us remember that there is an adversary who personally seeks to disrupt the work of the Lord. We must choose whom to follow. Our protection is as simple as deciding individually to follow the Savior,

making certain that we faithfully will remain on His side.

"In the New Testament, John records that there were some who were unable to commit to the Savior and His teachings, and 'from that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

"'Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

"'Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

"'And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God' (John 6:66-69).

"Peter had gained that which can be learned by each follower of the Savior. To be faithfully devoted to Jesus Christ, we accept Him as our Redeemer and do all within our power to live His teachings."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, April 2014 general conference

LEARNING FROM CONFERENCE







THE SCRIPTURES IN GENERAL CONFERENCE

When people quoted the scriptures in general conference, did any verses stand out to you? Here are the scriptures that were referred to most often.

Doctrine and Covenants 84:20

"Therefore, in the ordinances [of the priesthood], the power of godliness is manifest."

Helaman 5:12*

"And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall."

Moses 1:39*

"For behold, this is my work and my glory-to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Moroni 10:32

"Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God."

Mosiah 18:9

"Mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and ... stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, ... that ye may have eternal life."

* Seminary scripture mastery verses

SUPPORT FOR SUNDAY LESSONS

Messages from this conference have already been added to your Come, Follow Me lessons. Find out more at **lds.org/youth/learn**, and read each talk at **conference.lds.org**.

As you prepare for Sunday lessons, consider reviewing the conference talks below.

May: Prophets and Revelation

- President Boyd K. Packer
- Elder Neil L. Andersen

June: Priesthood and Priesthood Keys

- President Henry B. Eyring (priesthood session)
- Elder Dallin H. Oaks

July: Ordinances and Covenants

- President Henry B. Eyring (general women's meeting)
- Rosemary M. Wixom (general women's meeting)

August: Marriage and Family

- Elder Dallin H. Oaks
- Linda S. Reeves

September: Commandments

- Elder L. Tom Perry
- Elder Robert D. Hales
- Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

October: Becoming More Christlike

- President Thomas S. Monson (Sunday morning session)
- Elder David A. Bednar



Are **YOU** Listening?

The words of the prophets and apostles can bring you incredible strength and protection.

By Mindy Raye Friedman

Church Magazines

very six months, at general conference, you have the opportunity to hear from living prophets and apostles. This is an amazing blessing and can change your life—if you listen to and follow their counsel. How can their words bless you? Consider these four ways.

1. Safety

Prophets and apostles are watchmen on the tower, able to see danger from afar (see D&C 101:54). Many of their messages teach you how to find safety. They warn of dangers to your body and your spirit and offer counsel on how to find protection. For example, President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, recently reminded us that "the scriptures hold the keys to spiritual protection" ("The Key to Spiritual Protection," *Ensign*, Nov. 2013, 26). And there are many other examples.

Why is this safety so important? As Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught: "The world is moving away from the Lord faster and farther than ever before. The adversary has been loosed upon the earth. We watch, hear, read, study, and share the words of prophets to be forewarned and protected. . . . I testify that those who put their trust in the Lord and heed this counsel [from general conference] in faith will gain great strength to bless themselves and their families for generations to come" ("General Conference: Strengthening Faith and Testimony," *Ensign*, Nov. 2013, 7).

2. Guidance

In addition to helping you find safety, prophets and apostles also offer guidance on many other topics. As they speak about subjects that are relevant to your life and situation right now, they teach you how to create happiness in this life and how to prepare for eternal life.

And those messages will be personalized just for you, as Elder Hales reminded us: "In conferences we can receive the word of the Lord meant just for us. . . This is possible because the Holy Ghost carries the word of the Lord unto our hearts in terms we can understand" ("General Conference," *Ensign*, Nov. 2013, 6).

3. Strength

Listening to the words of prophets and apostles can also give you an added boost to overcome life's challenges. For example, they help us see the purposes of trials. President Thomas S. Monson has taught: "Our Heavenly Father, who gives us so much to delight in, also knows that we learn and grow and become stronger as we face and survive the trials through which we must pass. We know that there are times when we will experience heartbreaking sorrow, when we will grieve, and when we may be tested to our limits. However, such difficulties allow us to change for the better, to rebuild our lives in the way our Heavenly Father teaches us, and to become something different from what we were-better than we were" ("'I Will Not Fail Thee, nor Forsake Thee," Ensign, Nov. 2013, 87).

Conference speakers also often tell

stories and share messages about how to remain faithful, and they remind you that you should never give up. For example, they could tell a story of someone who overcame a temptation, giving you strength to overcome your own. Or they may share a message of hope after you have experienced a disappointment. These messages can give you the strength to stay true to your beliefs and to overcome the challenges you face every day.

4. Answers

Messages that teach me how to be safe: .

Many times you may have questions about life and about the gospel. You can find answers to these questions in the counsel from prophets and apostles. For examples from the most recent general conference, see pages 14–17 of this issue. **NE**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Things to Ponder for Sunday

- How have I been blessed by following prophetic counsel?
- What messages do I remember from last general conference?
- What questions were answered in conference?

