



Only Christ can still our storms.

53

Family Home Evening Lessons

New Testament

Coordinates with Primary Manual 7

Lesson Ideas from the *Friend, Liahona, Ensign, & New Era*

Additional Lessons For Easter, Christmas,

And Conferences

Opening Songs from the Children Songbook

Contents

1. New Testament ABC's (Becoming Familiar with the New Testament)
2. The Savior's Atonement (Jesus Christ Volunteered to Be Our Savior)
3. John the Baptist Followed Jesus Christ (John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Jesus Christ)
4. I Shouted for Joy (Jesus Christ Is the Son of Heavenly Father)
5. Jesus Once Was a Little Child (The Childhood of Jesus Christ)

6. Baptism (The Baptism of Jesus Christ)
7. Jesus is Tempted (Jesus Christ Was Tempted by Satan)
8. Jesus and Heavenly Father's House (Jesus Christ Cleanses the Temple)

9. Calling the Twelve (Jesus Christ Calls His Apostles)
10. He's Talking to Me (The Sermon on the Mount)
11. Jesus Christ Teaches about Prayer
12. The Wise Man and the Foolish Man (The House Built on a Rock)
13. By These Names (Jesus Christ Heals the Sick)
14. He Hath Opened Mine Eyes (Jesus Christ and the Sabbath Day)
15. Power (Jesus Christ Used His Priesthood Power to Bless Others)
16. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People (Jesus Christ Performed Miracles)
17. The Parables of the Sower and the Wheat and Tares
18. Jesus Christ Heals a Man Born Blind
19. The Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son
20. Parable of the Good Samaritan
21. Were There Not Ten Healed (Jesus Christ Heals Ten Lepers)
22. Experiment in Forgiving (The Unmerciful Servant)
23. The Good Shepherd
24. The Widow's Mite
25. Parable of the Ten Virgins
26. Parable of the Talents
27. Practice Makes Perfect (Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)
28. The Faith of Mary and Martha (Jesus Christ Raises Lazarus from the Dead)
29. The Atonement (Jesus Christ's Triumphal Entry and the Last Supper)
30. The Atonement and Resurrection (Jesus Christ in Gethsemane)
31. Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus Christ's Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial)

32. The Crucifixion (The Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus Christ)
33. He is Not Here, But Has Risen (The Resurrection of Jesus Christ)
34. Heroes and Heroines: Kim Ho Jik (Feed My Sheep)
35. The Mission of Jesus Christ
36. The Day of Pentecost
37. Seek, Then Follow the Prophet's Counsel (Peter the Apostle)
38. An Honest Man-God's Noblest Work (Barnabas, Ananias, and Sapphira)

39. The First Martyr (Stephen, the Martyr)
40. Peter and Cornelius
41. Your Name is Safe in Our House (James Teaches Us to Control Our Tongues)
42. The Conversion of Saul
43. The Living Christ (Paul Testifies of Jesus Christ)
44. Every Day Heroes: They also Serve (Paul the Missionary)
45. Gifts from God (Paul's Journey to Rome)
46. What a Joyful Day (Jesus Christ Will Come Again)

47. The Power and Authority of God (The Priesthood Can Bless Our Lives)

48. Why Do We Have Fast Sunday?

49. Milk Money

50. Power of Pray

51. My Sister, My Example

52. To Hear the Angels Sing (Christmas)

53. The Gift of the Holy Ghost: What Every Member Should Know

1. New Testament *ABC*'s

Janet Peterson, *Friend*, Jan. 1991, 24

HYMN: *The Books of the New Testament* p.116

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: The Eight Article of Faith

LESSON: **To Play:** Any number of players may participate. Each player, in turn, picks a letter from the pile, reads the clue, and has two minutes to find the answer that begins with that letter in the **New Testament**. The person with the most correct answers at the end of the game wins.

- A. Twelve men who were chosen and ordained by Jesus (See **Luke 6:13**.)
 - B. Town where Jesus was born (See **Matt. 2:1**.)
 - C. Name given for those who believe in Christ (See **Acts 11:26**.)
 - D. Those who follow Christ (See **John 8:31**.)
 - E. Land where Joseph and Mary took Jesus when He was a baby (See **Matt. 2:13**.)
 - F. Fragrance brought by the Wise Men (See **Matt. 2:11**.)
 - G. Garden where Jesus prayed (See **Mark 14:32**.)
 - H. Wicked king who ordered all babies killed (See **Matt. 2:13**.)
 - I. Where there was no room for Mary and Joseph (See **Luke 2:7**.)
 - J. Name that the angel told Mary to call the Savior (See **Luke 1:30–31**.)
 - K. “_____ of the Jews”—part of the title on the cross (See **John 19:19**.)
 - L. Brother of Mary and Martha; raised from the dead by Jesus (See **John 11:43–44**.)
 - M. First book in the **New Testament** (See **New Testament**.)
 - N. Town where Jesus lived as a boy (See **Matt. 2:23**.)
 - O. The _____ Begotten Son (See **John 3:16**.)
 - P. Chief Apostle; denied Christ three times before the cock crew (See **Matt. 26:69–75**.)
 - Q. “The _____ and the dead” (those to be judged by Christ—See **2 Tim. 4:1**.)
 - R. Last book in the **New Testament** (See **New Testament**.)
 - S. Name changed to Paul (See **Acts 13:9**.)
 - T. The Apostle who doubted Christ’s resurrection (See **John 20:24–25**.)
 - U. _____ room, where the Last Supper was held (See **Mark 14:14–15**.)
 - V. Drink given to Christ while He was on the cross (See **Matt. 27:34**.)
 - W. Person who gave her last two mites (See **Mark 12:42–44**.)
- Note:** No word in the Bible starts with **x**.
- Y. What we should take upon us (See **Matt. 11:29**.)
 - Z. Father of John the Baptist (See **Luke 1:5**.)

Apostles, Bethlehem, Christians, disciples, Egypt, frankincense, Gethsemane, Herod, inn, Jesus, King, Lazarus, Matthew, Nazareth, Only, Peter, quick, Revelation, Saul, Thomas, Upper, vinegar, widow, yoke, Zacharias.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

2. Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: The Savior's

Atonement *Friend, Mar. 2002*

HYMN: *He Sent His Son* p.34

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Isa. 49:26

LESSON: Christ and explains its meaning in our lives.

Jesus Christ was appointed to be our Redeemer before the world was formed. With His divine Sonship, His sinless life, the shedding of His blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, His [painful] death on the cross and Resurrection from the grave, He became the author of our salvation and made a perfect Atonement for all mankind.

Some years ago, President Gordon B. Hinckley told “something of a parable” about “a one-room schoolhouse in the mountains of Virginia where the boys were so rough no teacher had been able to handle them.

“Then one day an inexperienced young teacher applied. He was told that every teacher had received an awful beating, but the teacher accepted the risk. The first day of school, the teacher asked the boys to establish their own rules and the penalty for breaking the rules. The class came up with ten rules, which were written on the blackboard. Then the teacher asked, ‘What shall we do with one who breaks the rules?’ ‘Beat him across the back ten times without his coat on,’ came the response. “A day or so later, the lunch of a big student, named Tom, was stolen. The thief was located—a little hungry fellow, about ten years old.

“As little Jim came up to take his licking, he pleaded to keep his coat on. ‘Take your coat off,’ the teacher said. ‘You helped make the rules!’

“The boy took off the coat. He had no shirt and revealed a bony little crippled body. As the teacher hesitated with the rod, big Tom jumped to his feet and volunteered to take the boy’s licking.

“ ‘Very well, there is a certain law that one can become a substitute for another. Are you all agreed?’ the teacher asked.

“After five strokes across Tom’s back, the rod broke. The class was sobbing. Little Jim had reached up and caught Tom with both arms around his neck. ‘Tom, I’m sorry that I stole your lunch, but I was awful hungry. Tom, I will love you till I die for taking my licking for me! Yes, I will love you forever!’ ”

President Hinckley then quoted Isaiah: “ ‘Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. . . . ‘He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our [sins].’ ” (Isa. 53:4–5.)

No man knows the full weight of what our Savior bore. His [deep] suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He took upon Himself all the sins of all other mortals, caused Him “to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit” (D&C 19:18).

The Atonement and the Resurrection accomplish many things. The Atonement cleanses us of sin on condition of our repentance. Christ’s resurrection gave us the assurance of life after death.

Our Redeemer took upon Himself all the sins, pains, and sicknesses of all who have ever lived and will ever live (see Alma 7:11–12). He knows our trials by firsthand experience.

Because the Savior has suffered anything and everything that we could ever feel or experience, He can help the weak to become stronger. He understands our pain and will walk with us even in our darkest hours.

We long for the ultimate blessing of the Atonement—to become one with Him, to be in His divine presence, to be called individually by name as He warmly welcomes us home with a radiant smile, beckoning us with open arms to be enfolded in His boundless love (see Alma 26:15; Morm. 5:11; Morm. 6:17; Moses 7:63).

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

3. John the Baptist Followed Jesus Christ

HYMN: *The First Article of Faith* p.122

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Gal. 3:26

LESSON: "John the Baptist Followed Jesus Christ," *Friend*, July 2003, 16

One time when Jesus was teaching in the temple, some chief priests and elders of the people came and asked Him, "By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?" (See **Matt. 21:23**.) They were trying to make the Savior look bad in front of the people. They didn't want people to believe in Him. If people believed in Jesus Christ, they wouldn't follow them (the chief priests and elders). But Jesus knew what they were trying to do, so He said, "I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

"The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?" (**Matt. 21:24–25**.) Now, John the Baptist believed in the Savior and knew of His mission. Before his death, John had told people that "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me [Jesus Christ] is mightier than I . . . : he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (**Matt. 3:11**).

When the chief priests and the elders heard Jesus' question, they were worried. They realized that if they said that John baptized people with the proper priesthood authority, Jesus would ask them why they didn't believe John and follow Him (the Savior). But if they said that John did not have proper priesthood authority, the people wouldn't believe them, because the people did believe John.

When the chief priests and elders refused to answer Jesus' question, he refused to answer theirs. Then he told them a parable, or story:

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

"He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

"And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

"Whether of them twain did the will of his father?"

The chief priests said that the first son did what his father asked. Jesus told them that those who believed John the Baptist and repented of their sins would go to heaven but that the chief priests and elders would not, because they didn't believe John and repent of their sins. (See **Matt. 21:25–32**.)

When we learn the gospel, have faith in the Savior, repent of our sins, are baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, choose the right, and study the scriptures, we are following Jesus Christ.

Fourth Article of Faith Picture Scramble By *Caroline Benzley* Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. We can follow Jesus' example by being baptized, too. To find out what two things we must do before we are baptized and what happens after we are

baptized, cut out the pictures and glue them in place in the right order. For help, or to check your answer, read Articles of Faith 1:4 [A of F 1:4].

Gift of **the** Holy Ghost
Baptism

Faith in **the** Lord **Jesus Christ**

Repentance

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



Fourth Article of Faith **PICTURE SCRAMBLE**

BY CAROLINE BENZLEY

Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. We can follow Jesus' example by being baptized, too. To find out what two things we must do before we are baptized

and what happens after we are baptized, cut out the pictures and glue them in place in the right order. For help, or to check your answer, read Articles of Faith 1:4.

1	2	3	4
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4. I Shouted for Joy! Sydney S. Reynolds, *Friend*, Feb. 1999, 46

HYMN: *I Lived in Heaven* p.4

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: John 6:69

LESSON: “Hurray!” we cried. “Hurray!” We shouted for joy! Have you ever been so happy in a meeting that you wanted to shout for joy? Did you know that you attended a very big meeting before you were born? It was called the Council in Heaven. All of Heavenly Father’s spirit children were there. Jesus Christ was there, and each one of us was there. Jesus was Heavenly Father’s Firstborn Son in the spirit world. We are also His spirit children. We lived with Heavenly Father and Jesus in heaven before we were born on this earth.

In the Council in Heaven, Heavenly Father told us about His wonderful plan. We call it the plan of salvation or the great plan of happiness. As part of this plan, Jesus, under the direction of Heavenly Father, would create a beautiful earth for us. Heavenly Father wanted each of His children to come to earth and receive a body. We had learned as much as we could in the spirit world. With a body and with the gift of agency (freedom to choose right or wrong) we could prove to Heavenly Father that we wanted more than anything else to keep His commandments and return to live with Him again. We were excited to be able to come to earth.

But there was a problem. Heavenly Father knew that when we became mortal and had bodies, we could get sick and die. We would make mistakes and could be tempted. We could sin, and no one who is sinning can live with Him. Heavenly Father knew that someone would have to pay the price for our sins so that we could be clean again and free from sin. We would need a savior who would give his own life in payment for our sins. Heavenly Father asked, “Whom shall I send?” Jesus said, “Here am I, send me.” Jesus said that He would do whatever Heavenly Father wanted Him to do to help us. There was another spirit person there who wanted to take away our agency and force us all to follow him. That was Lucifer, or Satan. He didn’t want to follow Heavenly Father’s plan—he wanted his own plan. Heavenly Father said, “I will send the first.” (See **Abr. 3:24–27**.)

When we heard that Jesus would be our Savior, we were so grateful and so happy that we shouted for joy. All the prophets from Adam’s time onward knew that Jesus would come and be our Savior. All the prophets who have lived since Jesus’ birth testify that He did come and that He is the Christ. The Apostle John, who knew Jesus personally, declared “We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (**John 6:69**). When we read that scripture, our faith can grow. Once again, we feel like shouting for joy!

Who Is He? Puzzle

Instructions: Jesus Christ has many names or titles in the scriptures (see “*Christ, Names of*” in the Bible Dictionary). These titles help us know more about Him. Read the descriptions in the left column, look for the correct answers in the right column, then fill in the blanks with the correct titles. Because more than one title may fit each description, the shaded blanks have the letters of His name. To make this puzzle activity into a scroll,

mount this page on heavy paper or fabric and cut it out. Glue sticks or dowels along the left and the right edges of the puzzle and let them dry (see illustration). Roll the sticks toward the middle and tie a piece of string or ribbon around the scroll.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. God of the Old Testament | a. Alpha and Omega |
| 2. Cares for the flock | b. King of Kings |
| 3. Oldest spirit child | c. Jehovah |
| 4. Gives good advice | d. Good Shepherd |
| 5. Offspring of Heavenly Father | e. Light of the World |
| 6. Brings calm to a troubled heart | f. Firstborn |
| 7. The First and the Last | g. Savior |
| 8. Brings us back to Heavenly Father | h. Counsellor |
| 9. Is above all earthly rulers | i. Son of God |
| 10. Rescues us from sin | j. Redeemer |
| 11. Because of Him, we can "see." | k. Prince of Peace |

- | | | |
|----|-------|-----------------|
| 1. | J | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | E _____ |
| 3. | _____ | S _____ |
| 4. | _____ | U _____ |
| 5. | S | _____ of _____ |
| 6. | _____ | C ___ of _____ |
| 7. | _____ | H ___ and _____ |
| 8. | R | _____ |

9. _____ of _____ I _____
10. _____ S _____
11. _____ T of the _____

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

5. Jesus Once Was a Little Child *Friend, Dec. 1979, 2*

HYMN: *Jesus Once Was a Little Child* p. 54

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 2:13

LESSON: At this joyous Christmas season we celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The story of that birth is well-known; the story of His sacrifice is an inspiration to all. But, perhaps sadly for us, we do not know much about His youth; although because of our knowledge of His later life, we can picture the growing Boy.

From

reading the scriptures we know that as a little child Jesus was watched over by angels, and His earthly parents were divinely guided. One angelic message was delivered to them about the safety of their Son, telling them that King Herod had a murderous plan. The angel said: "Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." (Matt. 2:13.)

When the death of Herod was announced and the danger had passed, the angel came again, and in another dream he told the loving guardian Joseph:

"Take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel." (Matt. 2:20.)

When the family arrived back in Palestine, there was still some fear in their minds, and the angel came again and directed them to go into Galilee. And the scriptures tell us that there "the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40.)

Jesus lived in Nazareth, which is toward the top of one of

the very rough hills north of the Plain of Esdraelon. This was an interesting place to grow up, and Jesus undoubtedly had all kinds of experiences that would ripen His life for His magnificent future. From the top of the hill Jesus may have seen the military and commercial routes teeming with life and movement and commerce. The rim was precipitous and from this high place, having been angered by His teachings and claims, Jesus' fellow townsmen once tried to cast Him down headlong, but He escaped from their clutches.

He lived probably not more than fifteen miles from the Sea of Galilee, where He would likely have learned much about clouds and storms and waves and sand and rocks and boats and ships. It was not much farther to the Mediterranean Sea, and here also He may have become acquainted with larger ships and tides and waves and streams and all the material that He referred to so eloquently in the sermons He gave later. As a boy, Jesus could have climbed the slopes of Mount Tabor, and He may have been familiar with the place where He led three apostles in later years. To climb Mount Tabor would be a real challenge, but one that a young, growing boy might find irresistible.

Jesus also could have walked from Nazareth to the Jordan River, where there would have been numerous live animals in the brush and natural growth. He probably observed nests with bird eggs in them. Undoubtedly He had seen the foxes and had watched them escape into their holes. He also knew of the grass of the field. He knew of the barns where food was stored. He knew of the toil of men and women. Jesus grew up in a builder's home and He knew of slivers and beams and measurements.

Jesus probably went fishing by Himself many times and helped Mary make bread. He knew of thorns and probably pulled many from His feet. He knew of figs and thistles. Certainly all these experiences were part of His life. And so when He spoke of them the people knew that He had a knowledge of those things. And most surely Jesus knew sheep and their importance to the people. He had seen sheep without a shepherd wander away and become lost. He said to those who followed Him, "Ye are my sheep, and ye are numbered among those whom the Father hath given me." (3 Ne. 15:24.) To all of us He has declared: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10:11.)

At this time as we open our gifts and sing happy Christmas carols, we remember that we are celebrating the birth of our Shepherd who gave us the greatest of all gifts, His life. You boys and girls are His lambs. You, who are now children as Jesus once was, have our love, our prayers, and our blessings. **CLOSING**

PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

6. Baptism October 2000 general conference address. Robert D. Hales, *Friend*, Jan. 2003, 7

HYMN: *Baptism* p.100

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-16

LESSON: *Did you know that Elder Robert D. Hales lived in New York State but would spend summers on his relatives' farms in Utah? He learned how to bale hay, ride a horse, and care for sheep and cows. Here he teaches us the importance and meaning of baptism.*

At baptism we make a covenant with our Heavenly Father that we are willing to come into His kingdom and keep His commandments from that time forward, even though we still live in the world.

