



Dan Jones, one of the greatest missionaries in this dispensation, preaches the gospel in Wales.

What Is My Purpose as a Missionary?

Your Purpose

Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

Consider This

- What is my purpose as a missionary?
- What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Why do we preach the gospel?
- Why must I teach with power and authority?
- What is the message of the Restoration? Why is it so important?
- What is my responsibility in helping others become converted?
- How will I know whether I am a successful missionary?

Your Commission to Teach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ

You are surrounded by people. You pass them on the street, visit them in their homes, and travel among them. They are all children of God, your brothers and sisters. God loves them just as He loves you. Many of these people are searching for purpose in life. They are concerned for their future and their families. They need the sense of belonging that comes from the knowledge that they are children of God, members of His eternal family. They want to feel secure in a world of changing values. They want “peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come” (Doctrine and Covenants 59:23), but they are “kept from the truth because they know not where to find it” (Doctrine and Covenants 123:12).

The gospel of Jesus Christ as restored by the Savior through the Prophet Joseph Smith will bless them and their families, meet their spiritual needs, and help them fulfill their

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deepest desires. Although they may not know why, they need relief from feelings of loneliness and guilt that come from sin. They need to experience the joy of redemption by receiving forgiveness of their sins and enjoying the gift of the Holy Ghost.

As an authorized representative of Jesus Christ, you can teach people with power and authority that “redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah,” and that no one “can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah” (2 Nephi 2:6, 8). As people come to accept the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and receive the ordinances of baptism and confirmation by priesthood authority, they can be assured that they “are not cast off forever” (Book of Mormon, title page).



As your understanding of the Savior’s sacrifice, also known as the Atonement of Jesus Christ, grows, your desire to share the gospel will increase. You will feel, as Lehi did, the “great . . . importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth” (2 Nephi 2:8).

You are called to represent Jesus Christ in helping people become clean from their sins and find greater happiness and joy. You do this by inviting them to come unto Jesus Christ and become converted to His restored gospel. President Dallin H. Oaks taught: “We have also said much about the inspired summary of our work: ‘teach repentance and baptize converts.’ But converts to what? To Jesus Christ our Savior and our Redeemer, to His doctrine, to His restored gospel, to His authority, to His name. Conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel should precede conversion to and membership in His Church. . . . Seek conversion to Jesus Christ and His gospel” (“Closing Remarks” [address given at the seminar for new mission presidents, June 28, 2017], 6, Church History Library, Salt Lake City).

To come to the Savior, people must have faith in Him unto repentance—making the necessary changes to bring their life into agreement with His teachings. You can help people develop such faith by teaching them the restored gospel by the Spirit and inviting them to commit to live according to its teachings. Keeping this commitment prepares them for the covenant of baptism and confirmation and the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. They are to put off the “natural man” and become a Saint “through the atonement of Christ the Lord” (Mosiah 3:19).

Activity: Personal or Companion Study

Examine the picture of the tree of life on this page as you study the vision of the tree of life found in 1 Nephi 8 and 11. In this vision, the tree of life symbolizes the love of God (see 1 Nephi 11:21–22).

- What did Lehi desire after he had eaten the fruit? (See 1 Nephi 8:10–18.)
- In the vision, what did the people need to do to be able to partake of the fruit? What do we need to do to receive all the blessings of the Savior’s Atonement? In what ways do commitments and covenants help us partake of these blessings?
- As a missionary, what is your duty in helping others find and partake of the fruits of the gospel?

The Gospel Blesses Individuals and Families

The message of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ blesses individuals and families. Because of the Restoration we understand God's purpose for His children: "The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally" ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2017, 145).

On earth, family associations can be the source of some of our greatest joy. Satan is attacking the family on many fronts, and too many families are being destroyed by his efforts. The message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is that all individuals are part of God's family and that families can be united now and in eternity. By living the principles of the gospel, families can experience peace, joy, and a sense of belonging and identity in this life. Through the light of the gospel, families can resolve misunderstandings, contentions, and challenges. Families torn by discord can be healed through repentance, forgiveness, and faith in the power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. "Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities" ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World," 145).