Things You Might Do

- In church and elsewhere, tell people how you have been blessed by listening to and following prophets and apostles.
- Go to Ids.org/go/confNE5 and share what you learned from general conference.

TRY IT OUT

ow that you know some of the blessings you can receive by listening to the prophets, review the conference messages on pages 2-25 of this issue, and make some notes in the space provided. If you need more space, complete this activity in your journal or on a separate piece of paper. You can also study all of the conference Ensign or online at conference.lds.org.

lessages that offer me guidance:
lessages that give me strength:

Messages that answer my questions:

PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS

- are like personal scripture.
- are blessings directly from God.
- have several purposes.
- declare your lineage in a tribe of the house of Israel.

give guidance.

promise blessings to the faithful.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I'M READY?

very worthy, baptized member of the Church can and should receive a patriarchal blessing. But how can you know when to seek one? Basically, you need to be worthy and mature enough to understand the sacred nature and importance of the blessing. Pray and ponder about it. Then talk to your parents and your bishop or branch president, who can help you determine your readiness.

By Ashley Dosdall ne Sunday, the stake patriarch led our lesson about patriarchal blessings. Before this lesson, I knew almost nothing about these blessings. I'd heard about them once or twice, and my brother had recently received his, but I didn't really understand their purpose.

In his lesson, the stake patriarch taught us that a patriarchal blessing is like personal scripture. It's a blessing directly from God with several purposes. One is to declare your lineage in a tribe of the house of Israel. Others are to give you guidance and to promise you blessings Heavenly Father will give you if you're faithful. The patriarch taught that we should always remain worthy to receive a patriarchal blessing and that we need to turn to our blessing often once we have it.

I listened closely to this lesson and took lots of notes in my journal.

"MAYBE SHOULD GETMY BLESSING

AS I STUDIED AND PRAYED ABOUT WHAT THE PATRIARCH TAUGHT, I RECEIVED A CALL TO ACT

During the lesson, I kept thinking, "Maybe I should get my blessing." That idea stuck.

Later that day, I asked my dad to help me understand the roles and blessings of the tribes of the house of Israel. It was long and hard, but we figured it out, and I recorded what we learned in my journal. It was so neat because I learned some things that I didn't know before. I also read some talks about patriarchal blessings, and I did some other research on them.

As I studied and thought about patriarchal blessings, I prayed to know if I should receive mine. The Spirit let me know that I needed to get it soon, and I plan to do so. I'm so grateful for the patriarch's lesson. It helped me understand patriarchal blessings and eventually encouraged me to get mine. NE Ashley Dosdall lives in Utah, USA.

A RARE AND VALUABLE GIFT

"The same Lord who provided a Liahona for Lehi provides for you and for me today a rare and valuable gift to give direction to our lives, to mark the hazards to our safety, and to chart the way, even safe passage-not to a promised land, but to our heavenly home. The gift to which I refer is known as your patriarchal blessing. Every worthy member of the Church is entitled to receive such a precious and priceless personal treasure."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Your Patriarchal Blessing: A Liahona of Light," Ensign, Nov. 1986, 65.

Four Days at the HAMILTON HAMILTON Mew Zealand TEMPLE

By David Dickson Church Magazines

I' FIND OUT WHAT 118 YOUTH CAN ACCOMPLISH WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER.

hen 118 youth from Auckland, New Zealand, and their leaders planned a four-day temple conference to the Hamilton New Zealand Temple, they had a simple but impressive goal: to perform as many baptisms for the dead as possible during their stay.

They began preparing for the trip many months in advance. As part of the preparation, young men and young women researched names from their family histories that they could bring with them to the temple.

All their preparation paid off in a big way. The youth and their leaders had a spiritual feast from the moment they arrived to when they set their sights back home four days later—not to mention all the blessings that came before and after the event because of their devotion to family history and temple worthiness.

The Best View Around

In order to spend as much time at the temple as they could, they wanted to stay near the temple instead of making the two-hour drive each direction every day. So for the whole temple conference, youth and leaders stayed in dorm rooms near the temple.

Being that close to the temple was its own reward for the youth. Nichalahr U., a Laurel from the group, said, "I didn't want to come home after the temple conference because I got used to waking up to the view of the temple and how peaceful it was to just turn and look at it standing in front of you."

Busy All Day

It wasn't practical to have 62 young men and 56 young women all doing baptisms at once, so they decided instead to go to the temple in shifts. The youth were divided into five groups, and each group attended at least two shifts at the temple during the four days.

That might sound at first like there was a lot of downtime and waiting in between. But nothing could be further



"How peaceful it was to just turn and look at [the temple] standing in front of you."





PHOTOGRAPHS BY SEPI HAWAIKIRANGI

YOUR OWN TEMPLE RECOMMEND

The youth from New Zealand each obtained an individual recommend for the conference. Afterward, many of them brought out their recommends during family home evenings and asked if their parents could do the same so that they could talk about what it means to hold a recommend.

Several youth have explained that they have tried harder to live worthy of the recommend they carry.