Entering into the kingdom of God is so important that Jesus was baptized to show us “the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which [we] should enter” (2 Ne. 31:9). “Notwithstanding he being holy, he showeth unto the children of men that, according to the flesh he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments” (2 Ne. 31:7).

He set the example for all of us to humble ourselves before our Heavenly Father. We are all welcome to come into the waters of baptism. He was baptized to witness to His Father that He would be obedient in keeping His commandments. He was baptized to show us that we should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (see 2 Ne. 31:4–9).

When we are baptized, we take upon ourselves the sacred name of Jesus Christ. Taking upon us His name is one of the most significant experiences we have in life.

Each week in sacrament meeting we promise to remember the atoning sacrifice of our Savior as we renew our baptismal covenant. We promise to do as the Savior did—to be obedient to the Father and always keep His commandments. The blessing we receive in return is to always have His Spirit to be with us.

I feel great gratitude for my baptism and confirmation into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am grateful for the spiritual strength and guidance the gift of the Holy Ghost has given me throughout my life.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

7. Jesus Is Tempted *Friend, Dec. 2000, 28*

HYMN: *The Commandments* p.112

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:35-39

LESSON:



Jesus went into the wilderness to be with God. The Savior was there for forty days, talking with God. While He was there, He did not eat anything. JST, Matt. 4:1–2; JST, Luke 4:1–2



After the forty days, the devil came and tempted Jesus to prove that He was the Son of God. First, he told Jesus to change some rocks into bread. Jesus was hungry, but He knew that He should only use His power to help other people. He did not do what the devil said. Matt. 4:2–4; *Jesus the Christ*, pages 128–129



When the Holy Ghost took Jesus to a high place on the temple, the devil tempted Jesus a second time, telling Him to jump off the temple. The devil said that if Jesus was the Son of God, angels would catch Him and He would not be hurt. Jesus did not jump. He knew that He was the Son of God and did not need to prove it and that it would be wrong to use sacred powers in this way. Matt. 4:5–7; JST, Matt. 4:5–6



Then the Holy Ghost took Jesus to the top of a mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms and treasures of the world. The devil came and said that Jesus could have all the kingdoms and treasures if He would obey him. Saying that He would obey only Heavenly Father, Jesus told the devil to go away. The devil left, and angels came and blessed Jesus. He was then ready to begin His mortal ministry. Matt. 4:8–11; JST, Matt. 4:8–9

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

8. Jesus and His Heavenly Father's House *Friend, Feb. 2001, 8*

HYMN: *I Love to See the Temple* p. 95

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D. & C. 124:39-41

LESSON: Jesus went to Jerusalem to the temple. Many people went there to make a sacrifice by killing an animal and burning it on an altar. The sacrifice helped people think about the Savior, who would sacrifice Himself by suffering and dying for them. **Lev. 1:3–9; Moses 5:5–7; John 2:13**



Because some people did not have an animal to sacrifice, men sold animals to them in the temple. The men just wanted to get money. They did not think about God. **John 2:14**



Jesus saw the men selling the animals in the temple. He said that the temple was His Heavenly Father's house, a holy place. He did not want the men to sell things there. **John 2:16**



Jesus made a whip, overturned the tables, threw the money on the floor, and made the men leave the temple. He would not let the men sell animals and be irreverent in Heavenly Father's house. **John 2:15–16**

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

9. Calling of the Twelve Apostles *Friend, Sept. 1999, 15*

HYMN: *Called to Serve* p.174

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Hel. 5:12

LESSON:

During His life, the Savior had many followers who believed His teachings. These followers were called disciples. One day while in Galilee, He went “up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

“And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

“And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils” (Mark 3:13–15). This group of twelve disciples had been called and ordained to be Apostles.

“Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

“Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphæus, and Lebbæus, whose surname was Thaddæus;

“Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.” (Matt. 10:2–4.)

The word *apostle* means “one sent forth.” The Twelve Apostles had it revealed to them that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer and Savior of the world. They were sent forth into the world to bear testimony of Him. The members of the Quorum of the Twelve in the Church today have this same responsibility to be special witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Most of us will not be called to serve as “special witnesses” of Jesus Christ. However, the Holy Ghost can still reveal to each of us personally that Jesus is the Son of God and that His teachings are true. We share our knowledge of these truths by bearing our testimonies and by doing those things that are right.

Instructions

Color the flannel-board figures, then mount them on heavy paper. Cut them out and use them to retell the story of the calling of the Twelve Apostles and of their responsibilities.

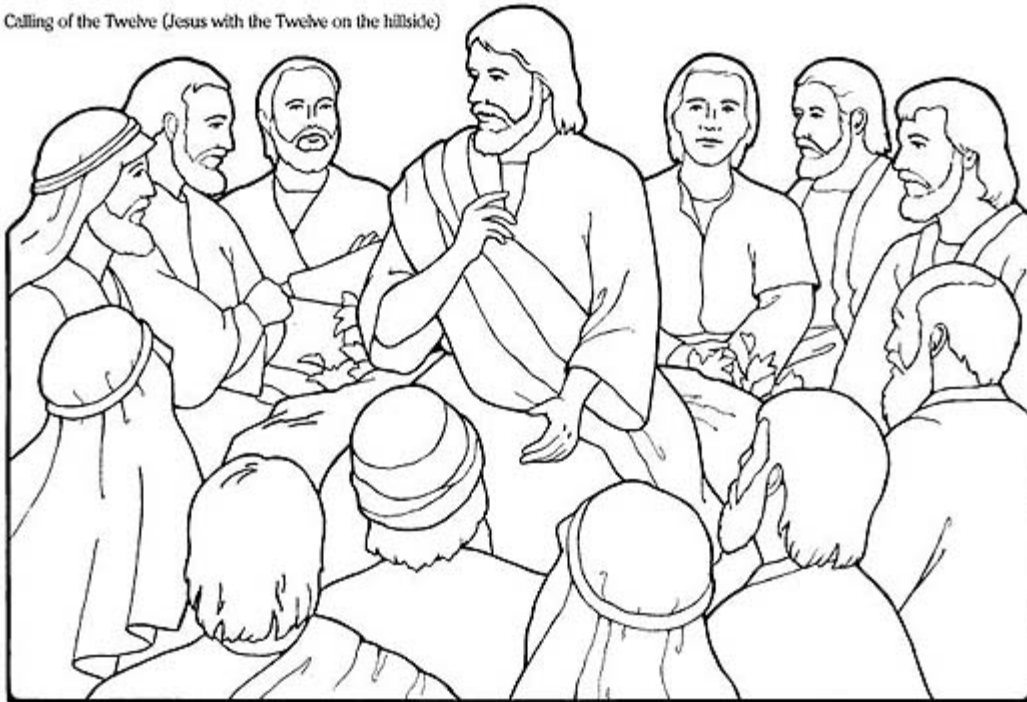
Calling of the Twelve (Jesus with the Twelve on the hillside); Peter and John healing a lame man; Philip testifying.

(Illustrated by Beth M. Whittaker.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

Calling of the Twelve (Jesus with the Twelve on the hillside)



Peter and John healing a lame man



Philip testifying

10. He's Talking to Me Sydney Reynolds, *Friend*, May 1998, 36

HYMN: *Faith* p. 96

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: 1 Ne. 19:23

LESSON:

Do you know what a multitude is? A multitude is a great number. It can refer to a great number of people. When Jesus Christ taught in Judea, great numbers of people followed after Him to hear what He had to say. He taught multitudes on the shores of Galilee. He taught multitudes on the mountain. He taught multitudes in Jerusalem. He wanted each individual person in the multitude to listen, to believe, and to decide to follow Him.

Moses taught a whole multitude in Old Testament times. He taught them the Ten Commandments. He told them, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (**Deut. 6:5**). He wanted them to keep those words close to their hearts and to teach the words to their children. Even though he was speaking to a large group, he wanted each person to hear and to do the things that he told them. And he wanted their children and their children’s children to know those things too.

To the people of his day, Nephi read from the books of Moses and also from the prophet Isaiah. Nephi said, “I did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning” (**1 Ne. 19:23**). What does it mean to “liken” the scriptures unto us? It means that we see how our life is like the lives of the people we are reading about. If the Lord says something to those people, we know that He is saying it to us too. We can learn from the scriptures what happens when we keep the commandments—it brings happiness and peace. We can also see the sorrow that comes when people break the commandments.

The Savior’s speech called the “Sermon on the Mount” (see Matthew 5–7) is for us! We are happy and blessed when we are meek or merciful (see **Matt. 5:5, 7**). King Benjamin’s speech from the tower (see Mosiah 2–5) is for us! We, too, can have a mighty change in our hearts (see **Mosiah 5:2**). The Word of Wisdom (see Doctrine and Covenants 89) will help us find health and great treasures of knowledge. It helped the Saints who lived in Kirtland, Ohio, in 1833, and it can help us. When the prophets speak today, their message is for us and for those who come after us. And when we liken the scriptures to ourselves and listen to the Spirit, we can hear the Lord talking to us.

Instructions: Carefully remove page 37 from the magazine, mount it on heavy paper, and color it. In the center oval, glue a small photo of yourself, a mirror, or a picture that you’ve drawn of yourself. Cut off the bottom strip along the broken black line. Cut out each box in the strip, read each title and its scripture, then glue the box under the appropriate picture. Hang the poster in your room.

Illustrated by Tadd R. Peterson

Poster When I Liken the Scriptures to Myself ... the Lord Is Talking to Me!

Moses Teaches Israel the Ten Commandments **Ex. 20:3–17**

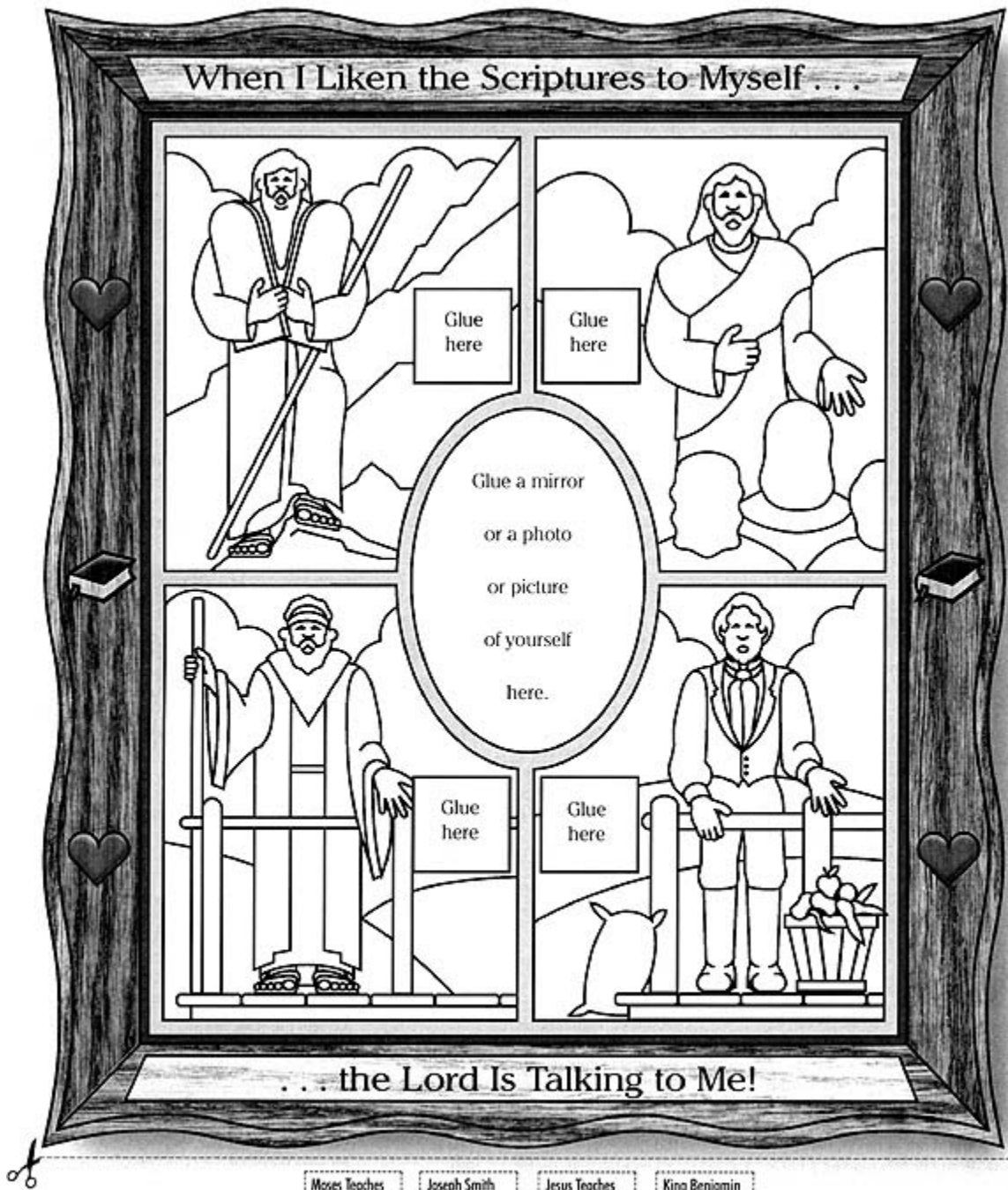
King Benjamin Preaches His Sermon **Mosiah 2–5**

Jesus Teaches the Sermon on the Mount **Matt. 5–7**

Joseph Smith Teaches the Word of Wisdom **D&C 89**

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



11. Jesus Teaches about Prayer *Friend*, June 2001, 10

HYMN: *A Child's Prayer* p. 12

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:1

LESSON:



Jesus taught His disciples (followers) how to pray. He said that some people want others to see them praying. Jesus taught that people should say their personal prayers where they can be alone, if possible. **Matt. 6:5–6**



He said that some people say the same words over and over when they pray. They do not really think about what they are saying. But people *should* think about what they say. They should pray sincerely for what they need. **Matt. 6:7–8**



The Savior said a prayer as an example for His disciples. He began by saying, “Our Father ... in heaven.” He thanked Heavenly Father. He asked Heavenly Father for help. He said “amen” at the end of His prayer. Later, Jesus told His disciples to pray in His name. He promised that Heavenly Father would answer their prayers and bless them. **Matt. 6:9–13; Matt. 21:22; John**

16:23

"Jesus Prays," *Friend*, Aug. 1996, 24



Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray (**Matt. 19:13**).



After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ... (**Matt. 6:9**.)



And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. (**Matt. 26:26-27**.)



And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt (**Matt. 26:39**). (© Seventh Day Adventist Church.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

12. The Wise Man and the Foolish Man *Friend, July 1999, 47*

HYMN: *The Wise Man and the Foolish Man* p.281

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: James 2:17–18

LESSON:

While He was in Galilee, Jesus Christ gave the Sermon on the Mount.* In it, he taught His disciples the Beatitudes and to be a good example to the world. He taught them that it was wrong to be angry with or hate anyone, even their enemies. Not only should His disciples do what is right, but their thoughts should be righteous, too. He taught the principles of prayer, forgiveness, and seeking “first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (**Matt. 6:33**).

Jesus said that to live with Him in the kingdom of heaven, His disciples needed to learn the gospel and to live it. He explained: “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

“And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” (**Matt. 7:24–27**.)

We have many opportunities to learn the gospel of Jesus Christ. We can show that we have faith that the gospel is true by choosing the right each day. If we do, we will be like the wise man—building our lives upon the solid foundation of the gospel and preparing ourselves to live again with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

Instructions

Color the flannel-board figures, then mount them on heavy paper. Cut them out and use them to retell the story of the wise man and the foolish man.

House; Wise man; Foolish man; Fallen house; Storm: Rain, wind, floods; Rock hill; Sand hill.
(Illustrated by Beth M. Whittaker.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



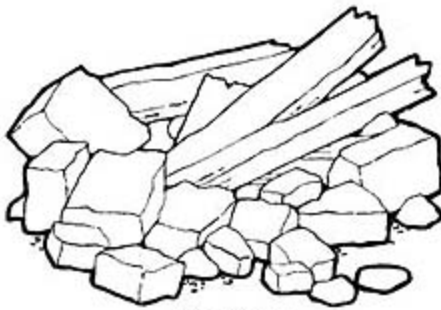
House



Wise man



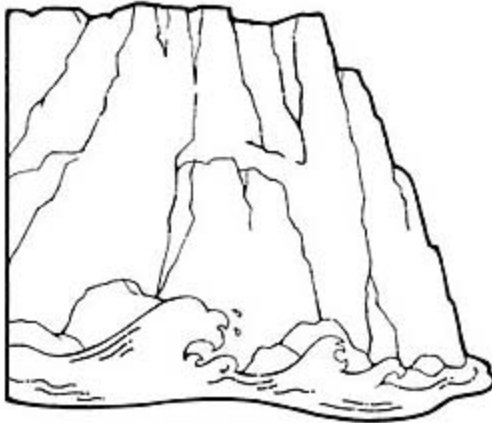
Foolish man



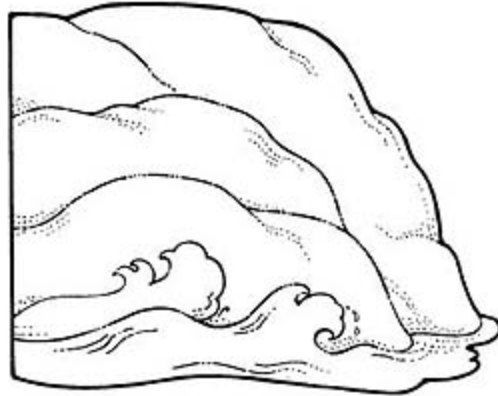
Fallen house



Storm: Rain, wind, floods



Rock hill



Sand hill

13. By These Names Dorothy Leon, *Friend*, Apr. 1995, 14

HYMN: *I'll Walk with You* p. 140

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D&C 18:23

LESSON:

In days of old, many people acquired names that told something about them.