Strive to find and teach families—a father, mother, and children—who can support one another in living the gospel and eventually be sealed as a family unit by restored priesthood authority.

"The most important of the Lord's work you will ever do will be within the walls of your own homes."

—PRESIDENT HAROLD B. LEE

TEACHINGS OF PRESIDENTS OF THE CHURCH: HAROLD B. LEE, (2011), 134

Teaching by the Spirit

Because the gospel of Jesus Christ is the "power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16), the message of the Restoration of the gospel must be taught by divine power—the power of the Holy Ghost, who is the third member of the Godhead. He is often called the Spirit, and one of His roles is to teach and testify of the truth. As you teach by that power, the Holy Ghost will:

- Teach you new truths and bring the doctrine you have studied to your remembrance (see John 14:26).
- Give you words to speak in the very moment you need them (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:85).
- Carry your message to the hearts of the people you teach (see 2 Nephi 33:1).
- Testify of the truthfulness of your message and confirm your words (see Doctrine and Covenants 100:5–8).
- Help you discern the needs of the people you are teaching (see Alma 12:7).

The Spirit is essential for teaching the truths of the gospel in a way that builds faith in others. As you strive to develop the faith to rely on the Spirit, you should:

- Pray for the Spirit (see Doctrine and Covenants 42:14).

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- Purify your heart (see Doctrine and Covenants 112:28).
- Keep the commandments (see Doctrine and Covenants 20:77, 79).
- Diligently treasure up God's word (see Doctrine and Covenants 11:21; 84:85).
- Teach so that others understand your message and are edified (see Doctrine and Covenants 50:13–22).
- Exercise faith (see Moroni 10:7).

You have been set apart for your sacred calling with the promise that the Spirit will be given as you meet the requirements set by the Lord. Enjoying the gifts of the Spirit should be one of your most earnest desires.

The Power and Authority of Your Calling

Missionaries are to go “in the power of the ordination wherewith [they have] been ordained, proclaiming glad tidings of great joy, even the everlasting gospel” (Doctrine and Covenants 79:1).

As a missionary, you have authority to preach the gospel. President Dallin H. Oaks has taught: “Whoever functions in an office or calling received from one who holds priesthood keys exercises priesthood authority in performing her or his assigned duties” (“The Keys and Authority of the Priesthood,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 51). As you prayerfully and worthily exercise that authority, you will receive spiritual power, which is evidence of the reality of your call. Do not be afraid or shy about fulfilling this commission. Just as the sons of Mosiah, you are to teach with the power and authority of God (see Alma 17:2–3). If you hold the priesthood, you also have the authority to administer the ordinances thereof.

When you were set apart by priesthood authority, you received the right and privilege to represent the Lord. You received a ministerial certificate that verifies that authority to the world. President Spencer W. Kimball said: “The setting apart may be taken literally; it is a setting apart from sin, apart from the carnal; apart from everything which is crude, low, vicious, cheap, or vulgar; *set apart* from the world to a higher plane of thought and activity. The blessing is conditional upon faithful performance” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 478).

Along with your authority comes a responsibility to live worthy of your calling. As the Lord's representative, you are to be “an example of the believers” (1 Timothy 4:12). Strive to live according to God's commandments and keep the covenants you made in the temple; know the scriptures; be courteous, on time, and dependable; follow missionary standards of conduct, dress, and grooming; and love the people with whom you serve and work. Honor Christ's name by your actions.

In addition to authority, you are also to exercise power in your work. The authority that you have received can lead to power. Indeed, spiritual power is one evidence that your authority is real. Spiritual power is a gift that makes it possible for you to do your work more effectively.

Your power and authority should be evident as you work and teach. Power may be manifest in many things you do, such as:

- Being led by the Spirit to say what the Lord would have you say at just the right moment (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:85).