Church leaders have counseled us to always live worthy of the blessings of the temple. Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught, "May we always be worthy of holding a temple recommend. May that be one of our objectives in life, to consistently and regularly sit before our priesthood leader and declare our worthiness to have this tangible evidence that the Lord approves of the type of life we are living and finds us worthy to enter His holy house" ("My First Temple Recommend," *New Era*, Apr. 2013, 4).



from the truth. When they weren't in a shift doing baptisms, the youth headed into the community to do service projects. Sometimes they walked over a mile (1.61 km) to reach their destinations—at which point they'd *begin* the service project.

They helped out with cleaning, yard work, and anything else families and organizations needed. One youth group helped replant a *marae*, an outdoor public meeting place in the New Zealand culture.

The youth were also in charge of cooking their own meals, which led to another goal the youth made for the conference: to learn how to prepare and cook food from 72-hour kits. This, too, required a fair amount of planning. Each young man and young woman had a budget to plan and shop for ingredients.

Although the dorm rooms had large kitchens to use, the youth all whipped up their masterpiece meals on a gas stove outside. Those meals were put to good use too, since the youth needed a lot of energy to keep up with the schedule. The only way they could fit everything in was to wake up at 5:00 a.m. and keep going strong until bedtime.

A Joyful Dance

Of course, this *was* a four-day youth conference, so there had to be at least a little recreational time! One fun event was a dance. Yet even here the dance became more meaningful than usual as a result of some visitors.

During the week, the youth had an unexpected treat when they met a group of Saints from New Caledonia (a group of islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean that belong to France) who were also visiting the temple. They quickly became friends and had the opportunity to sing hymns and also perform ordinances in the temple in English as well as French.

On the night of the dance, the Saints from New Caledonia came to visit these youth. As soon as they arrived, the youth from New Zealand danced joyfully in a circle around them to welcome them. They hugged each other in friendship formed over a shared love of temple work.







Temple Baptisms

Not surprisingly, the highlight of the conference was the actual time in the temple. Mahonri K., a priest, researched and brought names from his own family to do proxy work for them. "I was excited to help my ancestors who had passed on through the veil by being baptized and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost on their behalf," he says. "My testimony of baptism has been largely strengthened."

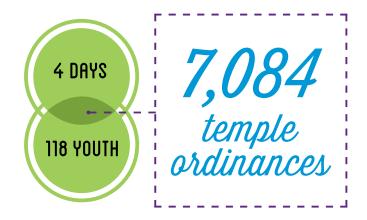
Throughout the week, the young men and young women felt a strong spiritual connection to the work. Sara M., a Mia Maid, said, "I now have a strong testimony of the gospel and the importance of temple work."

A Big Goal

From the beginning, their goal was to complete as many baptisms as possible to help their ancestors. They succeeded rather spectacularly. The 118 youth performed baptisms and confirmations for 3,542 people, many of whom were their ancestors.

By the time the young men and young women were ready to leave, their testimonies were strengthened and their hearts were filled with gratitude. The youth even invited the sisters who work in the temple laundry to their closing exercises so that the youth could sing a closing song to them in appreciation for their hard work. (Just imagine how much laundry needed to be washed during this temple conference!)

The youth will remember the spiritual experiences they had during this temple conference for the rest of their lives. "The feeling that I received throughout each baptism was pure and innocent," says Caleb R., a priest. "I could feel the warm embrace of the Savior's love."



Throughout the temple conference the youth strengthened their ties with the Savior, with each other, and with their ancestors. After gaining such new enthusiasm for the work, their journey in family history is only getting started. **NE**



ou're sitting in a presidency meeting with two items left on the agenda: (1) ideas for the next few Mutual activities and (2) ways to reach out to Taylor, who hasn't been to church in months. Now look at the two items again; perhaps the solution to each one is tied to the other—the Mutual activities may be exactly what you need to help Taylor and others feel welcome.

Now you just need some activity ideas that will interest Taylor. And the perfect choice may be waiting for you at lds. org/youth/activities. With over 165 activity ideas (and more being added regularly), the site can help you find something for any need. Just check out these cool features.

Ids.org/youth/activities

Need an idea for Mutual, family night, or a group date? This new site has you covered.



USER REVIEWS

Not only do you get the activity ideas themselves, but you can read reviews from others and see how they've adapted the activities to their needs. (See how one family created an adaptation for "human foosball" at Ids.org/go/foosballNE5.) You can post your own reviews or creative twists too.

🔵 QUICK SEARCH

Wondering what activities you could do with photos, scavenger hunts, or drama? Or maybe you know you want something on mission prep or Personal Progress. Just use the "Search" feature to type in keywords to help you find activities that fit.

HUGE SELECTION OF IDERS

Quickly browse through activities in the following main categories to find one that fits your needs:

- Service .
- Missionary work
- Future roles
- Temple and family history
- Communication and relationships
- Sports, camping, and outdoors
- Arts, music, and dance
- Physical health
- Spiritual strength
- Stake and multistake activities

GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

With such a wide range of activities, you'll find something that works for many settings:

- Mutual •
- Family home evening
- Reactivation efforts
- Personal Progress, Duty to God, or Come, Follow Me support
- Group date ideas

QUICK SHARING TO **CALENDARS**

Once you've planned an activity, it's easy to spread the word to members of your ward or Young Men/Young Women group through the email or ward calendar options.