King Richard became Richard the Lion-Hearted to tell of his fearless bravery. The name Ivan the Terrible of Russia speaks for itself, as do the names John the Baptist, Simon the Zealot, and Saint Francis of Assisi (a place in Italy).

Jesus was known as Jesus of Nazareth to distinguish him from others who also carried the name of Jesus in those early days. The name “Jesus” is “Joshua” in Hebrew. It means “savior,” or “he who comes to help.” In Greek, the name Jesus is “Iasathai,” and it means “healer of souls of men.”

Thus, Jesus’ name means “he who will come to save and to give eternal life.” He has many other names, such as “Creator” and “Only Begotten Son,” that tell of his good deeds and what he represents. Through his deeds and his ministry, Jesus is known by more than two hundred names. The following examples discuss a few of them.

Alpha and Omega

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last (Rev. 22:13; see also 3 Ne. 9:18).

Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, just as *A* is the first letter in our alphabet. *Alpha* means “the first” or “the beginning.” *Omega* is the last letter in the Greek alphabet, as *Z* is in our alphabet. *Omega* means “the last of any series,” or “the end.” When you put the two words, *Alpha* and *Omega*, together, they mean from the beginning to the end, or from the first to the last. Jesus as “Alpha and Omega” was from the beginning, and will be at the end in all things; he is eternal.

Good Shepherd

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine (John 10:14; see also Alma 5:38).

Why is Jesus known by the name of “*Good Shepherd*” instead of simply “Shepherd”?

When the Savior lived upon the earth, shepherding was a common occupation. There were three kinds of people who became shepherds. One kind of person became a shepherd because his father was one; his father taught him as he grew up.

A second kind of person became a shepherd because he loved sheep and *wanted* to learn how to be a shepherd. While he worked and learned, he received food and a place to sleep and was sometimes paid with a gift of a sheep or two.

The third kind of person became a shepherd solely for the money. Known as a hireling shepherd, when his day’s work was done, he went home. If during his working hours there was danger, he fled in fear of his own safety, leaving the sheep unattended and

without a leader.

The first two kinds of shepherds were called good shepherds because they never left their sheep unattended, even at the risk of their own lives. They guided the sheep along rocky paths and walked in front of the sheep to make certain the paths were safe. They led them to the green pastures where they could feed. Jesus was that kind of a shepherd—a Good Shepherd—to all mankind. He gave his life for us, and if we follow him, he will lead us to eternal life.

Lamb of God

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29; see also Alma 7:14).

Baby sheep are called lambs. Lambs are known to be gentle creatures. They are pure and innocent, doing no harm to anyone.

When a person is called a lamb, it means that he is pure and innocent, gentle and kind.

In the Old Testament, a lamb was used as a sacrifice, or an offering to God, for the forgiveness of sins. Other animals were used as sacrificial animals, but a lamb was the first and most often used. (See **Gen. 4:4**.)

Jesus is known as the Lamb of God because he was Heavenly Father's perfect offering for our sins (see **John 1:29**). He had no faults or blemishes. He had a pure heart—he was innocent, gentle, kind, and humble, and he did no harm to anyone. He was without sin.

Physician

They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick (Matt. 9:12; see also Moro. 8:8).

When the Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples why he was eating with publicans and sinners, Jesus himself answered: "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (**Matt. 9:12**). Why do you think that Jesus would refer to himself as a physician?

Physicians are trained to find out what is wrong with an ill person. They can prescribe medicine and treatment for the person and tell him what to do to help recover from illness.

Physicians promise to aid the ill and the injured and to not turn away in disgust from those who seek help. They promise to train others in the art of healing.

Jesus healed people. He healed the lame, the blind, and the leper. He also healed people who were sick with sin. He did not turn away in disgust, but looked at the sinner as a sufferer needing the healing power of grace, love, and forgiveness. He suffered mightily for repentant sinners so that they might be forgiven if they would truly repent. The people who believed in him and repented would be able to live with him and Heavenly Father forever.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

14. “He Hath Opened Mine Eyes” *Friend, June 1995, 48*

HYMN: *My Heavenly Father Loves Me* p.228

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Article of Faith 1:7

LESSON:

When Jesus Christ came to earth, he performed many miracles. Once when he was in Jerusalem on the Sabbath Day, he and his disciples came upon a man who had been blind since birth.

The Savior spat upon the ground and made mud with which he anointed the man’s eyes. He then told the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeyed, and when he finished washing, his eyes had been healed and he was able to see.

When the people around him realized that he could see, they wanted to know how it was done. After the young man explained, the people asked where Jesus was. The young man answered, “I know not” (John 9:12).

The crowd took the man to the Pharisees, who were responsible for explaining Jewish law. The Pharisees questioned him. When the man told his story, the Pharisees were confused and argued with each other. According to their laws, it was a sin for anyone to heal another person on the Sabbath Day, and yet they also believed that a sinner could not heal anyone. Again they asked the man what had happened, and again he told his story.

The Pharisees questioned the young man’s parents. Had the boy really been blind since birth? “Yes,” his parents answered. How had he been healed? Because the Jewish leaders had decided that anyone who said Jesus was the Christ would not be allowed to worship in the synagogues, the parents replied, “We know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself” (John 9:21).

The Pharisees told the young man that he should praise God for restoring his sight but recognize that Jesus was a sinner. They asked him again what had happened. He said, “I have told you already, and ye did not hear ...

“We know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth ...

“If this man [Jesus] were not of God, he could do nothing.” (John 9:27, 31, 33.)

The Pharisees became very angry and threw him out of their presence. Jesus heard what had happened to the young man and asked him, “Dost thou believe on the Son of God?”

“He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?” (John 9:35–38.)

“And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. “And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.” (John 9:35–38.)

We still worship him today and recognize the great blessings he gives to us. In a revelation given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon in 1830, the Savior said, “I will show miracles, signs, and wonders, unto all those who believed on my name.

“And whosoever shall ask it in my name in faith, they shall cast out devils; they shall heal the sick, they shall cause the blind to receive their sight and the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak, and the lame to walk.” (D&C 35:8–9.)

Miracles of healing, whether it is our bodies or our spirits that are ill, are part of the blessings God gives to those who believe on him.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

15. Power William Blair, *Friend*, June 1995, 12

HYMN: *The Priesthood Is Restored* p. 89

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D. & C. 121:41

LESSON: “Take that!” Josh growled, jabbing the controller with his thumb and slamming a bad guy to the ground. Josh loved video games.

“Better get out of your school clothes,” Dad called. “We’re due at the priesthood preview in an hour. Your mother went to get Grandpa—they’ll meet us there.”

Josh switched off the game without the usual grumbling. “Great!”

He was clipping on his Sunday tie when Dad laid a large hand on his shoulder. “I’m glad you’re so excited about receiving the priesthood.”

“Who wouldn’t be?” Josh exclaimed.

“Sister Burke says that priesthood is the power Jesus used to make the world. When I get part of that power, nobody had better mess with me!”

Dad cleared his throat. “Josh—”

“My friend Devin’s a deacon already,” Josh interrupted. “He says that I’ll have more power than the president of the United States, and *he* can launch missiles and order whole armies around.”

Dad sighed. “Josh, the power is the Lord’s. He’s given the priesthood to us so that we can *serve* others. We don’t use it to hurt people.”

“Not even bad guys?”

“Which of us is perfect?” Dad replied. “Let’s go sit at the kitchen table—I’d like you to read something in the Doctrine and Covenants.”

At the table, Dad pointed to a passage and Josh read it aloud, sounding out some of the harder words. “No power or

influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love un-un—”

“Unfeigned,” Dad said. “It means genuine, not faked.”

wimpy and weak to use it?”

“What good’s power if you have to be

“It doesn’t say wimpy

and weak. It says gentle and meek.”
thing.”

“Same

“Josh, will you come downstairs with me, please?”

Josh followed Dad into the basement storage room, where he rummaged through some boxes and pulled out a shiny trophy with a football player on top.

Josh’s eyes grew big. “An MVP

award! And it has your name on it!”

Dad nodded. “I

received this when I was a junior—the first junior ever to earn it at our school. I thought I was the toughest, meanest, most powerful seventeen-year-old on earth. I played on both sides of the ball, but I preferred defense because I really got to unload on people. I loved to hear the crowd cheer when I made a hit.”

Josh stroked the trophy lovingly.

“Why isn’t this where everybody can see it?”

Dad shrugged

and put the trophy back into the box. “It just doesn’t seem that important anymore.

Maybe that’s because my senior year I got an award that taught me a lot more.” He opened his wallet and took out a plastic bracelet.

Josh looked it over. “It’s like the bracelet Mom wore in the hospital when she had Stacey. But this one has *your* name on it.”

Dad nodded. “I earned it in the homecoming game. I’d intercepted a pass on the other team’s twenty, and only one man was between me and the end zone. He was so small, I didn’t bother putting any moves on him. I just lowered my head and charged. When I came to, I was lying on the field, and, Josh, I couldn’t move! This big, tough, proud football player was lying there eating grass—crying like a baby and scared out of his mind.”

Josh didn’t know what to say. He couldn’t imagine his strong, calm father frightened and helpless. “What happened?” he asked at last.

“They strapped me to some kind of a contraption, carried me behind the stands, and put me into an ambulance. I could hear the crowd cheering, and I thought, *They’re watching the game again. They’ve forgotten all about me.*

“My father was out of town, so my mother rode in the ambulance with me. Brother Jones got in too. Besides Dad, he was the only Melchizedek Priesthood holder in our little town. He was also the math teacher at school, and I didn’t like him much. He was small and soft-spoken, and he called the students ‘ladies and gentlemen.’ We all laughed at him behind his back.

“My mother asked if he would give me a blessing, and he said, ‘I’d be honored.’ He anointed me with oil. Then he put his small hands on my head and told me that Heavenly Father knew me and loved me. He said that people in wheelchairs can still serve valiantly, but that I had some work to do on foot. He promised me that I would walk again.”

“And you did!”

“It turned out that my spinal cord was only bruised. My recovery took a long time, though, and it wasn’t much fun. No one was kinder or more helpful than Brother Jones. Sometimes he held me up while I learned to walk again, and I was amazed at the strength in his small hands. I began to understand that power doesn’t come just from muscles, that some heavy weights can be lifted only by kindness, gentleness, and love. Do you understand, son?”

Josh looked at his feet. “A little.”

Dad put the bracelet back into his wallet, and Josh followed him upstairs to the living room. Taking a picture of the Savior from the wall, Dad said, “On my last day of school, I hobbled into Brother Jones’s room and told him that I hoped to be as strong someday as he was. He smiled and handed me a graduation gift. ‘Thank you,’ he said, ‘but here’s a better example to follow.’ I unwrapped this picture. Since then I’ve studied the life of the Savior and done my best to follow his example.”

Dad handed the picture to Josh and got his Bible. “When Jesus was arrested, one of his disciples tried to defend him with a sword. Jesus said, ‘Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?’ ”*

Josh whistled. “Twelve legions! That’s a lot!”

“According to the Bible Dictionary, each Roman legion had some six thousand foot soldiers plus cavalry. If angel legions are about the same size, that would be more than seventy-two thousand angels.”

“Wow!” Josh exclaimed. “They could wipe out an army!”

Dad’s voice grew very serious. “Josh, he didn’t call for those legions. He let himself be whipped and spat upon and mocked and crucified. Instead of conquering men, he conquered death itself, even for those who had hurt him.”

“Wow!” Josh said again, softly this time.

Dad reached out and touched the picture. “The best power of all is the power to help and heal. Jesus has that power, and he’s willing to share it with those who love him and follow him. I think you’re one of those.”

Josh looked

him in the eye. “I’ll try to be.”

“Good!” Dad said. “So will I. And now we’d better be on our way to the priesthood preview.”

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

16. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People *Friend, Oct. 2001, 12*

HYMN: *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* p.57

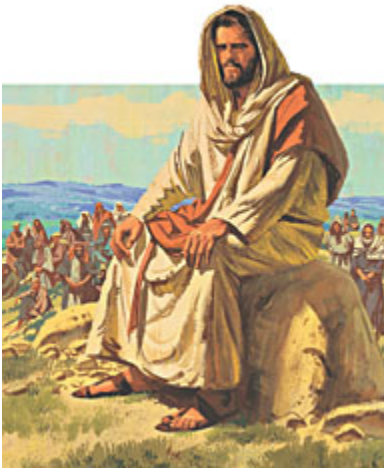
OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:23-24

LESSON: "Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People,"



Some friends of John the Baptist came to Jesus **and** told Him that John had been killed. He had been killed because he had told the king to repent. **Matt. 14:1–12**



When Jesus heard this, He went to a place near the Sea of Galilee to be alone. Many people knew He was there **and** went there, too, hoping that He would teach them. More than five thousand people went to hear Him. **Matt. 14:13; Mark 6:44**



After He had taught them, it was time to eat, **and** most of the people did not have any food. His disciples wanted the people to go to the villages, where they could buy food. **Mark 6:36**



The Savior, however, told the disciples to see if anyone had brought food with them. They found a boy who had five **loaves** of bread **and** two small **fish**. **Mark 6:37–38; John 6:9**



Jesus told all the people to sit down. Then He blessed the bread **and** the **fish and** divided the **fish and** broke the bread into pieces. **Mark 6:39–41**



When the disciples gave the food to the people, there was more than enough for all of them! **Mark 6:41–44**

The Bread of Life "The Bread of Life," *Friend*, Nov. 2001, 12



The day after the five thousand people had been fed with the five loaves of bread and two small fish, they tried to find Jesus. They went in boats and followed Him to Capernaum. **John 6:22, 24**



Jesus knew that they had come only because they wanted Him to feed them again. **John 6:26**

Jesus knew that they had



He taught them that bread would keep them alive for a while, but that there was another kind of bread that they should seek—the bread of eternal life. He told them that He is that bread. **John 6:27, 30–35**



He taught them that He would sacrifice His life for them. If they would follow Him **and** believe in Him, the Bread of Life, they would gain everlasting life. **John 6:47-51**

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

17. The Wheat and the Tares *Friend, Feb. 1995, 48*

HYMN: *I Think When I Read That Sweet Story* p. 56

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Articles of Faith 1:2

LESSON: Jesus sometimes taught using parables. Parables are short stories that use familiar things to teach gospel truths.

One parable that Jesus taught while he was in Galilee was about wheat and tares (a kind of weed). Jesus said that a man who had a field planted good wheat seed in it. While he slept, someone came and planted tares, which look a lot like wheat as they grow, in the same field. All the seeds started to grow, and blades of wheat and tares broke through the ground.

A worker in the field noticed the tares growing with the wheat. He asked the owner, "Didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?" (Matt. 13:27).

The owner of the field said that an enemy must have planted the tares. When the worker asked if the tares should be pulled up and destroyed, the owner said no. If the tares were weeded out, he explained, a lot of the wheat would be destroyed, too, since they were growing side by side.

So the wheat and the tares were both allowed to grow until harvest time. Then the owner told the reapers to first gather and store the wheat safely in the barn. After that was finished, they were to gather the tares into bundles and burn them.

When Jesus'

disciples were alone with him, they asked him to explain the parable. Jesus said that the sower of the good seed represented himself and the Apostles; the field represented the world; the good seed, his righteous followers; and the tares, those who follow Satan. Satan was the sower of the tares. The harvest represented the end of the world, and the reapers represented angels. Right now good and bad people are allowed to “grow” together. But at the end of the world, angels will separate the righteous from the unrighteous. The unrighteous—those who have chosen to break the commandments—will be punished and will wail and gnash their teeth. However, the righteous—those who have chosen to keep the commandments—will “shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt. 13:43).

When we come to earth, we are given the freedom to choose between good and evil. It is up to us to choose whether we will be like the wheat or the tares.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

18. Jesus Christ Heals a Blind Man *Friend, Oct. 1999, 15*

HYMN: *The Seventh Article of Faith* p.126

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 5:16

LESSON: One Sabbath day when Jesus Christ and His disciples were in Jerusalem, they saw a man who had been blind since birth. “He [Jesus Christ] spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, “And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. . . . He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.” (John 9:6–7.)

Many of the townspeople had seen this blind man sitting in his usual place, begging. When they discovered that he could see, they asked him how it had happened. After he told them, they took him to the Pharisees (religious leaders of the Jews) for an

explanation of this Sabbath-day healing. The Pharisees asked the man many questions about the healing. They were confused and argued among themselves. The leaders thought that, according to their laws, it was a sin for anyone to heal someone on the Sabbath; they also believed that a sinner could not heal someone. Frustrated, they asked the man to repeat his story, which he did.

Feeling that their leadership was being threatened by Jesus Christ, they asked the man, “What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He [Jesus] is a prophet.” (John 9:17.)

Not wanting to believe that this man had ever been blind, the Pharisees questioned his mother and father. “His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind” (John 9:20).

Then the Pharisees told the healed man to “Give God the praise: we know that this man [Jesus] is a sinner” (John 9:24). The man said, “If this man were not of God, he could do nothing” (John 9:33).

Angry at the man’s testimony of Jesus, the Pharisees threw him out of the synagogue and excommunicated him from their church. When the Savior heard what they had done, He went looking for the man and asked him, “Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” “He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?” “And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

“And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.” (John 9:35–38.)

When our belief in the Savior is tested, we can let the light of our testimony shine brightly by sharing it with others as well as by setting a good example for others in choosing the right.

Color the flannel-board figures, then mount them on heavy paper. Cut them out and use them to retell the story of the healing of the blind man and of his growing testimony of Jesus Christ.