- Receiving guidance about where to go or what to do (see Doctrine and Covenants 28:15; 31:11; 75:26–27).
- Having your testimony confirmed by the witness of the Spirit (see 2 Nephi 33:1; Doctrine and Covenants 100:5–8).
- Taking part in ordinances of salvation (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:19–20).
- Giving priesthood blessings if you are an elder (see James 5:14–15).
- Praying with and for the people you work with (see Alma 6:6; 8:18–22; 10:7–11; 31:26–35; Doctrine and Covenants 75:19).
- Expressing love for the Lord, your family, fellow missionaries, and the people you serve.

Scripture Study

How do you receive power?

Alma 17:2–3

Doctrine and Covenants 53:3

1 Corinthians 2:4

Activity: Personal or Companion Study

Look at the painting of Christ ordaining the Apostles, and then read John 15:1–16.

In what way is Christ the vine? How are you a branch of that vine? How does your setting apart relate to this relationship?

Read again your ministerial certificate. Record your feelings and thoughts about what you read. Each time you study this chapter, repeat this process. Note how your feelings change over time.

Study Doctrine and Covenants 109:13–15, 21–30, 38–39, 55–57, which are excerpts from the Prophet Joseph Smith's inspired dedicatory prayer for the Kirtland Temple. What blessings did Joseph Smith request for the faithful?



The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The gospel of Jesus Christ defines both your message and your purpose; that is, it provides both the “what” and the “why” of missionary work.

The Book of Mormon teaches plainly the gospel of Jesus Christ. According to the Book of Mormon the gospel of Jesus Christ includes (1) faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; (2) repentance through the Atonement of Christ; (3) baptism by immersion in Christ’s name; (4) the gift of the Holy Ghost; and (5) enduring to the end (see 2 Nephi 31; 3 Nephi 11; and 3 Nephi 27).

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It also teaches us what we need to believe about Christ if we are to have faith in Him. For example, when He presented His gospel to the people in the New World, the Savior said: "I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me. And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me, that as I have been lifted up by men even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil" (3 Nephi 27:13–14).

The Savior added, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do; for that which ye have seen me do even that shall ye do" (3 Nephi 27:21).

Additionally, the Book of Mormon provides insights to the kind of things we must do if we are to endure to the end, including the endowment and sealing ordinances of the temple, praying, fasting, studying the scriptures, following the example of the Savior, and obtaining Christlike attributes. In this context, the Book of Mormon teaches that we can become "saints through the atonement of Christ the Lord" (Mosiah 3:19).

A purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to cleanse people of their sins so they can receive His mercy at the day of judgment. Therefore, the focus of this book and, more important, the work you do each day is to invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

Individuals and families begin to follow Christ as they exercise faith in Him and repent of their sins. That faith is developed as they follow the Savior's example by humbling themselves, seeking God's will, and obeying God's commandments (see 2 Nephi 31:6–7; 3 Nephi 27:13–14). They receive a remission of sins through baptism and by receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost from one who has authority from

God to perform these ordinances. They then endure to the end, or, in other words, they continue throughout their lives in exercising faith in Jesus Christ, repenting, and renewing the covenants they have made. These are not just steps that they experience once in their lives; rather, when repeated throughout life these principles become an increasingly rewarding pattern of living. In fact, it is the only way of living that will bring peace of conscience and enable Heavenly Father's children to return to live in His presence.

Obedience to Jesus Christ is a lifelong commitment. Through exercising faith, repenting, being baptized and committing to serve Christ, and then receiving the Holy Ghost, we can experience healing, forgiveness of sins, and complete conversion to the Savior and His gospel.

The doctrine of Christ can change how people believe and how they live; it also directs how you work and focuses your efforts. Help people gain faith in Jesus Christ unto repentance by teaching and testifying that the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the authority of the priesthood have been restored and by inviting them to live by His teachings.

"Preach the first principles of the Gospel—preach them over again: you will find that day after day new ideas and additional light concerning them will be revealed to you. You can enlarge upon them so as to comprehend them clearly. You will then be able to make them more plainly understood by those [you] teach."

—HYRUM SMITH

HISTORY, 1838–1856, VOLUME E-1 [1 JULY
1843–30 APRIL 1844], 1994, CHURCH HISTORY
LIBRARY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Scripture Study

What are the doctrine and principles of the gospel of Christ as found in these verses?