Create a Mormon Message









YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE

If you've participated in a great activity that isn't featured on the site, submit your idea and it may get published! Just click on "Submit Idea" near the top-right corner of the page.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

aybe you think Mutual or other youth activities aren't really for you since you get a lot of other Churchrelated learning through seminary or personal and family study. But have you ever thought that others may need you there to help them? Youth activities are a great way to fellowship the less-active or nonmembers. They can also help everyone stand strong against temptation as they see the examples and gain strength from being with others-including you-who live gospel standards.

YOU'RE IN THE **DRIVER'S SEAT**

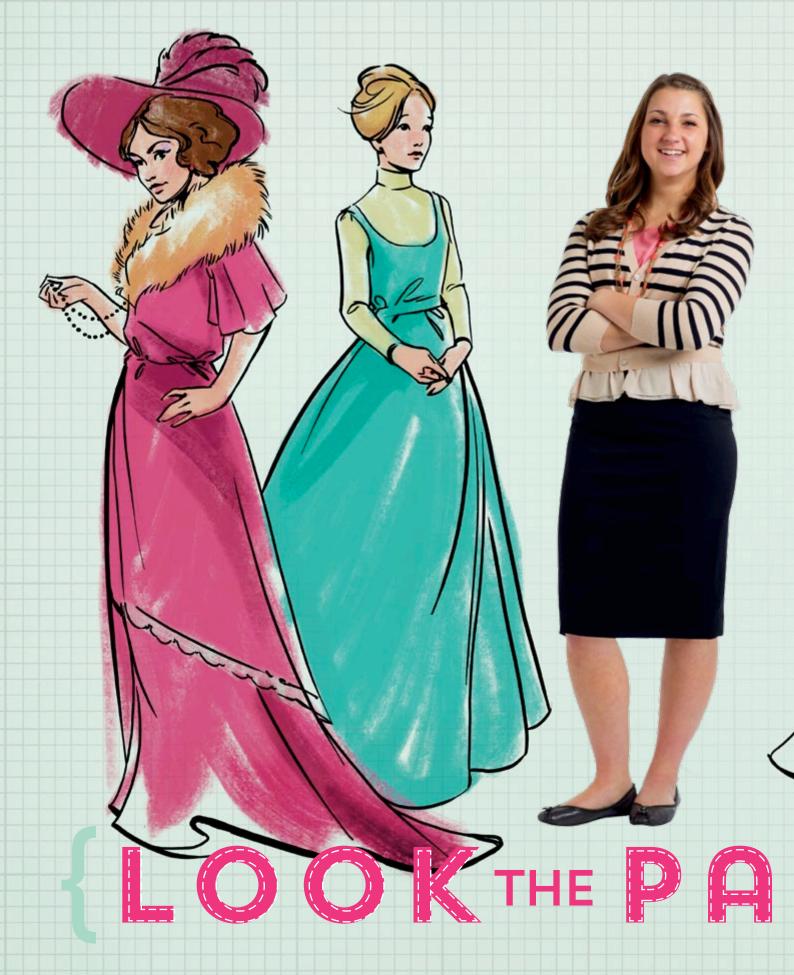
"One of the great things about this site is that it puts youth in the driver's seat. Not only does

it encourage quorum and class presidencies to take the lead in planning activities, but it also makes the needs and interests and abilities of the youth the center of that planning. Quorum and class presidencies are encouraged to find out about the youth they lead-What are they interested in? What do they have to offer? How do they need to grow?-and use activities as a way to bless their lives. That's true ministering." Elder Stanley G. Ellis of the Seventy

PLANNING TIPS

Get great ideas to know how to use your activities more effectively with the "Plan with a Purpose" walkthrough feature.

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By Rachel Nielsen

s a freshman in high school, Jacqueline C., from Indiana, USA, was asked to design costumes for all 25 members of her school's play. The play was set in the late 1800s in the southern United States, so designing costumes that fit the time and place was not an easy task.

Jacqueline started by reading books about costume design, researching the time period, and looking at lots of pictures. She also spent time talking with the director about how each character should be portrayed.

After all her research, Jacqueline designed the costumes, and she made sure all the actors looked their part. "There are two characters in the play that are complete opposites," Jacqueline says. "Their actions showed that they were opposites, and I made sure their costumes did too."

When actors are dressed appropriately for their character, it adds a lot to the play. "Their costumes pull the whole show together and give it a polished look," Jacqueline explains. As a costume designer, Jacqueline knows the importance of actors' looking their part, and as a Latter-day Saint, she knows the importance of our looking our part too. "The first impression the world has of us is based on how we look," she says.

When you know the part you play as a child of God, a covenant keeper, and a participant in the work of salvation, modesty will come naturally. Instead of being only about the length of your shorts, modesty will be about living up to your potential, keeping your covenants, and bringing others to Christ. It will be about looking—and becoming—the part.