Blind man begging; Jesus Christ; Man with sight restored; Pharisees. (Illustrated by Beth M. Whittaker.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



Blind man begging



Jesus Christ



Man with sight restored



Pharisees

19. The Lost Sheep *Friend*, Mar. 2002, 15

HYMN: *Little Lambs So White and Fair* p. 58

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: 3 Nephi 17:11-12, 21

LESSON: The First Parable



was lost. **Luke 15:4**

A good shepherd had a hundred **sheep**, **and** one of them



one. When he found it, he was very happy. **Luke 15:4-5**

The shepherd left **the** other ninety-nine **sheep** to look for **the lost**



was lost. **Luke 15:5-6**

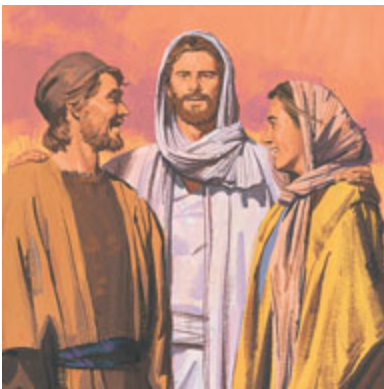
He picked it up, put it on his shoulders, **and** carried it home. Then he called to all his friends **and** neighbors to come **and** be happy with him because he had found **the sheep** that



Jesus Christ told **the** Pharisees what **the** story meant. He said that sinners are like **the lost sheep and** that there will be great joy in heaven if a sinner repents. **Luke 15:7**



Just as the shepherd wanted to save the lost sheep, Jesus said that He wanted to save sinners. Mark 2:17



And just as the shepherd was very happy when he found the lost sheep, Jesus is very happy when sinners repent. Luke 15:6–7



That, He said, was why He was talking with sinners. Matt. 18:11, Joseph Smith Translation (footnote c); Mark 2:17

The Lost Coin The Second Parable *Friend*, Mar. 2002, 17



A woman had ten silver coins. She lost one of the coins and looked all through the house for it. Luke 15:8



At last she found the coin. She was so happy that she called her friends and neighbors to tell them. They were happy, too, that she had found the lost coin. Luke 15:9



The friends and neighbors in the story are like the angels of God. The angels are very happy when a lost Church member is found and cared for. Luke 15:10



Jesus said that Church members are like the woman in the story and that the lost coin is like a member who has become less active in the Church and is lost. He wants Church members to find the lost brother or sister and to care for them and bring them back. He is very happy when this happens. *Jesus the Christ*, pages 455–456

The Lost Son The Third Parable *Friend*, Apr. 2002, 14



A man had two sons. Each son would get some money when the father died. The younger son did not want to wait until his father's death. He asked for his part of the money at once. The father gave it to him. Luke 15:11–12



The son took the money and left home. He went to another land, where he spent all of it. And he sinned again and again. Luke 15:13



Finally he had no money to buy food. Very hungry, he asked a man for help. The man sent him to feed pigs. Luke 15:14–15



The son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food. Even the servants at home had better food to eat than he did. He wanted to go home, but he thought that he was not good enough to be a son to his father. Luke 15:16–19



He decided to repent and ask to be a servant in his father's house. When he went home, his father saw him coming. Luke 15:19–20



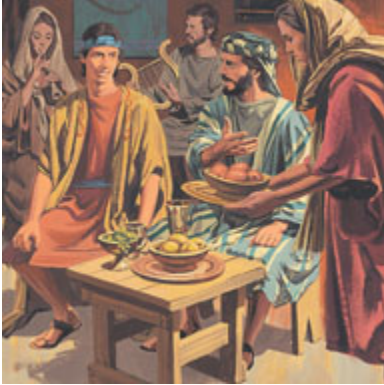
The father ran to meet his son and put his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15:20



The son told his father that he had sinned. Luke 15:21



The father told a servant to bring the best clothes and put them on the son. The servant put shoes on the son's feet and a ring on his finger. Luke 15:22



Then the father told the servant to make a feast for the son. He wanted everyone to celebrate because the son who had gone away was now home. The son who had sinned had now repented. Luke 15:23-24



The older son had been working in the field. When he came home,

he heard music and dancing and asked a servant what was happening. The servant told him that the younger son had come home and their father wanted all to celebrate. Luke 15:25–27



Angry, the older son would not go into the house. His father came out to talk with him. Luke 15:28



The father said that the older son had always stayed with him and enjoyed all that was there. And everything the father now had would belong to the older son. But his younger son had gone away. And because he had come home, it was right to celebrate. His younger son had sinned, but he had repented. Luke 15:31–32



Jesus ended the story. He had now told the Pharisees three parables to show them why He talked to sinners. The Savior wanted the Pharisees to know how much Heavenly Father loves everyone. He loves people who obey Him. He also loves sinners, but He cannot bless them until they repent. He wants sinners to repent so that they can come back to Him. John 3:16–17

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

20. The Good Samaritan *Friend, May 1999, 39*

HYMN: *I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus* p. 78

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: John 13:34

LESSON: One day a lawyer asked Jesus Christ, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The Savior asked what the lawyer thought that the law said he needed to do, and the lawyer replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

"Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live," Jesus said.

"Who is my neighbour?" the man asked.

Jesus answered by telling him a parable.

A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when thieves attacked him. They took his clothes, beat him, and left him near death.

When a Jewish priest came down the road and saw the wounded man, he crossed to the other side of the road to avoid him and continued his journey.

Next a Levite, also a citizen of Judah, approached. He looked at the wounded man, then he, too, crossed the road and went on his way without helping the man. Finally

a man from Samaria came along the road. The Jews and the Samaritans were bitter enemies, but the Samaritan saw that the injured man needed help. He bandaged the man's wounds, put him on his pack animal, took him to an inn, and cared for the injured man there. When the Samaritan left the next day, he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he got better. He promised that if caring for the man cost more, he would pay the innkeeper the next time he was there.

"Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" Jesus asked the lawyer.

When the lawyer said, "He that shewed mercy on him." Jesus said, "Go, and do thou likewise." (See Luke 10:25–37.)

We should each follow Jesus Christ's example by loving and caring for one another. As we do, we will know that Jesus' teachings are true and our faith in Him will grow.

Instructions

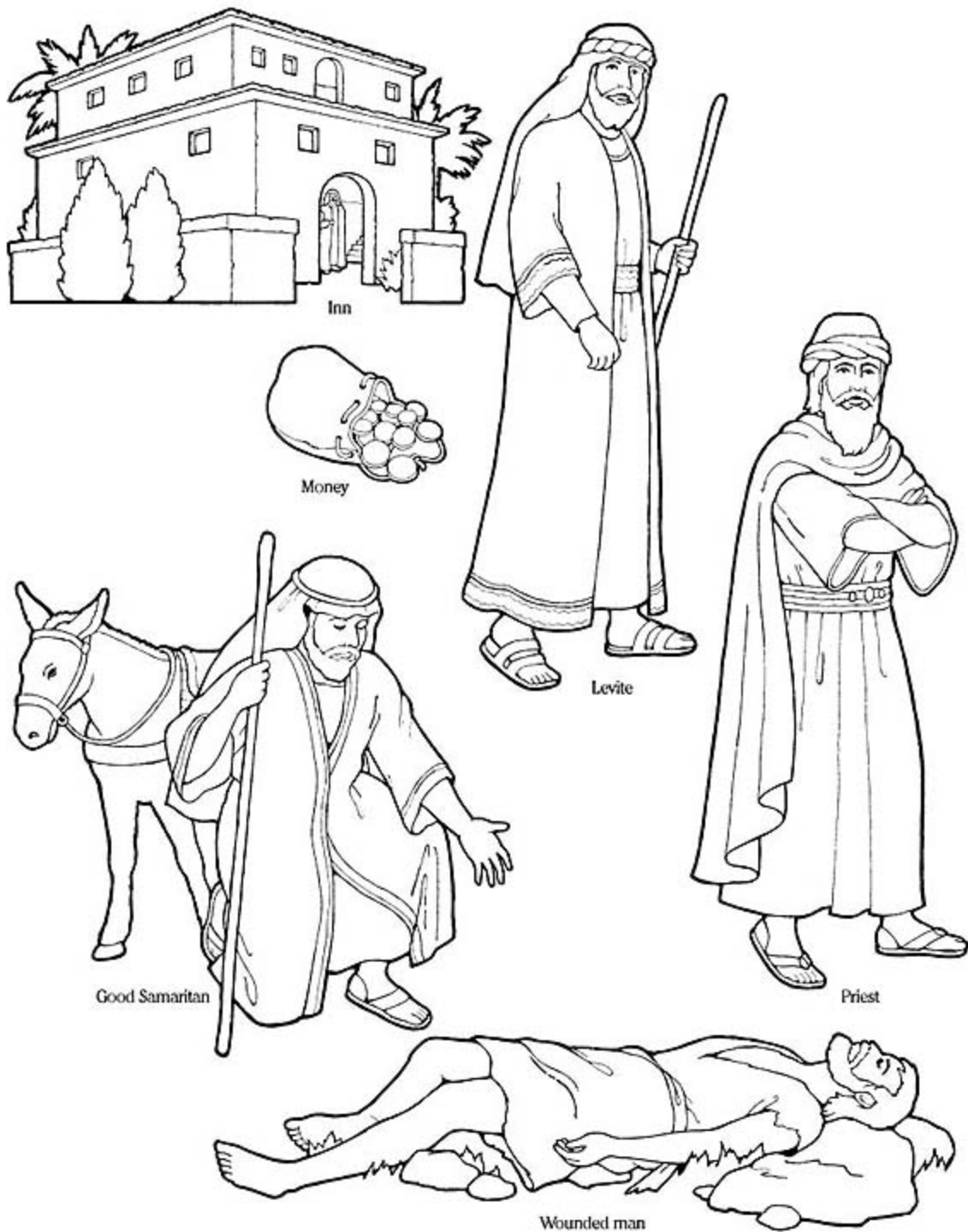
Color the flannel-board figures, then mount them on heavy paper. Cut them out and use

to retell the story of the Good Samaritan.

Inn; Money; Levite; Good Samaritan; Priest; Wounded man. (Illustrated by Beth Whittaker.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



21. Were There Not Ten Cleansed? David B. Haight, *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 24

If we're ever going to show gratitude properly to our Heavenly Father, we should do it with all

of our heart, might, mind, and strength.

HYMN: *Can a Little Child like Me?* P. 9

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 25:7

LESSON:

When President Thomas S. Monson asked those new members of the Seventy and the Young Women general presidency to come up and take their places on the stand, I remembered vividly April 1970, when I was called to be an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve—which was a surprise to me. I’d only known about it for just a few hours. As I was invited to sit in one of the red chairs in the old Tabernacle, the choir started to sing “O Divine Redeemer.” As I listened to that pleading song with that wonderful melody, I silently asked the Savior to accept me as I am and remember not my failures, my shortcomings, and my sins (see **Ps. 25:7**). What a wonderful day that was! That flashed through my mind as President Monson made that invitation today.

I’m honored to be here this afternoon to spend a few moments with all of you and bear to you my witness and my testimony and my feelings regarding this wonderful work.

I told Elder Neal A. Maxwell I would come up here without my cane. He had it ready for me, but I said, “No, I can get by without it. I’ll show you I have the faith that it will happen.” As I get older and as the years roll on, I’m honored to have this opportunity and to have the ability and the desire to stand and witness to you of the blessings of the gospel that have come into my life during these past many years. I don’t know if I’m the oldest one in this great hall today, but I am now in my 97th year. When it was announced this morning that this is the 172nd semiannual conference of the Church, I thought some people in their younger years could look upon 172 as a long, long time. I would remind you of the 100th anniversary of the Church. At that time, Ruby and I were married. It was 1930. This is the 172nd anniversary of the Church, and we have been married 72 years. I’m only mentioning that to you so you mathematicians can remember 172; it comes pretty easily.

I wish at this time to pay tribute and express gratitude to my Heavenly Father for the blessings I’ve received all the years of my life—for having been born of goodly parents and raised in a goodly home. And as we have moved around the country in all of the activities we have been involved in, I’m grateful to have been associated with good people. Good people influence your life and help in molding your own personality and character and help you to mingle out in society and live the way that you should live. They help you carry on worthwhile enterprises, and they lift you onto a higher plane. And so I’m grateful to my Heavenly Father for the blessings that I have had. I bear witness of Him, that I know that He is our Father and that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Creator, and the Savior of all of mankind. I am grateful for that majestic role He has played in the Creation and the establishing of the gospel on the earth and for the opportunity that brings to mankind, if they will listen, to hear and to understand and to have the blessings of heaven if they merit them and to live in such a way that the gospel becomes a great part of their life.

I have gratitude for my ancestors who joined the Church back in the early days of the Church, who moved from upstate New York to join with the Saints in Nauvoo and became involved with the Nauvoo Temple and then with the exodus into

the West. For all of these blessings, I'm grateful on this day, as I pronounce them to you.

I must

mention President Gordon B. Hinckley. He gave an outstanding talk this morning—giving us an overview of the recent years but particularly an overview of the events of Nauvoo and of the rebuilding of that majestic temple. All that has taken place there has been a blessing to the world and to mankind.

I want President Hinckley to know that I have watched carefully since he was called to be an additional counselor to President Spencer W. Kimball and as he has assumed his role in the First Presidency. How he has grown and matured and been inspired and directed in carrying out the activities that we have been a witness to! Many of us have played some small role in the vision that he had of the growth that has happened in the Church recently, including the building of the temples, where we now have 114 operating. All of these things have been the result of the inspired direction of President Hinckley. Bless his heart for what he has done in helping the Church to expand and our image to grow and improve throughout the world. We're so grateful for what he has done, for the stature that we have today in the Church, and for his leadership.

As recorded in Luke, one day the Savior entered a village where there were 10 lepers. Now, those of us who have grown up in the last few years know very little about lepers. Leprosy was a terrible, dreaded disease anciently. These 10 lepers came to the Savior and said, "Master, have mercy upon us; have mercy upon us who have that terrible ailment of leprosy." And He said to the 10 lepers, "Go visit your priest, and he will take care of you"—which they did. They went to see their priests, and they were cleansed, all 10 of them. A short time later, one of them returned to the Savior and fell on his face and his hands and his knees, thanking the Savior for blessing him and making him well from that terrible disease. And the Savior said to that one man: "Weren't there 10? What has happened to the other nine? Where are they?" (See **Luke 17:11–19**.)

As I've read that story again and again, it's made a great impression upon me. How would you like to be part of the "nine society"? Wouldn't that be something—to be numbered among those who failed to return and acknowledge the Savior for the blessings He had given them? Only one returned. It's so easy in life for us to receive blessings, many of them almost uncounted, and have things happen in our lives that can help change our lives, improve our lives, and bring the Spirit into our lives. But we sometimes take them for granted. How grateful we should be for the blessings that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings into our hearts and souls. I would remind all of you that if we're ever going to show gratitude properly to our Heavenly Father, we should do it with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength—because it was He who gave us life and breath. He gave us the opportunity to live as we are, to have the gospel in our lives, to have the example of good people like President Hinckley leading the Church throughout the world today and the opportunity for the young people to look to him with pride and gratitude for a leader who looks and acts the part and demonstrates what the Spirit of Christ can bring into our heart and soul. As that gratitude is magnified and developed and expanded, it can bless our hearts and our minds and our souls to where we'd like to continue to carry on and do those things that we are asked to do.

We have a lot of our family scattered in at least 20

locations in the United States and England. I have suggested to them that when they have opportunities to sustain the General Authorities—particularly President Hinckley and his counselors—if they have to stand at the radio or wherever it might be, that with enthusiasm they raise their hands and say to themselves, “I’m part of sustaining the leadership of the Church.” I had in my mind’s eye today as we were raising our hands some little youngsters—children whom we love and adore—raising their hands in various parts of the world. We hope that we will implant in them along with the Spirit of the Lord a desire to learn, to know, to live and be part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We hope they fully enjoy their opportunities to develop their characters and to be able to reach out and help change and lift the hearts of other people.

God lives. He is our Father. I testify to you that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and the Prophet Joseph Smith was the prophet of the Restoration. President Hinckley is our inspired leader over this Church throughout the world today. Bless his heart for all that he does and for the inspiration and revelation and vision that is his as he leads the work forward. I leave this witness with you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

22. Experiment in Forgiving (Based on a true story) **Jane McBride Choate, *Friend*, Apr. 2004, 38**

HYMN: *Help Me Dear Father* p. 99

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Mosiah 26:31

LESSON:

Jared carefully recorded the last bit of information for his sixth-grade science project—comparing the differences between plants watered with tap water and those watered with distilled water. “There,” he said in satisfaction. “All done.”

He ran into the laundry room. “Mom, I finished the experiment. Do you want to see it?”

Mom finished folding a towel and smiled. “Of course.”

Jared led her into the kitchen, where the two sets of plants occupied a shelf by the big glass door. When he saw the plants, he stopped in his tracks. “Oh, no!” he cried.

Kaitlyn, Jared’s three-year-old sister, looked up and smiled, her hands covered with dirt. Pottling soil and crushed plants were strewn across the floor.

“You ruined my project!” Jared wiped angry tears from his eyes. “You wreck everything I have.” “Jared, your sister didn’t mean to do anything wrong,” Mom said quietly.

“Sure,” Jared said bitterly. “Just like she didn’t mean to write all over my geography homework last week. Just like she didn’t mean to

spill milk on my book report. Just like she—”
enough,” Mom said.

“That’s

Jared recognized the tone in his mother’s voice and knew he’d said too much.

“Tell Jared you’re sorry,” Mom said to Kaitlyn.

Kaitlyn’s bottom lip trembled. “I’m sorry.”

Normally, Jared couldn’t stay angry at his little sister for very long, but this was different. He had spent a whole month caring for the plants and recording the differences between the two sets for the sixth-grade science fair. Now they were destroyed. He wouldn’t have anything to show in the fair next week.

He cleaned up the mess as well as he could, but he couldn’t save the plants. He dumped them into the big trash can in the garage. In his room, he slammed his fist into his baseball mitt. All his work had been for nothing.

A few minutes later, he heard

a knock at his door.
come in?” Mom called.

“Jared, can I

Reluctantly, he got up and opened the door.

Mom wrapped her arm around his shoulders. “I know you’re disappointed. Is there anything I can do?”

He shook his head.

“I’m sorry

about the experiment.” she said.

“Me, too,” he said, still slamming the ball into his mitt.

“Kaitlyn made a mistake. Can you forgive her?” When Jared didn’t answer, his mother turned and quietly left the room.

When another knock sounded at his door, Jared ignored it. The door inched open, and Kaitlyn stood there. “I’m sorry.”

Jared looked at his sister’s red eyes. For a moment, his heart softened. Then he remembered how hard he’d worked on the experiment. He had hoped to win a prize with it. “Go away.”

Kaitlyn sniffled and rubbed her eyes before closing the door behind her.