2 Nephi 31:10–21

3 Nephi 11:31–41

3 Nephi 27:13–22

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The Message of the Restoration: The Foundation of Faith

No matter where you serve or whom you teach, center your teaching on the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. “The Lord will bless you as you teach the message of the Restoration to a world that desperately needs the gospel of Jesus Christ” (“Statement on Missionary Work,” First Presidency letter, Dec. 11, 2002). As you study the doctrine in the missionary lessons, you will come to see that we have one message: Through a modern prophet, God has restored knowledge about the plan of salvation, which is centered on the Atonement of Jesus Christ and is fulfilled by living the principles and ordinances of the gospel.

Make sure that everyone you teach clearly understands the following:

- God is our literal Father in Heaven. He loves us. Every person on earth is a child of God and a member of God’s family. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our Savior and Redeemer.
- Our loving Father in Heaven reached out to His children throughout biblical history by revealing His gospel to prophets. Sadly, many people rejected that gospel; even some of those who accepted it changed the doctrine and ordinances and fell into unbelief and apostasy.
- Our Father in Heaven sent His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. The Savior performed miracles and taught His gospel. He accomplished the Atonement and was resurrected.
- Beginning with the First Vision, God has again reached out in love to His children. He restored the gospel of Jesus Christ and His priesthood authority and organized His Church on the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith.
- Because of the Savior’s Resurrection, all people will be resurrected and saved, or gain salvation, from physical death. This is an unconditional gift.
- People may also be saved, or gain salvation, from individual spiritual death through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, by their faith in Him, by living in obedience to the laws and ordinances of His gospel, and by serving Him.
- In addition to gaining salvation, we can also qualify for exaltation by being true to covenants made with God in the holy temple (see 2 Nephi 31:14–20).
- The Book of Mormon is convincing evidence of the restored gospel.

As you help those you are teaching see the pattern of apostasy and restoration, they will be prepared to understand the great need for the latter-day Restoration. They will see the need to accept the restored gospel, receive the ordinances of salvation by the authority of the restored priesthood, and follow the way to eternal life. Help people recognize that the Church is not just another religion, nor is it an American church. Rather, it is a restoration of the “fulness of [the] gospel” (Doctrine and Covenants 1:23), the same as was revealed and taught from the beginning.

The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ is convincing evidence that Joseph Smith was a prophet and that the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored. It is

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the keystone of our religion, the most powerful resource for teaching this message. Some important truths restored through Joseph Smith include the knowledge that God is our Father and that we are His spirit children, that we lived with Him before birth, and that families can be exalted and live together forever in God’s presence through Christ’s Atonement by obeying the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

The Book of Mormon is evidence of the love of God for His children. It bears witness of Jesus Christ and His divine calling as Savior of the world. It shows that God speaks to His children. As you teach and testify, invite people to read the Book of Mormon and pray about its message. Each person you teach must decide whether to accept the Book of Mormon as revelation from God.

Trust the remarkable promise in Moroni 10:3–5. Do all you can to persuade people to read the book, to help them understand it, and to motivate them to ask God sincerely whether it is true. The witness of the Holy Ghost becomes the cornerstone of their faith that Christ has restored His Church. Help those you teach to receive that spiritual confirmation.

Scripture Study

How should you use the Book of Mormon in your missionary work?		
1 Nephi 13:39	Doctrine and Covenants	Doctrine and Covenants
2 Nephi 29:8–10	20:5–16	42:12–14
Moroni 10:3–5		

Activity: Personal Study

Imagine that you are going to write a paragraph about the message of the Restoration on social media or for a local newspaper. In your study journal write a title that describes the central message. Then record your thoughts and feelings about this message, including how understanding it better has changed the way you live and the way you view the world around you.