MODESTY IS MORE THAN JUST DRESS

When you hear the word *modesty*, it's natural to think about whether or not clothing is revealing or inappropriate. But did you know that modesty is about more than just clothing?

When it comes down to it, modesty is about the messages we send to the world through our appearance *and* our actions. Elaine S. Dalton, former Young Women general president, taught that modesty "is an outward manifestation of an inner knowledge and commitment."¹ When you really know that you are a child of God, a covenant keeper, and a participant in the work of salvation, you'll want your actions and appearance to "glorify God in your body, and in your spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD {LOOK THE PART}

The "most majestic, powerful, and glorious Being in the universe"² is your Heavenly Father, and the blessings of that truth are incredible! Because you are a child of God, you have unlimited potential, you have infinite worth, and you have inherited goodness from your Father. As you come to understand this divine heritage, "it will be reflected in [your] countenance, [your] appearance, and [your] actions."³

When you know and understand your true identity, it "will make you free—not free from restraints, but free from doubts, anxieties, or peer pressure. You will not need to worry, 'Do I look all right?' 'Do I sound OK?' 'What do people think of me?'"⁴ When you truly know that you are a child of God, you will know that Heavenly Father's opinion is what matters most. How you look and act won't be about pleasing the world but rather about living up to your potential and expressing love and gratitude to your Father. As one young woman, Samantha Y., 17, from Utah, USA, says, "When you are modest, it shows Heavenly Father that you love Him and you want to be obedient to Him."

YOU ARE A COVENANT KEEPER {LOOK THE PART}

At baptism, you covenanted to "stand as a witness of God at all times and in all things, and in all places" (Mosiah 18:9). And everything you do, say, and wear should help you keep this promise. Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught, "Honoring our covenants, starting with baptism, affects who we are and what we do, including the kinds of things we say, the music we listen to, and the clothing we wear. When we make and keep covenants, we are coming out of the world







and into the kingdom of God. Our appearance should reflect that."⁵

When you understand that your covenants bring you "into the kingdom of God," you'll have the desire to look and act like a member of that kingdom.

YOU ARE A PARTICIPANT IN THE WORK OF SALVATION {LOOK THE PART}

You're on earth at an exciting time. The work of the Lord is moving forward, and you're a part of it! As a participant in the work of salvation, you've been asked to "let your light . . . shine before men" (Matthew 5:16), and you can do this by being modest. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said, "We should be recognizable in appearance as well as in behavior that we truly are disciples of Christ."⁶

Jade F., 16, knows that outward appearances and actions can make you stand out as a disciple of Christ. "When we wear something, we represent who we are," she says. "I live in a place in Arizona where there are only a few Latter-day Saints. So when I'm modest, people notice and it's a missionary experience."

When you look and act like a participant in the work of salvation, you'll be an example of the believers (see 1 Timothy 4:12) and can bring others closer to Christ. (To learn more about your role in the work of salvation, visit lds.org/go/YouthRoleNE5.) WHEN YOU KNOW AND UNDERSTAND YOUR TRUE IDENTITY, IT "WILL MAKE YOU FREE . . . FROM DOUBTS, ANXIETIES, OR PEER PRESSURE."

CLAIM YOUR BLESSINGS

Many wonderful blessings will come when you look and become the part of a Latter-day Saint by being modest in action and appearance. Here are a few of those blessings:

The Companionship of the Holy Ghost

"When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit."⁷

Protection, Chastity, and Virtue

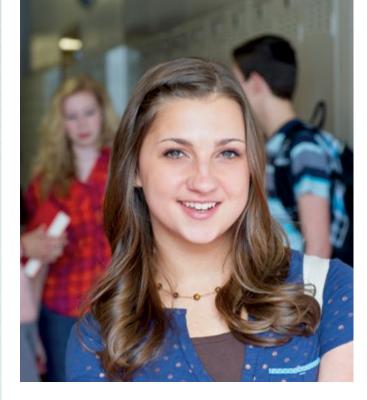
"Just as one does not hike trails inhabited by rattlesnakes barefoot, similarly in today's world it is essential to our very safety to be modest.... Modesty has everything to do with keeping our footing securely on the path of chastity and virtue. ... We simply cannot afford to be casual or get too close to the edge. That is dangerous ground for any [child] of God to walk."⁸

Confidence and Self-Worth

"As modesty becomes the virtue that regulates and moderates action in our lives, we ... will find an increased sense of self-worth." ⁹

True Beauty

"How truly beautiful is a well-groomed young woman who is clean in body and mind. She is a daughter of God in whom her Eternal Father can take pride. How handsome is a young man who is well groomed. He is a son of God, deemed worthy of holding the holy priesthood of God."¹⁰



A NEW WAY TO LOOK AT MODESTY

The next time you're thinking about modesty, whether you're wondering if your shorts are long enough or if your words are clean enough, first think of who you are. Remember that you are a child of God, a covenant keeper, and a participant in the work of salvation. When you think of it this way, modesty will no longer be a question of the length of your shorts or the cleanliness of your words; instead, it will be about living up to your potential as a child of God, keeping your covenants, and bringing others to Christ. As Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles reminds us, "You are a Saint of the great latter-day dispensation—look the part."¹¹ NE *Rachel Nielsen lives in Utah, USA.*