Jared asked to be excused from dinner. He knew his parents were disappointed in him, but he didn’t care. He tried to do his homework but couldn’t concentrate. After staring at the same page of his history book for five minutes, he gave up. He got ready for bed, then knelt down, intending to say his prayers as he did every night. The words refused to come.

He didn’t sleep very well. He kept tossing and turning, remembering the hurt in Kaitlyn’s eyes when he’d refused to speak to her. He tried to push away the image. Kaitlyn had wrecked his experiment. He didn’t know if he could ever forgive her.

He thought about the word *forgive* and recalled part of the blessing his father had given him after his baptism and confirmation. “There will be times in your life when you need to seek **forgiveness**. I bless you with the meekness of heart to do so. There will also be times when you must forgive others. Remember the example of the Savior when you are faced with such times. **Forgiveness** is a gift. Use it and you will be blessed.”

The following morning, Jared trudged to school, his heart heavy.

But it wasn't the ruined experiment that filled his thoughts—it was Kaitlyn. He told himself he had nothing to feel guilty about, but he couldn't erase the picture of Kaitlyn's unhappy face from his mind.

At school, he explained to his science teacher what had happened. Mr. MacKade laid a hand on Jared's shoulder. "I know you're disappointed. You put a lot of work into your experiment." His teacher tapped a finger against the notebook he always carried. "Did you take photos of it?" Jared nodded. He'd asked his father if he could use his camera to take photos of the plants at different stages.

"We'll show the photos instead," Mr. MacKade said. "It won't be the same as displaying the plants themselves, but it'll be the next best thing."

"Thanks, Mr. MacKade. I'll do that."

Jared slipped into his seat. He should have felt better, but the ache in his heart remained. He couldn't concentrate on his math problems or his spelling test. He could not even choke down the sandwich and cupcake his mother had packed in his lunch. All he could see was Kaitlyn's face, her quivering lips and tear-reddened eyes. No science experiment was worth the pain he'd caused his little sister.

By the end of school, Jared knew what he had to do. Kaitlyn had been wrong to ruin his plants, but that did not excuse how he had treated her. He hurried home from school. "Mom, I'm home. Where's Kaitlyn?" he called, slamming the door behind him.

Mom looked up from the Primary manual she was studying. "She's in her room." His mother looked like she wanted to say something else.

"Don't worry, Mom," Jared said. "Everything's going to be all right." Jared raced up the stairs and knocked on Kaitlyn's door. "Kaitlyn, it's me." He heard a muffled "Come in." He pushed open the door. Kaitlyn was sitting on her bed, her arms looped around her knees. "Are you still mad at me?" she asked in a small voice.

Jared crossed the room to sit beside her. "No, Kaitlyn. I'm not angry anymore. I'm sorry I yelled at you. I know you only wanted to help." He hugged her and asked, "How would you like to go to the park with me?"

Kaitlyn nodded and gave him a big smile.

That evening Jared labeled the pictures he had taken of the plants. Kaitlyn played with her dolls beside him. A quiet feeling of peace enveloped him. And when he knelt by his bed that night to say his prayers, he didn't have any trouble finding the words.

[Ask Forgiveness]

"Don't carry the burden of offense any longer. Genuinely ask **forgiveness** of one that has offended you, even when you consider you have done no wrong. That effort will assuredly bring you peace."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "To Be Free of Heavy Burdens," *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 88.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

23. The Good Shepherd *Friend, Sept. 1995, 48*

HYMN: *I Feel My Savior's Love* p.74

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: John 15:10-12

LESSON:

The Savior once said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). A good shepherd will give his life to protect his sheep. He knows each sheep by name. The sheep know his voice and follow him and none other. If a sheep is lost, a good shepherd will search endlessly for it to bring it safely back to the fold.

A fold is a large enclosure with only one entrance. Many shepherds shared a fold. One shepherd would be assigned to stand guard during the night to see that no wolves or thieves broke into the fold to harm or steal the sheep. The other shepherds went home. In the morning they returned for their sheep. Only those shepherds the guard recognized were let into the fold. Each sheep knew its shepherd's voice and gathered around him to be led out of the fold into the pasture to feed.

A good shepherd is different from a hired shepherd, who is paid to look after someone else's sheep. A hired shepherd "seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. "The hireling fleeth, "I am

the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. . . .

"I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:12-15.)

How do we become the Savior's sheep? The Lord said, "He that will hear my voice shall be my sheep" (Mosiah 26:21).

Even after we become His sheep, we have to continue to follow Him. Moroni said that the Lamanites, "were once a delightful people, and they had Christ for their shepherd; yea, they were led even by God the Father" (Morm. 5:17). But when they stopped following the teachings of the Lord, "behold, they [were] led about by Satan, even as chaff is driven before the wind, or as a vessel is tossed about upon the waves, without sail or anchor, or without anything wherewith to steer her; and even as she is, so are they" (Morm. 5:18).

The Savior *has* laid down His life for us. He will protect us from spiritual dangers if we follow His voice. If we do what is wrong and stray from His word, He through the aid of His servants will find us and try to bring us back to safety. He knows each of us by name. And if we learn to recognize His voice and follow it, He will lead us back to Heavenly Father's presence.

The Lord has revealed that in the last days He will gather all His sheep from the nations of the earth, "and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. . . .

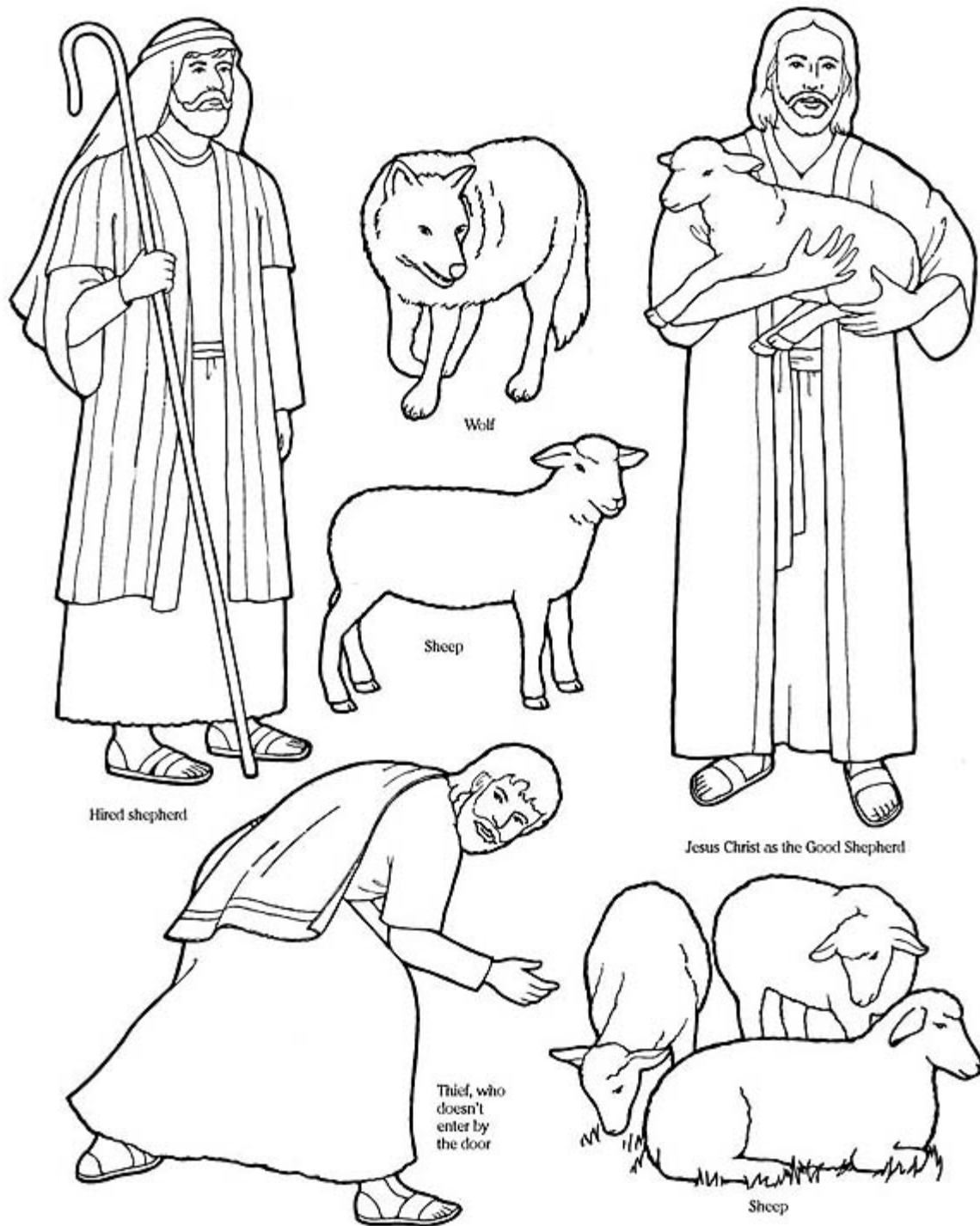
“And the Holy One of Israel reigneth.” (1 Ne. 22:25–26.)

Instructions Color the flannel-board figures, then mount them on heavy paper. Cut them out and use them to retell the story of the Good Shepherd.

Hired shepherd; Wolf; Sheep; Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd; Thief, who doesn't enter by the door.
(Illustrated by Beth Whittaker.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



24. The Widow's Mites Chapter 45 *Friend*, Oct. 2002, 18

HYMN: *I Want to Give the Lord My Tenth* p.150

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:10

LESSON:



While Jesus was near the temple in Jerusalem, He watched people put money for the Church into big boxes. Many rich men put a lot of money into the boxes. **Mark 12:41**



A poor **widow**, a woman whose husband had died, went to the boxes and put in two pieces of money called **mites**. Two **mites** were not very much money, but they were all the money she had. **Mark 12:42, 44**



Jesus saw her. Wanting to teach His disciples a lesson, He told them about her. **Mark 12:43**



He also told them about the rich men who had given lots of money. The rich men had more money at home. **Mark 12:43–44**



The **widow** had no money at home. In a way, she had given more to the Church than all the rich men, because she had given all that she had. **Mark 12:44**

Special Witness: Tithing

Dallin H. Oaks, "Special Witness: Tithing," *Friend*, Sept. 2002, 7

Did you know that Elder Dallin H. Oaks was once a judge and the president of a university? He has shared what he was taught as a young boy about the importance of paying tithing:

When the risen Lord appeared to the faithful on this continent, he taught them the commandments the prophet Malachi had already given to other children of Israel. The Lord commanded that they should record these words (see 3 Ne. 24:1).

“Will a man rob God?

Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say: Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. . . . “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house; and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (3 Ne. 24:8, 10; see also Mal. 3:8, 10). . . .

During World War II, my widowed mother supported her three young children on a schoolteacher’s salary that was meager. When I became conscious that we went without some desirable things because we didn’t have enough money, I asked my mother why she paid so much of her salary as tithing. I have never forgotten her explanation: “Dallin, there might be some people who can get along without paying tithing, but we can’t. The Lord has chosen to take your father and leave me to raise you children. I cannot do that without the blessings

of the Lord, and I obtain those blessings by paying an honest tithing. When I pay my tithing, I have the Lord's promise that he will bless us, and we must have those blessings if we are to get along." ... The law of tithing and the promise of blessings to those who live it apply to the people of the Lord in every nation. I hope our members will qualify for the blessings of the Lord by paying a full tithing. (*Ensign*, May 1994, pages 33–34.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

1

25. The Ten Virgins

HYMN: *Seek The Lord Early* p.108

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: John 14:3

LESSON: "The Ten Virgins," *Friend*, Jan. 2003, 10



Jesus told a story about ten young women who went to a wedding. They waited at the door for the bridegroom (the Son of man) to come and let them in. They didn't know just when He would come. **Matt. 25:1, 13**



The ten women had oil-burning lamps. Five of the women were wise. Besides the oil in their lamps, they had extra oil with them. **Matt. 25:2, 4**



The other five women were foolish. They had only the oil that was in their lamps. **Matt. 25:3**



The bridegroom did not come for a long time. When all the oil in the lamps was gone, the five wise women put their extra oil into their lamps. The five foolish women had to go buy more oil. **Matt. 25:5-9**



While they were gone, the bridegroom came. He let the five wise women in the door. They went to the wedding. **Matt. 25:10**



When the five foolish women returned, the door was closed. They could not go to the wedding. **Matt. 25:10–13**



Jesus, the Son of man, is the bridegroom in this story. The members of the Church are the ten women. When He comes again, some members will be like the wise women. They follow the Spirit's promptings and obey God's commandments, and so they will be ready when Jesus comes again. Others will be like the five foolish women and will not be able to be with the Savior.

3 Ne. 25:1–2; D&C 88:86, 92; D&C 45:56–57; *Jesus the Christ*, pages 576–580

Susan L. Warner, "Sharing Time: I Believe That Jesus Will Come Again," *Friend*, Sept. 1995, 12

When Jesus died and was resurrected, He promised that He would come again. Have you ever wondered what that will be like? Jesus could not tell us when He would come, but the scriptures tell us that it will be a glorious event. He will be our King and Ruler. It will be a heavenly, happy time for us if we are prepared to meet Him.

Because Jesus wanted us to know how important it is to be prepared, He told us a parable, or story. It is called the parable of the ten virgins, and it is recorded in Matthew 25:1–13. [Matt 25:1–

13] There were ten young women, or virgins, who were invited to a wedding supper. They had to wait for the bridegroom to let them in, but none of them knew when he would come to open the door.

The young women brought oil-burning lamps to give light so that they could see. Five of them were wise and not only filled their lamps with oil but also brought extra oil so that their lamps would burn for a long time. The other five young women were foolish. They did not bring enough oil.

Before the bridegroom finally came, the oil in all the lamps had burned away. The five wise women put their extra oil in their lamps and lit them. The five foolish women had to leave to buy more oil. By the time they returned, the bridegroom had opened the door, let the wise young women in, and closed the door again. So the five foolish young women could not go in to the wedding with the bridegroom.

Jesus is like the bridegroom. We do not know when He will come again. But if we prepare like the five wise women in the parable, we will be ready and happy to meet Him when He comes.

How can we prepare for the Savior's coming?

President Kimball taught, "In our lives the oil of preparedness is accumulated drop by drop in righteous living. Attendance at sacrament meetings adds oil to our lamps, drop by drop over the years. Fasting, family prayer, . . . control of bodily appetites, preaching the gospel, studying the scriptures—each act of dedication and obedience is a drop added to our store. Deeds of kindness, payment of offerings and tithes, chaste thoughts and actions, marriage in the covenant for eternity—these, too, contribute importantly to the oil with which we can at midnight refuel our exhausted lamps." (*Faith Precedes the Miracle*, p. 256.)

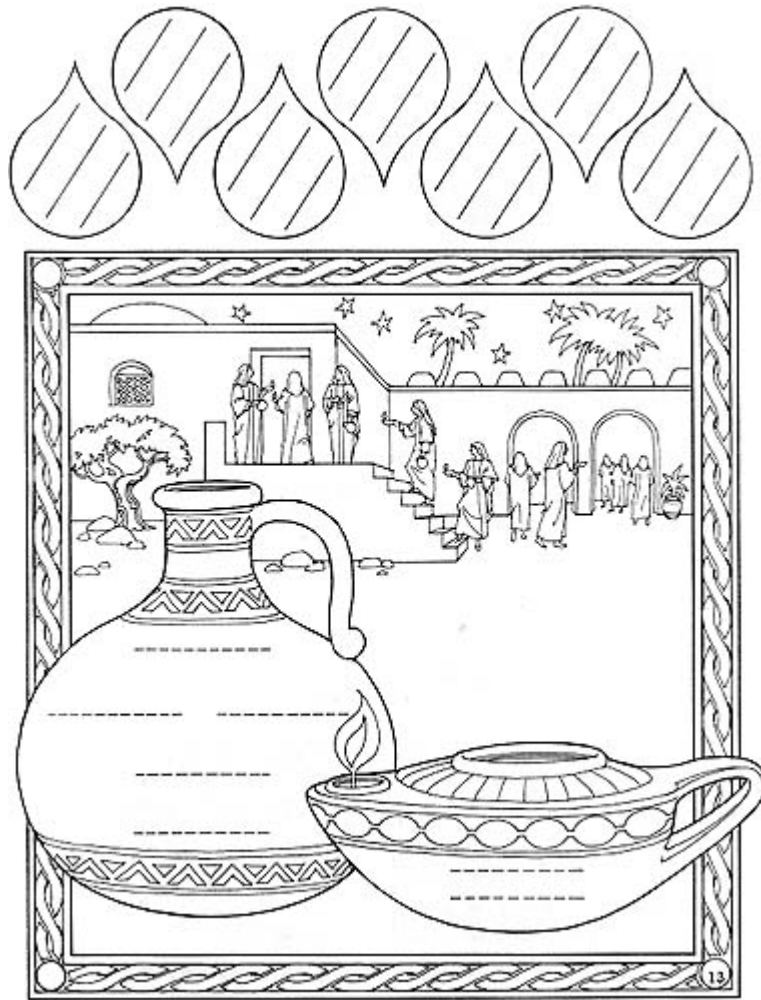
Instructions Illustrated by Jerry Harston

1. Color the picture and the drops of oil on page 13. In the drops of oil, write what you can do to prepare to meet Jesus when He comes again. 2. Remove the page and mount it on lightweight cardboard, then cut out the picture and the drops of oil.

3. Cut slits on the broken lines, as indicated, and "fill" the lamp and the jar for extra oil by placing the drops of oil in the slits.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



26. The

Talents

Preparation: Review the following lesson material and decide how much you want to share with your family.