Helping Others Make Commitments: The Door to Faith and Repentance

Help people qualify for baptism and confirmation by teaching them true doctrine and inviting them to repent and change their lives through making and keeping commitments that build their faith in Jesus Christ. These commitments prepare people to make and keep sacred covenants.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland taught: “The first thing you will do when [someone] tells you he or she had not read and prayed about the Book of Mormon is be devastated! . . . Much of the time we are just too casual about all of this. This is eternal life. This is the salvation of the children of God. Eternity hangs in the balance. . . . It is the most important path [a person] will ever walk. But if he or she doesn’t know that, at least you do! . . . So take control of this situation. Teach with power and authority, and then be devastated if the first steps toward commandment-keeping and covenant-keeping have not been successfully begun” (“Making and Keeping Covenants,” missionary satellite broadcast, Apr. 1997).

As you teach people to understand the Restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, you “declare repentance” (Doctrine and Covenants 15:6). Repentance involves a change of heart and a desire to forsake sin and serve God. It involves humbly yielding to the Spirit and submitting to God’s will. It requires that people increase their commitment to live in agreement with God’s will. Repentance requires a sincere and lasting change of thoughts, desires, habits, and actions. It is a positive experience that brings joy and peace. Be bold and loving in helping people understand what they must do to repent. By inviting people to make commitments, you can effectively raise a voice of both warning and hope.

Scripture Study

What do these scriptures teach about declaring repentance?

Alma 29:1–4
Alma 42:31

Alma 62:45
Doctrine and Covenants 14:8

Doctrine and Covenants
15:6; 16:6

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Baptism and Confirmation

Baptizing and confirming the people you teach is central to your purpose. Baptism is for the remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost brings a host of blessings to those who live worthy of it. Through these ordinances people enter the gate and continue on the path to eternal life and exaltation. President Dallin H. Oaks said: “We do not preach and teach in order to ‘bring people into the Church’ or to increase the membership of the Church. We do not preach and teach just to persuade people to live better lives. . . . We invite all to come unto Christ by repentance and baptism and confirmation in order to open the doors of the celestial kingdom to the sons and daughters of God. No one else can do this” (“The Purpose of Missionary Work,” missionary satellite broadcast, Apr. 1995).

As you teach the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, help people understand the sacred nature and need for both baptism by water and by the Spirit and confirmation as members of the Church. Help them realize that receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost is a great blessing in this life and a key to their salvation. The Holy Ghost will “teach [them] all things” (John 14:26). President Boyd K. Packer taught: “When you are teaching [people] and preparing them for baptism by water, you must also think of the gift of the Holy Ghost—baptism by fire. Think of it as one sentence. First comes the baptism of water and then the baptism of fire” (“The Gift of the Holy Ghost: What Every Missionary Should Know—and Every Member As Well” [address given at the seminar for new mission presidents, June 2003]). The Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “Baptism by water is but half a baptism, and is good for nothing without the other half—that is, the baptism of the Holy Ghost” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 95).

Help those you teach understand that to qualify for baptism, confirmation, and receiving the Holy Ghost, they must meet the conditions given in Doctrine and Covenants 20:37.

Doctrine and Covenants 20:37 Qualifications for Baptism

- Humble themselves before God.
- Desire to be baptized.
- Come forth with broken hearts and contrite spirits.
- Repent of all their sins.
- Are willing to take upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ.
- Have a determination to serve Christ to the end.
- Manifest by their works that they have received the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins.

After worthy converts are baptized, they are confirmed members of the Church and the gift of the Holy Ghost is conferred upon them. This confirmation occurs under the direction of the bishop or branch president in a sacrament meeting soon after the baptism. While the two ordinances are separated by a brief time, confirmation complements and completes baptism.

Scripture Study**In what ways is the gift of the Holy Ghost one of the greatest gifts we can receive?**

3 Nephi 19:1–13

Doctrine and Covenants

45:56–57

John 3:5

John 14:26

Galatians 5:22–25

Topical Guide, “Holy Ghost, Gift of”

Why should converts desire the gift of the Holy Ghost?

2 Nephi 31:12–17

2 Nephi 32:1–5

Acts 8:14–17

Acts 19:1–6

Activity: Companion Study

Search the following scriptures and make a list of the qualifications and covenant of baptism. Discuss with your companion how to teach those requirements to others.