NOTES

- 1. Elaine S. Dalton, "Arise and Shine Forth" (address given at Brigham Young University Women's Conference, Apr. 30, 2004), 7; ce.byu. edu/cw/womensconference/transcripts.php.
- 2. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Forget Me Not," Ensign, Nov. 2011, 123.
- 3. Elaine S. Dalton, "Arise and Shine Forth," 2.
- 4. James E. Faust, "What It Means to Be a Daughter of God," *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 102.
- 5. Robert D. Hales, "Modesty: Reverence for the Lord," *Ensign*, Aug. 2008, 36.
- 6. Jeffrey R. Holland, "To Young Women," Ensign, Nov. 2005, 29.
- 7. For the Strength of Youth (2011), 6.
- 8. Elaine S. Dalton, "Stay on the Path," Ensign, May 2007, 113.
- 9. Silvia H. Allred, "Modesty: A Timeless Principle for All," *Ensign*, July 2009, 32.
- Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," Ensign, Jan. 2001, 11.
- 11. D. Todd Christofferson, "A Sense of the Sacred," *New Era*, Jun. 2006, 30.

enerally the things we pursue in life are the things we think will bring us the greatest happiness. We are familiar with the thirteenth article of faith, which teaches, "If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things." One of By Amya Jensen the errors of our generation is the pursuit of so many virtuous and lovely things at once, that in our rush we give up one of the most virtuous things: Christlike family relationships.

Par Dinner

As my siblings and I started high school, my dad could see the busy schedules of our teenage lives begin to crowd out precious family time. So he required my sisters and me to be home between five and

seven o'clock for dinner every night. At first this was hard, but as we honored his wishes, something beautiful happened.

Every evening we came home to each other from school, work, and activities. We learned how to prepare dinner. We ate and talked together every night and

then read the scriptures together. I still remember the spirit I felt as my mother and father testified of true gospel principles. There was a spirit of love and acceptance there that allowed us to

express ourselves and discuss difficult topics. And when our parents needed to teach us something, it came naturally during scripture discussions, with love and testimony. We argued less among each other and became best friends.

Although I was involved in many things during my high school years, this memory stands out most in my mind: my family time together around the dinner table. All the other rewarding experiences I had during those years were silver, and this was gold.

I learned that we need to be cautious about over-scheduling ourselves. Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has mentioned studies saying that "'eating meals at home [is] the strongest predictor of children's academic achievement and psychological adjustment.' Family mealtimes have also been shown to be a strong bulwark against children's smoking, drinking, or using drugs."1

Those dinner hours we spent together had a huge impact on the way I dealt with challenges and how I felt about life and myself. I knew that no matter

what happened outside our home, I had a family who cared about me. Elder Oaks also said, "We have to forego some good things in order to choose others that are better or best because they develop faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ."² Eating dinner together as a family did that for me as I was growing up.

So, when life speeds up so fast that the dews of heaven don't have time to distill upon our souls (see D&C 121:45), taking time for dinner and scriptures together can be one of the best ways to fill both the body and soul. NE Amya Jensen lives in Texas, USA.

1. Dallin H. Oaks, "Good, Better, NOTES Best," Ensign, Nov. 2007, 106. 2. "Good, Better, Best," 107.

My father insisted that we come

home for dinner every night;

I'm glad he did.

MORMONAD

ROCK SOLID

What foundation are you building on? (See 3 Nephi 11:39.)



ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF

"How can I know when I have received a revelation and not just a thought of my own?"

f you've asked this question, you're not alone. For many of us, revelation sometimes can be hard to recognize. In part, the answer depends on how you're living and how humble you are. If you do your best to be worthy of the Spirit and strive to be humble so that the Lord can direct you, answers will come (see D&C 112:10).

As you ponder whether a thought or feeling is from the Spirit, consider this counsel from the prophet Mormon: "Every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God" (Moroni 7:16).

Along these lines, President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught, "That's the test, when all is said and done. Does it persuade one to do good, to rise, to stand tall, to do the right thing, to be kind, to be generous? Then it is of the Spirit of God" (*Preach My Gospel* [2004], 97).

So do your best to be worthy of the Spirit, listen carefully, pay attention to those thoughts and promptings, and act. The Lord will help you along the way, and over time you'll learn more about how the Spirit speaks specifically to you. **NE**

For more on this topic, see Q&A: "How Can I Tell the Difference between Inspiration and My Own Thoughts?" *New Era*, Apr. 2003, 16.

Notice the Spirit



When I have personal revelation, I can feel the Spirit. Often, when I have personal revelation, I am doing spir-

itual activities like going to church, praying, or reading the scriptures. I can tell when it isn't personal revelation if I don't feel the Spirit. *Benjamin T., 13, Indiana, USA*

Be Guided

The scriptures tell us that anything good comes from God (see Moroni 7:16). So when we have righteous thoughts, we can know it comes from our Father in Heaven. I know He will only lead us to do good. Sometimes promptings and personal revelation will come as thoughts to us in a way that allows us to be guided. *Sarah T., 16, Arizona, USA*

Seek Diligently



If I'm looking for an answer from my Heavenly Father or just seeking help in general, I like to study my

scriptures and pray to God, asking for help. Revelation often comes to us when we seek diligently and are committed to learning something or getting help, not just simply waiting for an answer.