HYMN: *Every Star is Different* p.142

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 25:40 & Moses 1:39

LESSON: "The **Talents**," *Friend*, Jan. 2003, 13



Jesus told His disciples a story about a man who gave his servants some **talents**, a kind of money. **Matt. 25:14–15**



The man gave one servant five **talents**. He gave another servant two **talents**. He gave another servant one **talent**. Then the man went on a journey. **Matt. 25:15**



The servant with five **talents** worked hard and made five more **talents**. Then he had ten **talents**. **Matt. 25:16**



The servant with two **talents** also worked hard and made two more **talents**. Then he had four **talents**. **Matt. 25:17**



The servant with one **talent** just buried it in the ground. He was afraid that he would lose it. He did not make any more **talents**. **Matt. 25:18**



When the man came home, he asked the servants what they had done with their **talents**. **Matt. 25:19**



The first servant brought ten **talents** to the man, which made the man happy. He made the servant a leader over many things and told him to be joyful. **Matt. 25:20–21**



The second servant brought four **talents** to the man, which also made the man happy. He made the second servant a leader over many things, too, and told him to be joyful. **Matt. 25:22–23**



The third servant gave the man back the **talent** he had buried. The man was not happy with the third servant. He said that the servant was lazy, that he should have worked hard and made more **talents**. **Matt. 25:24–27**



The man took the **talent** from the third servant and gave it to the first servant. Then the man sent the lazy servant away. The man in the story is Jesus, and He will judge how His disciples have used the gifts they have been given. **Matt. 25:28–30**

Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice: Knowing Who You Are Are Adapted from “Who Do You Think You Are?” Ensign, Mar. 2001, 2–7. James E. Faust, “Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice: Knowing Who You Are,” *Friend*, July 2004, 2
President Faust reminds us that, above all, we are children of God.

I salute you young people as chosen, special spirits who have been reserved to come forth in this generation. You have great challenges. I hope you are beginning to achieve in some special way. Perhaps it is your smile, your personality, or your ability to lift others. Perhaps you are discovering your talent as an athlete, scholar, musician, artist, or in a hundred different areas. These accomplishments may cause you to think about who you really are.

Many [people] measure their self-worth solely in terms of their talent and accomplishments instead of who they really are inside. It is not always true that the more you achieve, the happier you will be. God knows you and what you can become because He has known you from the beginning when you were His spirit sons and daughters. What you become will depend in large measure upon how you follow righteous principles and do good works.

If we really want to feel better about ourselves, we should do deeds of kindness. Kindness shapes our character and makes us more like our Father in Heaven. Great satisfaction can come in helping the poor, the sick, the elderly, or others who have special needs. Look around you; there are all kinds of opportunities. Being friendly to our neighbors [and] to people at school [and] at church is a great way to show

the Lord that we want to keep the covenant we made at baptism “to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light” (**Mosiah 18:8**). So many people are shy or lonely and need a kind word or smile. Lifting others is the way of the Master.

So who do you think you are? Knowing who you are—who you *really* are—is closely tied to knowing God, for you are His children.

Closing Prayer:

Refreshments:

27. Practice Makes Perfect Becky Rademacher Godfrey, *Friend*, Mar. 1999, 3 fiction

HYMN: *The Things I Do* p.170

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 4:12

LESSON: My name is Eric, and I love to play basketball. According to Eddy, our team’s student manager, I’m the fifth grader most likely to make a shot. Mom says I play so well because I play so often. “Practice makes perfect,” she says. Today I discovered that I could use some practice at something besides basketball. ...

At lunch, my friend Kurt and I were walking toward our usual table, when I saw Trevor sitting alone, picking green pepper bits off his pizza. All of a sudden, I had a nervous feeling in the pit of my stomach, and it wasn’t entirely because of green peppers.

Trevor is a boy who comes to our ward sometimes. Yesterday Sister McQueiry, my Primary teacher, asked me to stay after class. She told me that the ward had set a goal to reach out to less-active members and that she needed my help. She knew that Trevor went to my school, and she asked me to invite him to Primary. I told her I would. When I saw Trevor, I knew I should talk to him right away, but I didn’t want to.

I mean, what would he think if I walked over there and just started talking? What would everyone else think? If he were an OK guy, why wasn’t anybody else sitting by him? Besides, this was only Monday, and I had all week to ask him to Primary. So I sat with Kurt at our usual table.

I must've felt a little guilty, though, because I ate my pizza, salad, corn, and chocolate cake a lot more slowly than usual. After about fifteen minutes, everyone else was out on the playground, but I was still eating my slice of pizza. The lunchroom was practically empty—except for Trevor and me. I finally went over and sat by him. He was really quiet at first, but when I asked him about Boston, where his family had moved from, he started talking. I was so busy listening to him that I missed the entire lunch recess, and I barely remembered to ask him to church the next Sunday. I felt relieved to have my “Trevor assignment” over with.

I rushed home and played about ten games of one-on-one with Kurt before dinner. At family home evening, my sister, Kim, gave the lesson. It was all about the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31–46 [Matt. 25:31–46]. It compares the sheep to righteous people and the goats to wicked people. In verses 33–38 and 40, it says: “And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you ...

“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: “Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. “Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? “When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? ... “And the King shall answer and say unto them, ... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

As I listened to the parable, I thought about Trevor eating lunch all alone. Then I thought about Jesus. “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Was I really ignoring Jesus when I ignored Trevor? Kim ended her lesson, and Dad asked if anybody had any questions. I raised my hand.

“Eric?” asked Dad, a little surprised.

“I just wanted to know,” I started, not sure how to ask my question, “if you do something good, but it takes you a while to do it and you really didn’t want to do it, but you did it anyway, would you be a sheep or a goat?”

Dad gave me a look of real concern. “What are you talking about?” he finally asked. And so I told him about Trevor.

“It sounds to me as if you knew the right thing to do and you did it.” I felt relieved to hear Dad’s answer. “But,” he added, “your attitude could use a little work.” “You’re a sheep,” Kim

decided. “Pretty much, anyway.” “Today you were kind because you knew it was right,” Mom added. “In time, I hope you will help others because you love them as Jesus does. But it will take time and practice.”

I wonder if you can be willing to practice love and service like you’re willing to practice basketball. I wonder if you can practice them *while* you practice basketball. I’ve decided to have lunch with Trevor tomorrow. He seems interesting. Besides, Trevor is even taller than I am. I wonder if he can hit the outside jumper.

Heavenly Father's Plan "Heavenly Father's Plan," *Friend*, June 2003, 46

Long before we were born, we attended a council in heaven and learned of Heavenly Father's plan. An important part of His plan was for the earth to be created, to which we could come and have physical bodies. We could not become like Him if we didn't.

Heavenly Father also placed a veil (something that hides or covers) across our minds so that we couldn't remember our pre-earth life. That way, we could learn to have faith in Him and Jesus Christ, to control our minds and our bodies, and to obey the commandments and choose the right.

Knowing that we would sin and make mistakes, Heavenly Father asked for a savior—someone to atone for us. Jesus Christ said that He would be our Savior, and He was chosen. He followed Heavenly Father's plan: He created the earth for us. He organized His church. He taught us through the prophets, apostles, other Church leaders and teachers, and through His own words and example. He suffered in Gethsemane and on the cross for our sins. Then He overcame death so that we can overcome death, too.

After we die, He will judge us according to our faith in Him and how we lived on earth. He taught about this in a story called the parable of the sheep and the goats:

"When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: "And before him shall be gathered all nations [people]: and he shall separate them one from another . . . : "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?"

"When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?" "Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Then the King told those on His left hand—those who did not try to be like the Savior and choose the right—that they would not be able to live again with Him and Heavenly Father. (See Matt. 25:31–46.)

Jesus Christ will finish Heavenly Father's wonderful plan. The Savior said to the righteous: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2–3.)

Sheep and Goats Matching Game By Kimberly Webb Instructions: Remove this page from the magazine, mount it on heavy paper, and cut out the cards. On a table or the floor, spread out the cards facedown. A player takes a turn by turning two cards over. If the cards don't match, the cards are turned back over and it's the next player's turn. Pictures of sheep match with things that a person would do to follow the Savior. Pictures of goats match with things that would take one away from Him. If the two cards match,

the player keeps them. His or her turn continues until he or she does not get another match. When all the cards are gone, the player with the greatest number of pairs wins.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:













Sheep and Goats Matching Game

BY KIMBERLY WEBB

Instructions: Remove this page from the magazine, mount it on heavy paper, and cut out the cards. On a table or the floor, spread out the cards facedown. A player takes a turn by turning two cards over. If the cards don't match, the cards are turned back over and it's the next player's turn. Pictures of sheep match with things that a person would do to follow the Savior. Pictures of goats match with things that would take one away from Him. If the two cards match, the player keeps them. His/her turn continues until he/she does not get another match. When all the cards are gone, the player with the greatest number of pairs wins.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD BY DEL PINSON / ILLUSTRATED BY BRAD TEARE

	Visit someone who is sick or lonely.		Read the scriptures.
Disobey the Word of Wisdom.		Steal.	
	Make fun of people.		Quarrel.
Obey parents.		Cheat.	
	Watch bad movies.		Keep the Sabbath Day holy.
Pray.		Pay tithing.	

28. The Faith of Mary and Martha

(See Luke 10:38–42; John 11:1–47; John 12:2–8.)

Jane McBride Choate, *Friend*, Apr. 1988, 48

HYMN: *I Pray in Faith* p. 14

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: James 1:5-6

LESSON: During the Savior’s ministry on earth, many people listened to Him and learned about His gospel of love. Two sisters, Martha and Mary, were among those who believed the words of eternal life that Jesus taught.

Mary and Martha lived in Bethany with their brother, Lazarus. All three of them loved Jesus, and He loved them. Jesus often visited their home when He was in the area, knowing that He would always be welcome there. Martha and Mary would sometimes sit at His feet while He taught them. Once when He was there and Mary was sitting at His feet, Martha was busily preparing a meal for Him. Finally, feeling that Mary should be helping her, Martha asked Jesus to get Mary to help her. Jesus gently refused, explaining that Mary was doing something important by listening. He said, “Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

“But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Sometimes Jesus brought His disciples with Him while He visited Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. It was a practice in the hot, dusty land of Judea to wash the feet of travelers, and one time after Martha had served a meal to Jesus and his disciples, Mary anointed His feet with spikenard, an expensive ointment. Then, showing her great love for Him, she used her long hair to wipe His feet clean. Judas Iscariot, seeing this, complained that such costly ointment should have been sold and the money given to the poor. Judas, who later betrayed Jesus, was not really concerned about the poor; instead, as keeper of the disciples’ purse, he probably wanted the money for himself.

Jesus told Judas, “Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.” “For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.”

On another occasion, while Jesus was teaching on the other side of the River Jordan, Martha and Mary sent word to Him that Lazarus was very sick. Jesus waited two days, however, before going to Bethany. By the time He arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

When Martha learned that the Lord was coming, she went out to meet Him, saying, “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.” So strong was her faith in Jesus that she knew that He could have performed a mighty miracle and saved her brother’s life. “But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.”

Jesus told Martha, “Thy brother shall rise again.”

Martha believed in eternal life and, thinking that Jesus was referring to it, said, “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Teaching her further, Jesus replied, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that

believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”
Martha replied, “Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”

Jesus asked Martha to send Mary to him. And when Mary came, weeping, she fell down at His feet and said, “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died,” showing her faith in the Savior too. Jesus asked simply, “Where have ye laid him?”

He was led to the small cave where Lazarus was buried. A stone covered its entrance. When Jesus directed that the stone be removed, Martha was concerned. “Lord,” she said, “by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.”

Jesus comforted her, saying, “Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” Then, as the stone was removed, Jesus raised His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

“And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the many people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.” Then, in a loud voice, He commanded, “Lazarus, come forth.” When Lazarus came out of the tomb, he was still wearing his burial clothes, but he was very much alive. Martha and Mary and their friends rejoiced greatly.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

29. The Atonement *Friend, Mar. 1995, 48*

HYMN: *The Sacrament* p. 72

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: A of F 1:3 & John 3:16

LESSON: Jesus Christ was in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, a Jewish celebration to remember when the angel of death passed over the children of Israel just before pharaoh let Moses lead them out of Egypt. Jesus' disciples arranged for an upper room for the celebration feast, and Jesus and his Apostles gathered there for what would be his last supper with all of them. He taught them the ordinance of the sacrament. They sang together, and then the Savior offered a prayer, asking Heavenly Father to protect and strengthen his followers, since he knew that soon he would no longer be with them.

After the prayer, Jesus and his disciples left the upper room and walked across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Jesus asked his disciples to "Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder" (Matt. 26:36).

Jesus knew that he was about to face great suffering. The time of the Atonement had come. He went a short distance from his disciples and began to pray. As he made payment for all our sins, his pain was so great that he pleaded, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

More than one hundred years before Christ's birth, King Benjamin prophesied that during the Atonement Jesus would "suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; for behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and abominations of his people" (Mosiah 3:7).

Following the Atonement, Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. After hanging on the cross for six hours, he said, "It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost [died]" (John 19:30).

Jesus was buried in a tomb. On the third day, he rose from the dead, a resurrected being. He had broken the bands of death.

The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob, who lived before Jesus was born, prophesied of his Atonement, saying, "He cometh into the world that he may save all men if they will hearken unto his voice; for behold, he suffereth the pains of all men, yea, the pains of every living creature, both men, women, and children, who belong to the family of Adam.

"And he suffereth this that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great judgment day." (2 Ne. 9:21–22.)

The Atonement accomplished two things. First, *all* mankind will be resurrected. Second, those who repent of their sins can be forgiven. Christ revealed to Joseph Smith that "I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent" (D&C 19:16).

In Remembrance of Jesus

(Adapted from an October 1997 general conference address. See Ensign, November 1997, pages 24–26.)

Robert D. Hales, "In Remembrance of **Jesus**," *Friend*, Apr. 1998, inside front cover

The time had come for Christ's ministry on earth to end. It was the Passover season. The people were celebrating and rejoicing in the goodness of God for having saved their forefathers from the plagues that had come upon Egypt in the days of Moses. Jesus had assembled His Apostles in the Upper Room for the Last Supper. Soon He would make His atoning sacrifice so that all mankind—those who had lived before that time, those who were then living, and all those who would yet live on earth—would be able to return to Heavenly Father's presence if they would repent from their sins and be obedient to His commandments.

For all who come unto Christ and take His name upon them through baptism, there is great responsibility to be worthy to participate weekly in the sacrament to renew their baptismal covenant, take His name upon them, renew their promise to keep all of His commandments, remember Him, know Him, and understand His greatness.

When we are baptized in His name and always remember Him and keep His commandments, He gives us the greatest blessing He can give us: to always have His Spirit to be with us. We are not left alone. We have the light of Christ and the Holy Ghost to lead and guide us in an otherwise very dark and dreary world. Light and darkness cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Where the light of Christ is found, the darkness of Lucifer, even Satan, must depart, defeated.

May we follow our Savior, Jesus Christ, and always

remember Him in all that we do and all that we say—may we follow His light and choose the right.

Jesus Christ's Atonement Is the Greatest Gift of Love

He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life that he may draw all men unto him (2 Ne. 26:24).

Karen Ashton, "Sharing Time: Jesus Christ's Atonement Is the Greatest Gift of Love," *Friend*, Feb. 1996, 36

Do you know that you lived with Heavenly Father before you were born? When Heavenly Father presented His plan for your life on earth and your return to Him, you shouted for joy! You wanted to receive a body and to make important choices and covenants. Heavenly Father knew that our earthly bodies would die and that we would make some wrong choices and sin. He loved us and wanted to make it possible for us to repent. He knew that someone would have to come to earth to free us from death and pay for our sins. To do this would be so difficult and so painful that only a perfect being could do it. We could not do it for ourselves. Jesus loved us so much that He asked Heavenly Father to send Him. He was willing to suffer pain for the sins of all people. He was also willing to give up His life to overcome death. He did not offer to do this because He wanted glory or honor but because He loved us and Heavenly Father.

How do we feel when we do something that we know is wrong? Sorrow and suffering result when we disobey the commandments or when we don't do something we know we should. Heavenly Father chose Jesus to save us from our sins and our sorrows. To do this, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to be alone and to pray. As He prayed, He felt the sins and the sorrows and the pain of all the people who would ever live on the earth. He felt the pain and sorrow for the sins of each one of us. Jesus' suffering was so great that blood came out of every pore of His body. We cannot imagine how great that suffering must have been. Because He suffered, we can repent. Jesus chose to do this for us so that if we repent, we can live with Heavenly Father again.

After suffering in Gethsemane, Jesus was arrested, bound, mocked, spit upon, scourged, and put to death on a cross. He suffered hours of intense physical pain, then gave up His life. Because He was a God and had power over death, He did not have to die. He chose to do it for our sakes, His spirit left His body. His body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in a clean linen cloth, and placed in a tomb. A huge stone was rolled in front of it. On the following Sunday, when women came to anoint Jesus' body, the stone had been rolled away and His body was not there. He had risen! He had taken His body again. Because Jesus broke the bands of death, after we die, we will also have our bodies again. This is called resurrection. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ we can be saved from our sins if we repent. Because of Jesus Christ, we will be resurrected and can return to live with Heavenly Father again. Jesus Christ loved us and gave His life for us. It was the greatest gift that has ever been given to us.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

30. **The Atonement and Resurrection** Corliss Clayton, *Friend*, Mar.