2 Nephi 31:13

Mosiah 18:8–10

Alma 7:14–16

3 Nephi 11:21–41

Moroni 6:1–4

Doctrine and Covenants

20:37

Establishing The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

When people have been baptized and confirmed members of the Church, continue to work with ward leaders and members to help these new converts adjust to their new life and continue their spiritual growth. The Church is established as people who have testimonies are baptized and confirmed, keep their covenants, prepare actively to go to the temple, and help strengthen the ward or branch.

Converts who have member friends, who are given responsibility, and who are nourished by God’s word will grow in testimony and faith. Missionaries, local leaders, and Church members should not turn away from their responsibility to nourish and strengthen new members.

Go About Doing Good

During His mortal ministry, the Savior “took upon him the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:7). He went about “doing good” (Acts 10:38) and “preaching the gospel” (Matthew 4:23). As you follow this example, you will find those whom you can serve and who will receive you.

Through service, you fulfill the two great commandments of loving God and your neighbor (see Matthew 22:36–40). Through service, you and those who are prepared for the restored gospel may also come together in a powerful, inspiring way. Your good

works will help some people recognize you as a servant of God and may lead to opportunities to teach the restored gospel. However, Christlike service should be offered as a sincere expression of love for those around you, without the expectation of people listening to a gospel message or accepting a teaching visit.

“Do you want to be happy? Forget yourself and get lost in this great cause. Lend your efforts to helping people. . . . Stand higher, lift those with feeble knees, hold up the arms of those that hang down. Live the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

—PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

TEACHINGS OF PRESIDENTS OF THE CHURCH:
GORDON B. HINCKLEY (2016), 209

Many missionaries' experience with service before their missions involved planned "service projects," such as helping someone move, cleaning a local meetinghouse, or helping someone with yardwork. As a missionary, you will offer such planned service each week (see the *Missionary Handbook* for additional information). Under the direction of your mission president, you may find opportunities to serve in the community through JustServe (where it is approved) and the Church's humanitarian and disaster response efforts.

The type of service described in this section focuses on unplanned opportunities. This type of service involves listening to the Spirit to recognize opportunities for small acts of kindness that you can offer to God's children. Pray and be aware of opportunities throughout each day to do good.

Guidelines

Remember the following guidelines as you seek to do good:

- Stay with your companion.
- Preserve the sacred nature of your call.
- Keep the missionary rules, and do not donate or use your money.
- See your *Missionary Handbook* for guidelines concerning weekly community service.

Scripture Study

What was the role of service in the Savior's life?

3 Nephi 17:7, 21
Matthew 8:1–4

Matthew 9:1–8
Mark 1:21–28

John 4:46–54

What was the role of service in Ammon's and Aaron's missions?

Alma 17:19–25

Alma 18:8–10

Alma 22:3

What does the Lord ask you to do?

3 Nephi 27:21

A Successful Missionary

Your success as a missionary is measured primarily by your commitment to find, teach, baptize, and confirm people and to help them become faithful members of the Church who enjoy the presence of the Holy Ghost.

Avoid comparing yourself to other missionaries and measuring the outward results of your efforts against theirs. Remember that people have agency to choose whether to accept your message. Your responsibility is to teach clearly and powerfully so they can make an informed choice. Some may not accept your message even when they have received a spiritual witness that it is true. You will be saddened because you love them and desire their salvation. You should not, however, become discouraged; discouragement will weaken your faith. If you lower your expectations, your effectiveness will decrease, your desire will weaken, and you will have greater difficulty following the Spirit.

You can know you have been a successful missionary when you:

- Feel the Spirit testify to people through you.
- Love people and desire their salvation.

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- Obey with exactness.
- Live so that you can receive and know how to follow the Spirit, who will show you where to go, what to do, and what to say.
- Develop Christlike attributes.
- Work effectively every day, do your very best to bring souls to Christ, and seek earnestly to learn and improve.
- Help establish and strengthen the Church (the stake and ward) wherever you are assigned to work.
- Warn people of the consequences of sin. Invite them to make and keep commitments.
- Teach and serve other missionaries.
- Go about doing good and serving people at every opportunity, whether or not they accept your message.