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Jordan W., 16, Oregon, USA

See How You Feel

Whenever I receive personal revelation, I feel a peaceful swelling inside. Even though you may not notice it at first, you will learn to realize that you have received personal revelation. I am grateful for it in my life. *Devin R., 16, North Carolina, USA*

Open Your Heart and Mind



From my experience, personal revelation comes at moments when the Spirit is strong. If you're not

sure whether you have received revelation, the Holy Ghost will always show you. He will provide the means to understand it if you open your heart and mind and do the things necessary to receive a revelation from God. Turn to your scriptures, pray, and be worthy to have the Holy Spirit and you will know the truth of all things. *Sejdi L., 18, France*

Act on It

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When you get a righteous thought, it comes from our Heavenly Father. If you think you need to do something good, do it even if it comes from your mind. If you're listening to the Holy Spirit and living righteously, even the little thoughts in your mind that are righteous should be acted upon. *Ruth R., 17, Illinois, USA*

Learn How the Spirit Speaks to You



The way the Holy Ghost speaks to us is different for each person. But you should notice a significant

difference in the way you feel [see Galatians 5:22–23]. Pray to know how the Holy Ghost speaks to you. He will show you.

Julia Lyne R., 20, Utah, USA

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



WHAT IS PERSONAL REVELATION?

'Personal revelation is the way Heavenly Father helps us

know Him and His Son, learn and live the gospel, endure to the end in righteousness, and qualify for eternal life—to return back into Their presence."

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Personal Revelation: The Teachings and Examples of the Prophets," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 87.

UPCOMING QUESTION

"I love the Church, but my parents don't.

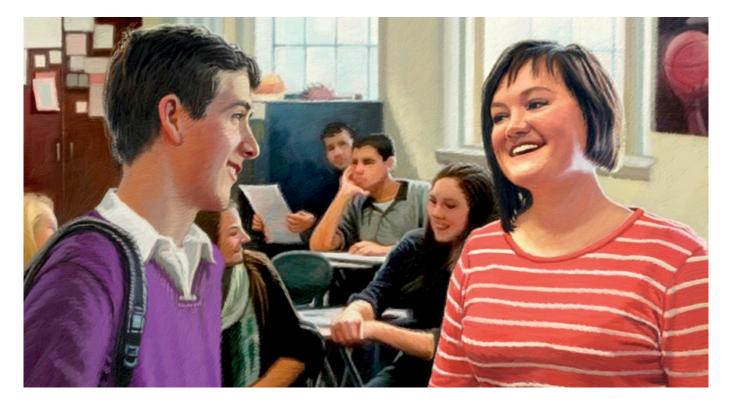
How do I show them that I love the Church and **would like** to have my whole **family active?**" Send your answer and photo by June 15, 2014.

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

You can also write to us at **newera@** Idschurch.org or

New Erα, Q&A, parents 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



WHERE I NEED TO BE

wo weeks before my junior year of high school, my entire life was going to be uprooted. My family had always lived in North Carolina, USA, but had recently decided that my dad should take a job on the other side of the country, in Utah. I prayed about this decision, and I knew that this was going to be the best thing for my family, but I was still nervous.

Because of the timing of the move and the school schedule in my new town, I had to move one week before the rest of my family left North Carolina, and I would be starting school a week late. I was terrified. I was going to a brand new high school, I was starting after everyone else, and I had no friends.

On my first day at school, I was incredibly nervous and felt like no one wanted to talk to me. While I was waiting for all the other students to find their seats in French class so that I could take an empty one, a young woman invited me to sit next to her and began asking me questions about myself—why I was starting school a week late and where I was from. She helped me through the class, and then she asked me if I had anyone to sit with at lunch. I timidly replied that I didn't, and she asked if I would sit with her and her friends. I gladly accepted. Later that day, she invited me to a pool party that one of the school clubs was hosting and then to the football game. Both were very enjoyable, and I felt like I'd really made a friend. That night, I thanked my Father in Heaven for all the blessings I was receiving. I didn't really know this young woman all that well, but I felt the love of Christ through her actions.

One day after school, my new friend asked me if I would be interested in coming with her and another friend to the temple to do baptisms for the dead before school the next day. I was excited about the invitation and said that I would go. The next morning, I dressed in my Sunday best and went to the temple. After coming out of the temple, we took some time to walk around the grounds. I still wasn't exactly sure how my new life in Utah would turn out, but as I looked over the valley, I knew that this is where my Father in Heaven wanted me to be.

Aaron A., Utah, USA

SEARCHING FOR A STORY

sat at the kitchen table with a stack of *Ensign* magazines, skimming through the pages and hoping to find a story that would help my sister with her talk. An hour into my search, the pile of magazines had dwindled and so had my enthusiasm. Although the pages were filled with valuable messages, I hadn't found anything to use. Then it occurred to me: I never prayed for help.