1991, 24

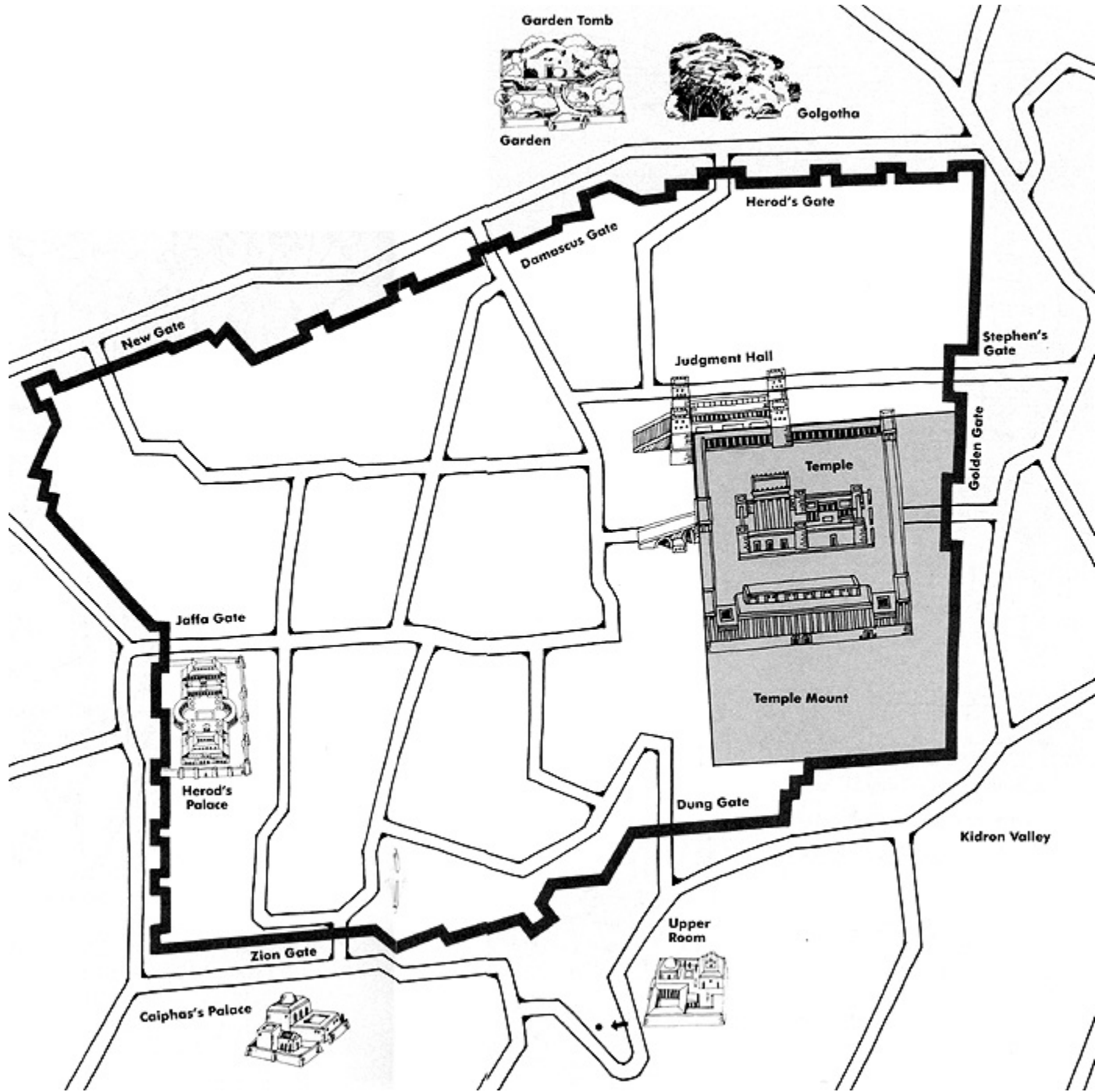
HYMN: *Our Savior's Atonement* provided

OPENING PRAYER:

LESSON: Read the following scriptures and when a location is mentioned, find that place on the map.

1	Luke 20:9–19	Temple
2	Mark 14:1–2; John 12:1–5; Matt. 26:14–16	Bethany
3	Luke 22:7–14	Upper room
4	John 13:1–17, 20	Upper room
5	John 13:21–30	Upper room
6	Matt. 26:26–29 (Read also footnotes 26b and 28a.)	Upper room
7	John 13:34–35; John 15:9–17	Upper room
8	John 17	Upper room
9	Matt. 26:30–35	Mount of Olives
10	Luke 22:40–46; Mark 14:39–42	Garden of Gethsemane
11	John 18:3–11; Luke 22:47–51	Garden of Gethsemane
12	John 18:12–14, 19–24; Matt. 26:57–68	Caiaphas's Palace 1
13	John 18:15–18, 25–27	Caiaphas's Palace
14	Mark 15:1; John 18:29–38	Judgment Hall 2
15	Luke 23:6–11	Herod's Palace 3
16	Matt. 27:15–25	Judgment Hall
17	Mark 15:15–20	Judgment Hall
18	John 19:4–16	Judgment Hall
19	John 19:17–22	Golgotha
20	Luke 23:34 (Read also footnote 34c.); John 19:23–24	Golgotha

21	Matt. 27:39–44; Luke 23:39–43	Golgotha
22	John 19:25–27	Golgotha
23	Matt. 27:45–46, 50–54 (Read also footnote 50a.)	Golgotha
24	John 19:31–37	Golgotha
25	John 19:38–42	Garden Tomb
26	Matt. 27:62–66	Garden Tomb
27	John 20:1–18	Garden
28	Luke 24:12–33	
29	John 20:19–31	
30	John 21:1–17	
31	Acts 1:1–11	Easter



OUR SAVIOR'S ATONEMENT

Reverently ♩ = 84-100

Words and music by Ruth D. Ellis

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Reverently' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 84-100. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'The Lord and Sav-ior died for me On the cross of Cal-va-ry And suf-tered for me will-ing-ly In the Gar-den of Geth-se-ma-ne. Je-sus paid for ev-ry wrong: That's why He was sent. He suf-tered pain the'.

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mf *Sing parts separately, then combine.*

whole night long so we could all re - pent. My Sav - tor

mf

I think of His a -

sac - ri - ficed. I know He paid the price, and I know He did it

tone - ment. I think a - bout His pain. Be - cause my Sav - lor

1. 2. 3.

will - ing - ly for me in the lone - ly night of Geth - se - ma - ne. 3. (My) ne.

died for me, I know I'll live a - gain. gain.

31. Jesus of Nazareth

HYMN: *The Third Article of Faith* p. 123

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D&C 19:16

LESSON: David B. Haight, "Jesus of Nazareth," *Friend*, Apr. 1997, inside front cover

The Thursday before His death, Jesus met with the Twelve in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. During the meal, He said that one of them would betray Him, and a deep sadness fell over all of them. Then Jesus told Judas, "That [which] thou doest, do quickly" (John 13:27). Judas left the room to do his awful deed.

Jesus taught His disciples many things that night as He tried to prepare them for what He knew was coming. Then they got up from the table, sang a hymn, and walked together to the Garden of Gethsemane. "The awful hour of His deepest [suffering] had arrived: ... nothing remained ... but the torture of physical pain and ... mental anguish. ... And He must face that hour alone."*

Then came Judas with his betraying kiss; Christ's surrender to His enemies; the insults and scorn of the multitudes; His appearance before Pontius Pilate, then Herod, then Pilate again. Then Pilate delivered Jesus to be scourged (whipped with leather straps that have sharp pieces of bone or rock embedded in them). Jesus was nailed to the cross on that fateful Friday morning, probably between nine and ten o'clock. At noon, darkness spread over the whole land for three hours.

At about the ninth hour, Christ cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46.) In that bitterest hour, the dying Christ was alone.

Later Christ exclaimed in triumph: "*Father, it is finished*" (Matt. 27:50—see footnote) and "*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit*" (Luke 23:46). Then He bowed His head and voluntarily gave up His life. Christ's body was lovingly carried to a nearby garden, where a new tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathaea was located.

On the dawn of that first-ever Easter morning, the two Marys and other women carried their precious spices and ointments to the tomb to finish preparing the body for burial. They wondered who would help them remove the stone that blocked the opening of the tomb. To their amazement, they found the heavy stone already rolled away, the body of Jesus gone, and two angels in white bearing witness that Christ had risen from the dead.

The prophet Alma taught that an atonement had to be made by God himself "to appease [help meet] the demands of justice" that God might be a perfect, just, and merciful God. (See Alma 42:15). I bear witness that Jesus Christ lives, that He is our Savior and the pathway to true happiness.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

32. The Crucifixion *Friend, Apr. 1982, 30*

HYMN: *Easter Hosanna* p.68

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 27:27–50

LESSON: Fearing to go against the wishes of an unruly crowd, Governor Pontius Pilate turned Jesus over to a band of cowardly soldiers, who “stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”

After these cruel indignities, the soldiers spit upon Jesus and smote Him on the head with the reed. Then tiring of mocking Him, they took off the scarlet robe and put on His own garment again.

While on their way to crucify Jesus, “they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross” to a skull-like hillock (Calvary) on the outskirts of town. It was here that the soldier mob committed the cruelest punishment of all. Nailing Jesus through hands and feet to the wooden cross, these barbarians heartlessly gambled for Jesus’ garments near the foot of the erected cross, while the Son of God’s lifeblood ebbed away.

“And set up over his head his accusation [was] written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Now came the passerby to take up the mocking, and the chief priest, scribes, and elders, who said, “He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the king of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

“He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for [Jesus had] said I am the Son of God.”

Then two thieves, who had been crucified on either side of Jesus, took up the same taunt.

“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, . . . My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Some of those standing nearby thought that Jesus’ anguished call was for Elias. “And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave [it to Jesus] to drink. “The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.”

And “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.”

President Howard W. Hunter, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve: “As one called and ordained to bear witness of the name of Jesus Christ to all the world, I testify at this Easter season that He lives. . . . Following his **crucifixion** and death, He appeared as a resurrected being to Mary, to Peter, to Paul, and to many others. He showed himself to the Nephites. He has shown himself to Joseph Smith, the boy prophet, and to many others in our dispensation. This is his church; he leads it today through his prophet, Ezra Taft Benson. Of this I testify.” (Saturday morning session) from General

Conference, April 2–3, 1988

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

33. “He Is Not Here, But Is Risen” Gordon B. Hinckley, *Friend*, Apr. 2000, inside front cover

HYMN: *Jesus Has Risen* p.70

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Morm. 7:5

LESSON:

Jesus the Christ was born in a lowly manger. He walked the dusty roads of Palestine. His message was the gospel of peace. His teachings were those of generosity and love. He performed miracles the like of which were never performed before or since. He healed those whose sickness was of long standing. He caused the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk. He raised the dead, and they lived again to speak His praises.

Was not all of this enough to make His memory immortal? Certainly He would have been ranked among the great prophets of all time. But all of this was but prelude to greater things to come. They came in a strange and terrible way.

He was betrayed, arrested, condemned to death, to die in awful agony by crucifixion. His living body was nailed to a cross of wood. In unspeakable pain, His life slowly ebbed away. While yet He breathed, He cried out, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

The earth shook as His spirit passed. The centurion who had seen it all declared in solemnity, “Truly this was the Son of God” (Matt. 27:54).

Those who loved Him took His body from the cross. They dressed it and placed it in a new tomb. The tomb was sealed with a great stone, and a guard was set.

His friends must have wept. The Apostles He loved and whom He had called as witnesses of His divinity wept. The women who loved Him wept. None had understood what He had said about rising the third day. How could they understand? This had never happened before. It was unbelievable, even for them. There must have been a terrible sense of dejection and hopelessness and misery as they thought of their Lord taken from them in death.

But that was not the end. On the morning of the third day, Mary

Magdalene and the other Mary returned to the tomb. To their utter amazement, the stone was rolled away and the tomb was open. They peered inside. Two beings in white sat at either end of the burial site and said, “Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

“He is not here, but is risen” (Luke 24:5–6).

These simple words have become the most profound in all literature. They are the declaration of the empty tomb. They are the fulfillment of all He had spoken of rising again. They are the triumphant response to the query facing every man, woman, and child who was ever born to earth. Only a God could do what He did. He broke the bonds of death. His Resurrection was the greatest event in human history.

As servants of the Almighty, as prophets and apostles in His great cause, we lift our voices in witness and testimony of our immortal Savior. He is our triumphant Lord. He is our Redeemer who atoned for our sins. Through His redeeming sacrifice all men shall rise from the grave. He has opened the way whereby we may gain not only immortality but also eternal life. Of all the things for which I feel grateful, I am most thankful for the gift of my Lord and my Redeemer

Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice: He Lives Gordon B. Hinckley, “Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice: He Lives,” *Friend*, Apr. 2006, 2 *President Gordon B. Hinckley teaches us that remembering the Savior’s Resurrection can bring us peace.*

Easter morning is the Lord’s day, when we celebrate the greatest victory of all time, the victory over death.

Those who hated Jesus thought they had put an end to Him forever when the cruel spikes pierced His quivering flesh and the cross was raised on Calvary. But this was the Son of God, with whose power they did not reckon. Through His death came the **Resurrection** and the assurance of eternal life.

With sorrow unspeakable those who loved Him placed His wounded, lifeless body in the new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. He had taught them of His eventual death and **Resurrection**, but they had not understood.

The Jewish Sabbath passed. Then came a new day, a day that ever after was to be the Lord’s day. In their sorrow Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb. The stone was no longer in place. Curiously they looked inside. To their astonishment the tomb was empty.

Distraught and fearful, Mary ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved. She cried, “They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him” (**John 20:2**).

She who had loved Him so much, she who had been healed by Him, was the first to whom He appeared. There followed others, even, as Paul declares, up to 500 brethren at one time (see **1 Cor. 15:6**). Now the Apostles understood what He had tried to teach them. Thomas, on feeling of His wounds, declared, “My Lord and my God” (**John 20:28**).

Can anyone doubt the veracity [truth] of that account? No event of history has been more certainly confirmed. There is the testimony of all who saw and felt and spoke with the risen Lord. Two sacred volumes speak of this most glorious of all events in all of human history. Beyond these is the witness and the testimony, borne by the power of the Holy Ghost, of the truth and

validity of this most remarkable event.

In the hour of deepest sorrow we draw hope and peace and certitude [certainty] from the words of the angel that Easter morning: “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said” (**Matt. 28:6**).

He is our King, our Lord, our Master, the living Christ, who stands on the right hand of His Father. He lives! He lives, resplendent [magnificent] and wonderful, the living Son of the living God.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

34. Heroes and Heroines: Kim Ho Jik—Korean Pioneer

Rebecca M. Taylor, “Kim Ho Jik—Korean Pioneer,” *Friend*, Apr. 1997, 44

(Based on The Church Encounters Asia by Spencer J. Palmer.)

HYMN: *Love One Another* p. 136

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: John 10:27

LESSON: It was Sunday, nearly forty years ago, and an important political matter suddenly needed attention. Syngman Rhee, president of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), sent his secretary to find his vice-minister of education, Kim Ho Jik.

The secretary found the vice-minister teaching Sunday School in his LDS branch. “You’ll have to wait until the class is over,” Dr. Kim told the secretary.

When Dr. Kim finally arrived at the presidential palace, President Rhee scolded him for taking so long. Dr. Kim explained to the president and the others gathered there that his calling as a Sunday School teacher was important, and he had needed to finish his lesson.

President Rhee patted him on the shoulder. “*Chal haesso* (You did well!)”

Kim Ho Jik was the first Korean to be baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was born April 16, 1905, to Confucian* parents in P’yöngyang Province. As a young boy, he yearned to find the true religion, and he began attending many different church services. He joined the Presbyterian Church in 1925 and was very active, but something still seemed to be missing from his life.

Ho Jik wanted to learn about many things, so in 1950 he went to Cornell University in New York State to study nutrition. There he met Oliver Wayman, a fellow student and a Church member. Ho Jik was impressed by Brother Wayman’s clean lifestyle—he didn’t smoke, drink, or do other bad things.

When Oliver gave him a copy of *The Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, Ho Jik read it within a week and eagerly asked for more information. Soon he had finished the Book of Mormon, too, and believed it to be the word of God. He started attending Church meetings with Oliver; he also continued to attend Presbyterian services.

On the day Oliver left the university, he stopped his Korean friend in a hallway. “I then bore my testimony of the gospel and told him that it was **my** opinion that the Lord had moved upon him to come to America . . . that he might receive the gospel and take it back to his people.” He also told Ho Jik that “if he refused to do the work the Lord had for him to do, another would be raised up in his place.”

Those words had a powerful effect upon Kim Ho Jik. He read the Book of Mormon again, and the Spirit again told him it was true. In July of 1951 he was baptized in the quiet waters of the Susquehanna River, near the place where Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery had been baptized. As he came up out of the water, a voice said to him, “**Feed My sheep. Feed My sheep.**”

Brother Kim graduated from Cornell a short time later—getting the degree that entitled him to be called doctor—and returned home to South Korea, which was at war. Amid the violence and destruction, he felt the quiet peace of the Holy Ghost as he attended Church services with LDS servicemen from the United States.

Dr. Kim was given many important responsibilities by his country. He was a professor at various universities and president or dean of several colleges, and he later became vice-minister of education and president of the Seoul City Board of Education. He was also a well-known expert on the nutritional content of the soybean. In spite of his

many duties, he faithfully obeyed the Lord's command to **feed His sheep**. In 1955, President Joseph Fielding Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Dr. Kim, and several servicemen traveled to one of the hills that overlooked Seoul, the South Korean capital. There, in a quiet, private place, President Smith dedicated the land for missionary work. Soon Dr. Kim was president of the Korea District of the Church's Northern Far East Mission. He helped the Church gain legal recognition in South Korea so that missionaries could serve there, and he even rented a house where they could stay. Members and investigators met there often to discuss the gospel with the elders.

Dr. Kim translated the Articles of Faith, the sacrament prayers, hymns, and other Church materials into Korean. He served as a branch president, and he donated much of his money to the missionary effort and the poor. His example led many to investigate the Church. Dr. Kim passed away suddenly on August 31, 1959, at the age of 54, just eight years after his baptism. But he had tried hard to **feed** the Lord's **sheep**, preparing the way for tens of thousands of Koreans to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

35. The Message: His Mission and Ministry

In His life you will find the grand pattern for your own life.

Preparation: Study this in advance to decide how best to teach this with your family.
Russell M. Nelson, "His **Mission** and Ministry," *New Era*, Dec. 1999, 4

HYMN: *This Is My Beloved Son* p.76

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:16-17 (JST Matthew 3:44-46)

LESSON: During His relatively brief sojourn in mortality, the Savior accomplished two overarching objectives: One was His "work and [His] glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39). The other He stated simply: "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done" (John 13:15). His first objective we know as the Atonement. This was His magnificent mission in mortality. To the people of ancient America, the resurrected Lord gave His mission statement: "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" (3 Ne. 27:13–14).

In continuing His sermon, He revealed His second objective—to be our exemplar: "Ye know the things that ye must do . . . ; for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do" (3 Ne. 27:21). His first objective I have defined as His *mission*. His second objective I would like to identify as His *ministry*.

The Mission of Jesus Christ

His mission was the Atonement. That mission was uniquely His. Born of a mortal

mother and an immortal Father, He was the only one who could voluntarily lay down His life and take it up again. The glorious consequences of His Atonement were infinite and eternal. He took the sting out of death and made temporary the grief of the grave.

His responsibility for the Atonement was known even before the Creation and the Fall. Not only was it to provide for the resurrection and immortality of all humankind; it was to enable us to be forgiven of our sins—upon conditions established by Him. And His Atonement opened the way by which we could be united with Him and with our families eternally. This prospect we esteem as eternal life—the greatest gift of God to man.