When you have done your very best, you may still experience disappointments, but you will not be disappointed in yourself. You can feel certain that the Lord is pleased when you feel the Spirit working through you.

Scripture Study

How do servants of the Lord feel about the work? How do servants of the Lord influence those they serve?

Mosiah 28:3
Alma 8:14–15
Helaman 10:3–5
3 Nephi 28:4–10

Ether 12:13–15
Doctrine and Covenants
15:4–6; 16:4–6

Doctrine and Covenants
68:2–6

Activity: Personal Study

- Read Helaman 10:1–5 and 3 Nephi 7:17–18. How did the Lord feel about these missionaries and their service?
- Think about the missionary efforts of Abinadi and Ammon (see Mosiah 11–18; Alma 17–20, 23–24). Why were both missionaries successful even though the immediate results of their efforts were different?
- Record what you learn in your study journal.

Remember This

- Your purpose is to invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.
- The restored gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way by which we can find eternal happiness.
- Your calling gives you authority; keeping your covenants gives you power.
- The fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Book of Mormon is evidence that Joseph Smith was a prophet.
- You help people live the gospel by inviting them to make and keep commitments.
- You show your love for the Lord and gratitude for His Atonement by bringing souls unto Him.
- You are successful when you are obedient, live righteously, and do your best in helping others live the gospel.

Missionary Work

Following are statements made by some of the Presidents of the Church in this dispensation.

President Joseph Smith (1830–1844)

“After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 330).

President George Albert Smith (1945–1951)

“We will attain our exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom only on the condition that we share with our Father’s other children the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and observe the commandments that will enrich our lives here and hereafter” (*Sharing the Gospel with Others*, 190).

President David O. McKay (1951–1970)

“Every member . . . a missionary!” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1959, 122).
 “True Christianity is love in action. There is no better way to manifest love for God than to show an unselfish love for your fellow men. This is the spirit of missionary work” (*Gospel Ideals* [1954], 129).

President Ezra Taft Benson (1985–1994)

“We are commanded by God to take this gospel to all the world. That is the cause that must unite us today. Only the gospel will save the world from the calamity of its own self-destruction. Only the gospel will unite men of all races and nationalities in peace. Only the gospel will bring joy, happiness, and salvation to the human family” (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [1988], 167).

President Howard W. Hunter (1994–1995)

“What does the Atonement [of Jesus Christ] have to do with missionary work? Any time we experience the blessings of [the Savior’s] Atonement in our lives, we cannot help but have a concern for the welfare of [others]. . . . A great indicator of one’s personal conversion is the desire to share the gospel with others” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Howard W. Hunter* [2015], 127–28).

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1995–2008)

“We are here to assist our Father in His work and His glory, ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’ (Moses 1:39). Your obligation is as serious in your sphere of responsibility as is my obligation in my sphere” (“This is the Work of the Master,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 71).

“Let there be cultivated an awareness in every member’s heart of his own potential for bringing others to a knowledge of the truth. Let him work at it. Let him pray with great earnestness about it” (“Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 106).

Notes

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President Thomas S. Monson (2008–2018)

“Remember that this work is not yours and mine alone. It is the Lord’s work, and when we are on the Lord’s errand, we are entitled to the Lord’s help. Remember that the Lord will shape the back to bear the burden placed upon it” (“To Learn, to Do, to Be,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 62).

President Russell M. Nelson (2018–present)

“The Lord’s message is for everyone. This is a global work. . . . The message is to invite all God’s children on both sides of the veil to come unto their Savior and enjoy the blessings of the temple, have enduring joy, and qualify for eternal life. And that will bring hope, help, and lift to all people” (“President Nelson Bolsters Faith from London, First Stop on Global Tour,” *Church News*, Apr. 13, 2018, [lds.org/church/news/president-nelson-bolsters-faith-from-london-first-stop-on-global-tour](https://www.lds.org/church/news/president-nelson-bolsters-faith-from-london-first-stop-on-global-tour)).