I immediately bowed my head and offered a prayer. Then I went back to searching. Before I prayed, I'd mostly looked in the short stories, but now I delved into other articles. In one of those articles, I found a story that would help my sister!

As my sister left the room, *Ensign* in hand, I offered a prayer of gratitude. I know Heavenly Father helps when I ask. I just need to pray. *Dana P., Minnesota, USA*

THE PICTURE ON THE MIRROR

t was another day of work in the mission field. My companion and I couldn't catch any of our investigators, nobody let us in when we knocked on doors, and I was pretty frustrated by the end of the day. When we came home to our apartment for the night, I was upset that nobody talked to us, and I felt it was my fault, even though there really wasn't anything more I could have done.

As I thought about this, I went into the bathroom and saw the picture of Christ my companion and I had taped to the mirror. I looked at it and smiled. I felt Christ's love wash over me. In spite of my weaknesses, I'd tried my best, and Christ knew my effort and what I was going through.

I've often reflected on that experience, and I've resolved to always post a picture of Christ on my



mirror, reminding me that as I do my best, no matter how "little" that effort may appear, I can still stand before my Savior and smile, knowing He loves me and accepts me for who I am. *Patrick H., Utah, USA*

WOULD I WEAR THIS TO SEMINARY?

e face a lot of things in the world that could keep us from living gospel standards. But certain things can help. For example, when I think about what to wear each day, I ask myself if I would wear the outfit to seminary. It may seem like a silly question, but it makes sense. If I don't think it would be appropriate to wear to seminary, why would I wear it anywhere? If I realize I shouldn't wear it, why keep it? If I don't have it in my closet, I can't be tempted to wear it.

Those questions have helped me stay modest and will help me in the future. Plus, dressing modestly today means I won't have to change my wardrobe when I enter the temple. *Amanda R., Maryland, USA*

What if I know someone is doing things that are wrong but he is still passing the sacrament and going to the temple?

f you have direct knowledge that a person is committing transgressions that might disqualify him from passing the sacrament or going to the temple, you could talk to either him or his bishop about it. In either case, don't use an accusing tone or call the young man a hypocrite, but speak kindly and express your concern for him.

Talking to him privately would give him a chance to own up to his behavior and begin repenting by going to the

bishop himself. If he refuses to listen, or if you feel uncomfortable approaching him in the first place, you should talk to his bishop about it. The bishop has a special calling to watch over the members of his ward and is the president of the Aaronic Priesthood in the ward, so he has a unique responsibility for this young man and is in a unique position to help him. You shouldn't talk to anyone else about it, because that would be gossiping, and that doesn't help anyone. **NE**

My non-LDS friend agreed to come to our meetings, but then she wants me to go to hers. Is it OK to visit other churches?

There's nothing wrong with visiting a friend's church. It can help you get to know your friend and her beliefs a little better. Get permission from your parents before you go, and be respectful and courteous during your visit, even if what you see and hear is unfamiliar to you.

Also, make sure your visit doesn't interfere with your attendance at your own regular Church meetings. Gathering at church with other Latter-day Saints to partake of the sacrament and strengthen one another is vital and shouldn't be willingly forfeited. **NE**

THE PURPOSE OF

GENERAL CONFERENCE... IS FULFILLED ONLY

> IF WE ARE WILLING



IF WE ARE WILLING



Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Presidency of the Seventy, April 2014 general conference

WHAT'S ONLINE



BECAUSE OF HIM

One world-changing event stands out above all others–Christ's Resurrection. It seemed impossible that man could rise from the dead, yet the Savior had power to resurrect. Watch the new short video "Because of Him" at **Ids.org/ go/becauseNE5** and share how your life has been blessed by the Savior's Resurrection.



Sharing the messages of living prophets can be simple. One way is to share a quote meme through social media, text, or email. Find many inspiring options from the April general conference at **Ids. org/go/socialNE5**. How will you use them to share the gospel today?

NEW INTERNATIONAL GENERAL BOARD



For the first time, a general board has members living internationally in addition to those living near Church headquarters in Utah. Get to know the new members of the Young Women general board at **Ids.org/go/boardNE5**. Find out who:

- Is an interpreter for Church leaders
- Lived in Germany as a young woman
- Was called as ward Young Women president at age 18, right after joining the Church
- Recently served an inner-city mission
- Spends Tuesdays in the family history center and Fridays in the temple
- Joined Young Women the same month as her daughter
- Has attended Young Women camp for around 15 years
- Is a mom of nine (seven daughters)
- Was serving as a Primary teacher when called to the board

 Carmela de Hooker, Lima, Peru. 2 Leslie Layton, Utah, USA. 3 Denise Lindberg, Utah, USA. 4 Dorah Mkhabela, Soweto, South Africa. 5 Janet Matthews Nelson, New York, USA. 6 M. Lúcia Silva, São Paulo, Brazil. 7 Susan Taggart, Utah, USA. 8 Rosemary Thackeray, Utah, USA. 9 Megumi Yamaguchi, Nagoya, Japan.

> THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