Ideas for Study and Application

Notes

Personal Study

- Prepare a two-minute talk on one of the questions at the beginning of this chapter. Be prepared to share your talk with your companion or with other missionaries in a district council.
- Ask recent converts to tell their conversion stories. What helped them gain “faith unto repentance” (Alma 34:17)? Why did they decide to be baptized and confirmed? What was it like for them to become new members of the Church? How could missionaries have served them better?
- Consider what it means to raise the voice of warning (see Jacob 3:12; Doctrine and Covenants 1:4; 38:41; 63:57–58; 88:81; 112:5; Ezekiel 3:17–21; 33:1–12). Write in your own words what it means and how you can go about doing it.
- Read Mormon 8 and Moroni 1 and 10. As you read, ask yourself, “What was Moroni’s hope for our day? What did he want us to do with the Book of Mormon? What would I say to Moroni if I had the chance?” Record your thoughts in your study journal.
- Consider the events in your life that have strengthened your testimony of Joseph Smith and the Restoration. Then write an answer to this question: What has helped you know that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith?

Companion Study

- Share with each other your answers to the questions from “Consider This” at the beginning of the chapter.
- Share with each other what your hopes and desires were for your mission when you received your mission call. To what extent does your experience thus far meet your expectations? How can you meet these expectations more fully?
- Read and discuss “Ministry” in the Bible Dictionary.
- Select one of the following great missionaries, and read the references listed. As you read, discuss how this missionary (1) understood and committed himself to his calling, (2) demonstrated his attitude and desire for the work, and (3) helped others accept the gospel.

Alma (Mosiah 18)
Aaron (Alma 22;
23:1–6)

Nephi and Lehi
(Helaman 5)
Peter (Acts 2)

Paul (Acts 16)

- In the hymnbook, select two hymns under the topic “Restoration of the Gospel” (see page 424). Read or sing the hymns. Discuss the meaning of the words.
- Read together “Faith,” “Repentance,” “Baptism,” and “Holy Ghost” in the Bible Dictionary. Read and discuss all the scripture references in each entry.
- Read together “Dispensations” in the Bible Dictionary. Also read and discuss Doctrine and Covenants 136:37.

Notes

District Council, Zone Conferences, and Mission Leadership Council

- Invite two or three recent converts to share their conversion experiences. How did they feel about the missionaries? about what the missionaries taught? about keeping commitments? What most strongly influenced their conversion?
- Invite a priesthood leader to talk to the missionaries about the opportunities and difficulties of building the Church in your area.
- Read Alma 18 and discuss these questions: What were Lamoni's feelings at the beginning of the story? How did they change? What feelings must a person have in order to receive the blessings of the gospel? Read Alma 34:15–16, and compare it with Lamoni's story. How does Christ's Atonement enable us to obtain mercy?
- Discuss what it means to be a successful missionary. Invite missionaries to give specific examples of success.
- Divide the missionaries into three groups. Assign one group to read Acts 2:36–38 (Peter), another group to read Acts 16:25–33 (Paul), and the final group to read Mosiah 18:8–11 (Alma). Ask each group to answer the question, "What did this missionary do to help others increase in faith in Christ, repent, and receive baptism and confirmation?" Discuss what the missionaries learn from these stories that could help them exercise faith when inviting people to repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Several days before the meeting, assign several missionaries to ponder selected questions from "Consider This" at the beginning of the chapter. Ask each missionary to prepare a two- to three-minute talk on his or her assigned question. During the district council or zone conference, allow the missionaries to give their talks. Following the talks, discuss what they learned and how they could use it in their missionary work.
- Divide the missionaries into four groups. Ask each group to list as many truths, covenants, and ordinances as they can that were restored and revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Have each group share their results. Invite missionaries to share how any of the truths revealed through the Restoration have influenced their lives.

Mission President, His Companion, and His Counselors

- During interviews or in conversation, periodically ask missionaries to share with you:
 - Their testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - Their testimony of the restored gospel and the mission of Joseph Smith.
 - Their testimony of the Book of Mormon.
 - Their thoughts about their purpose as a missionary.
- Invite missionaries to record in their study journal what they feel is the purpose of their mission. During an interview or in conversation, ask them to share what they have written.
- Send a letter of congratulations to new members.