No one else could effect the Atonement. No other person, even of the greatest wealth and power, could ever save one soul—not even his own.

And no other individual will be required or permitted to shed blood for the eternal salvation of another human being. Jesus did it “once for all” (see Heb. 10:10).

Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all mankind, even as many as will, shall be redeemed. The Savior began shedding His blood for all mankind, not on the cross but in the Garden of Gethsemane. There He took upon Himself the weight of the sins of all who would ever live. Under that heavy load, He bled at every pore.

The agony of the Atonement was completed on the cross at Calvary. The importance of the Atonement was summarized by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He said, “The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it” (*Teachings*, 121).

The Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Lord’s second far-reaching objective in mortality was to serve as an example for us. His exemplary life constituted His mortal ministry. It included His teachings, parables, and sermons. It encompassed His miracles, His loving-kindness, and His long-suffering toward the children of men.

It embraced His compassionate use of priesthood authority. It included His righteous indignation when He condemned sin, and when He overthrew the tables of the money changers. It also included His heartaches. He was mocked, scourged, and disowned by His own people—even denied by one of His disciples. Wonderful as His ministerial acts were, they were not and are still not unique to Him. There is no limit to the number of people who may follow the example of Jesus. Similar acts have been done by His prophets and apostles or others among His authorized servants. Many have endured persecution for His sake. In your own time, you know brothers and sisters who have earnestly striven—even at a terrible price—to emulate the Lord’s example. That is as it should be. That is His hope for us.

To facilitate our desire to follow Him, perhaps we could consider qualities of His life that we can emulate.

Love

If I were to ask which characteristic of His life you would identify first, I think you might name His attribute of love. That would include His compassion, kindness, charity, devotion, forgiveness, mercy, justice, and more. Jesus loved His Father and loved His mother. He loved His family and the Saints. He loved the sinner, without excusing the sin. And He taught us how we can show our love for Him.

Another expression of our Savior's love was His service. He served His Father, and He served the people with whom He lived and labored. In both ways, we are to follow His example. And we are to love our neighbors by serving them. We start with our families.

Ordinances

A second aspect of the Savior's exemplary life was His emphasis upon sacred ordinances. During His mortal ministry He demonstrated the importance of the ordinances of salvation. He was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

Not only was the ordinance essential, but the example set by Jesus and John was also essential. Later the Lord instituted the ordinance of the sacrament and linked it to that of baptism. He so instructed His disciples "Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized . . . shall ye be baptized" (Mark 10:39–40).

Prayer

Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven and also taught us how to pray. We are to pray to God the Eternal Father in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

I love the great intercessory prayer offered by the Lord recorded in John, chapter 17. In it He communicates freely with His Father on behalf of His disciples, whom He loved. It is a model of effective and compassionate prayer.

Knowledge

Many non-Christians acknowledge that Jesus was a great teacher. Indeed, He was. But what truly distinguished His teaching? Was He a skilled instructor of engineering, mathematics, or science? As creator of this and other worlds, He surely could have been. Or as author of scripture, He could have taught literary composition very well. The feature that distinguished His teaching above that of all other teachers was that He taught truths of *eternal* significance. Only He could have revealed our purpose in life. Only through Him could we learn of our *premortals* existence and of our *postmortals* potential.

On one occasion, the Master Teacher told His skeptical listeners that they had three witnesses of Him: • John the Baptist • The deeds that Jesus had accomplished • The word of God the Eternal Father (see John 5:33–37)

He then proffered a fourth witness: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

The word *think* in that phrase may at first

seem to be out of place. But it is vital to the meaning Jesus was trying to convey. He knew that many of His listeners did actually *think* that eternal life was in the scriptures. But they were wrong. The scriptures alone *cannot* bestow eternal life. Of course there is power in scripture, but that power comes from Jesus Himself.

Endure to the End

Never did He withdraw from His assignment. Though He experienced suffering beyond our comprehension, He was not a quitter. Through deepening trials He endured to the end **of** His assignment: to atone for the sins **of** all humankind. His final words as He hung from the cross were, “It is finished” (**John 19:30**).

Application to Our Lives

These five aspects of His ministry can be applied in our own lives. Surely the best evidence of our adoration of Jesus is our emulation of Him. When we begin to realize who Jesus is and what He has done for us, we can understand, to some degree, the logic of the first and great commandment: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength” (Mark 12:30).

In other words, all that we think and do and say should be steeped in our love for Him. Ask yourself, “Is there anyone I love more than the Lord?”

With all my heart I pray that the transforming influence of the Lord may make a profound difference in your lives.

[How Do You Measure Up?]

Elder Nelson explains what we need to do to be on the Lord’s side. How do you measure up?

- What do you think about when you partake of the sacrament?
- What do you do with your precious eyesight?

What do you read? What do you watch on TV or look for on the Internet?

- What do you

do with your ability to hear? To whom do you really hearken?

- What topics are worthy of your most intensive study?

from Him?

- What do you allow into your body—your unique temple and gift
- What kind of language is spoken from your lips?

use your time and talents?

- How does Jesus affect the way you
- How does He

influence the use of your means and resources?

- How does He influence your love for your parents? Brothers and sisters?

Friends?

- How do His mission and His ministry affect who you

really are and who you may become?

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

36. The Day of Pentecost *Friend, May 1973, 28*

HYMN: *I Will Follow God's Plan* p. 164

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Mosiah 2:41

LESSON: After Jesus was taken up into heaven, His disciples, filled with joy because Jesus had been resurrected, returned to Jerusalem.

One hundred and twenty of the followers of Jesus met together. Peter told them that a new apostle must be chosen to replace Judas, who had betrayed Christ and then killed himself. Peter said, "Of these men who have been with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until that same day that He was taken up from us, one must be ordained to be a witness with us of His resurrection."

Two men were chosen, Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. Then all who were in the meeting united in prayer, asking the Lord to make known to them which of the two men should become the new apostle. Afterward Matthias was chosen by the apostles and approved by all those who attended the meeting.

On the day of Pentecost when the Jews celebrate the Feast of the Harvest, the twelve apostles met together. And while they were meeting, a sound from heaven, like a rushing mighty wind, suddenly filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, in other languages.

The sound of the rushing mighty wind could be heard throughout the city, and many people gathered outside the house where the apostles were meeting. The apostles spoke to the multitude and told all who were there about the mission and gospel of Jesus Christ and about His resurrection. Living in Jerusalem at that time were men from many lands and many nations who spoke different languages. Yet when the apostles spoke to them, through the power of the Holy Ghost, everyone who heard was able to understand. Those who listened were amazed, and so powerful was the Spirit among all the people that their hearts were touched and they cried out to the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter answered and said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, for the promise is to you and to your children."

Then those who gladly received Peter's word were baptized, and that same day about three thousand souls were added to the Church.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

37. Seek, Then Follow the Prophet's Counsel *Friend, June 2001,*

42

HYMN: *The Church of Jesus Christ* p.77

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:70

LESSON: After Jesus Christ was resurrected, He left the care of His church to His Apostles. Peter was the chief Apostle, or President of the Church. At this time, there were only Jews as members, and no gentiles (non-Jews).*

Then a Roman centurion (a man who commanded a hundred soldiers) named Cornelius had a vision in which an angel told him that his prayers had been answered. The angel also told him to send for Peter to come and teach him.

While Cornelius's servants were coming to get Peter, he, too, had a vision. He saw a "vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners and let down to earth: "Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts ... , and creeping things, and fowls of the air."

Now, the Jews had been taught to not mingle with gentiles and that certain animals were "unclean" and were not to be eaten. So when a voice came to Peter, telling him to eat the animals that were in the vessel, he protested, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean." But the voice told him, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

Then Peter, upon going to the house of Cornelius and hearing of his vision, understood that the gospel was to be taken to the gentiles—that is, to all people, everywhere—that God considered them worthy to be taught the gospel. So Peter taught Cornelius and all his household. As the chief Apostle, or prophet, taught them, the Holy Ghost testified to them that what he said was true. Peter told them that they must be baptized so that they might receive the blessing of the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The Jews who followed Christ heard about Peter teaching these gentiles, and they asked Peter about it. When he told them about his and

Cornelius's visions and how the Holy Ghost had testified to them of Jesus Christ and His gospel, the Jews accepted them into the Church, another blessing for Cornelius and his household.†

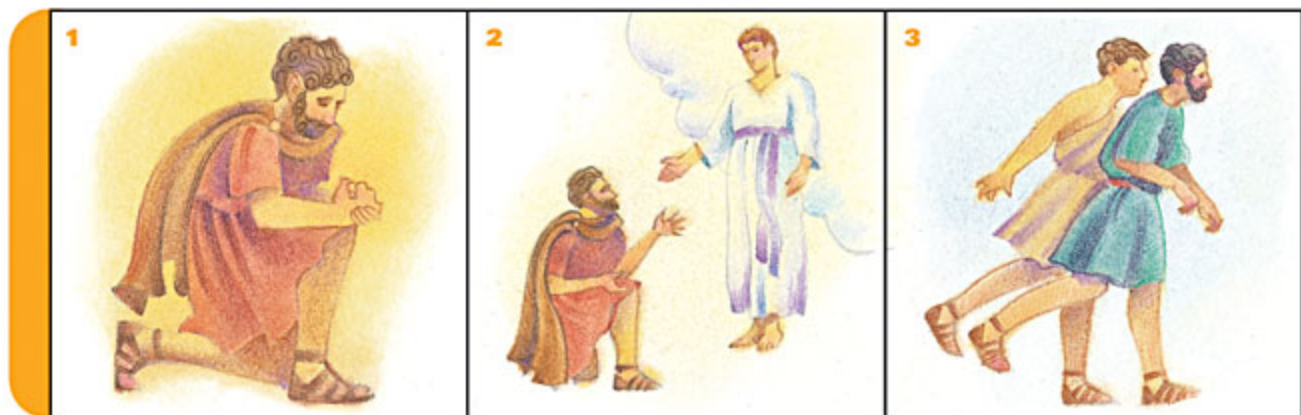
Cornelius, believed to be the first non-Jew who was taught the gospel, teaches us the importance of—and the blessings that come from—seeking the truth by following the counsel of the prophet.

Poster Article Activity: Retell the Story of Cornelius and Peter

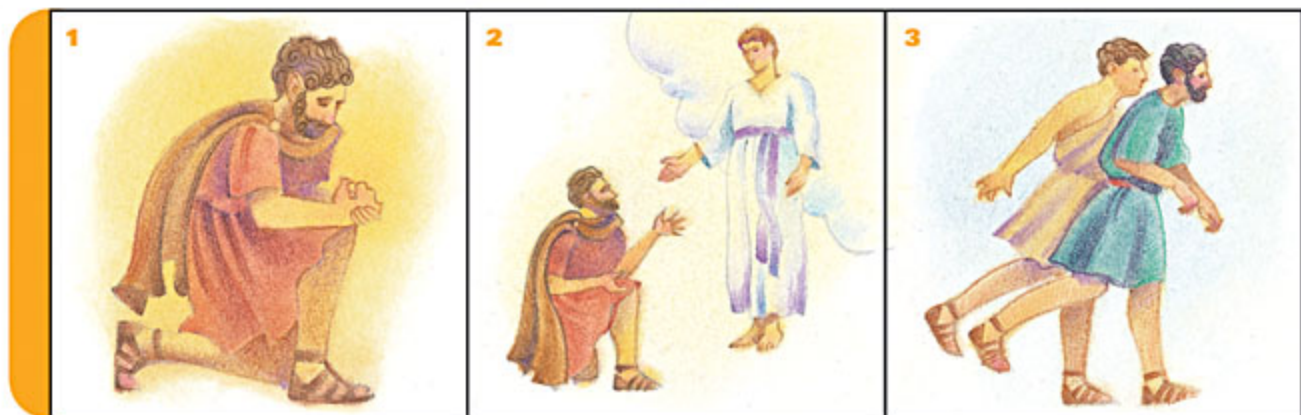
Instructions: Remove pages 42–43 from the magazine and mount on lightweight cardboard. Cut out the picture strips and glue them together in numbered order. Cut out the house and cut two slits inside it along the broken lines. With the house facing you, push the strip from the back through the right slit of the frame and back out through the left slit. Look at each picture and retell the story of Cornelius and Peter (see page 42).

CLOSING PRAYER:

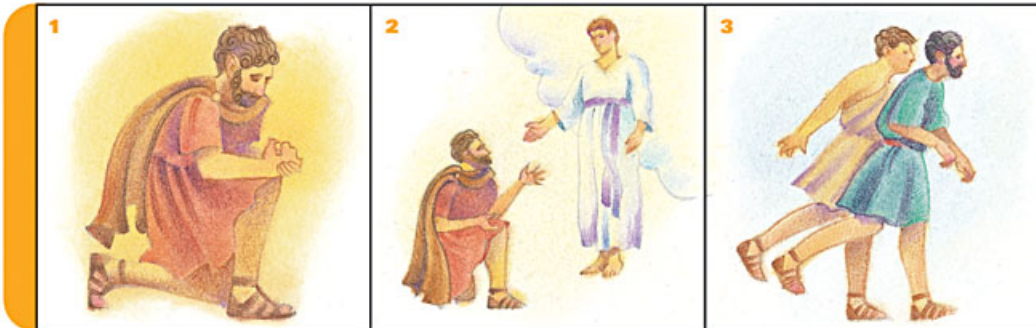
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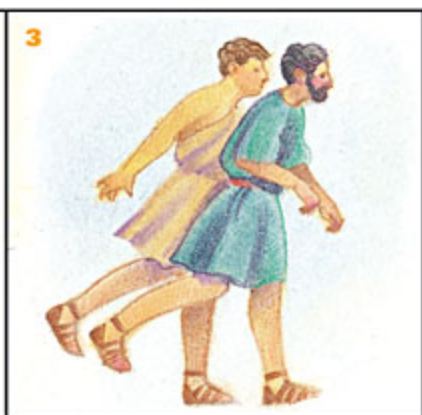
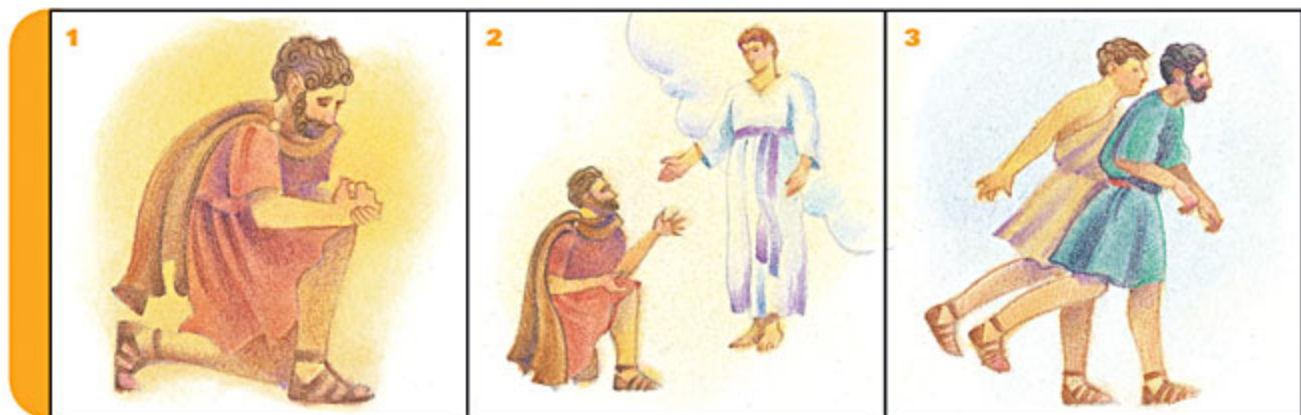
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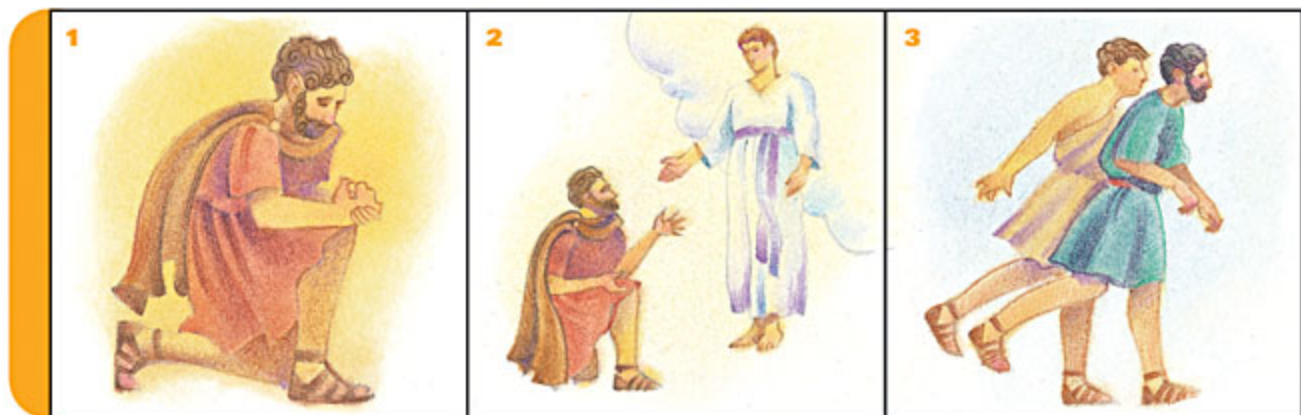
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38. “An Honest Man—God’s Noblest Work” Gordon B. Hinckley, *New Era*, Oct. 1976, 46

Widespread and fashionable dishonesty threatens governments, institutions, and our personal dignity

HYMN: *I Believe in Being Honest* p. 149

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: The Thirteenth Article of Faith

LESSON: Among many unsigned letters I have received was one of particular interest. It contained a \$20 bill and a brief note which stated that the writer had come to my home many years ago. When there was no response to the bell, he had tried the door and, finding it unlocked, had entered and walked about. On the dresser he saw a \$20 bill, took it, and left. Through the years his conscience had bothered him and he was now returning the money.

He did not include anything for interest for the period during which he had used my money. But as I read his pathetic letter I thought of the usury to which he had subjected himself for a quarter of a century with the unceasing nagging of his conscience. For him there had been no peace until he had made restitution. Our local papers carried a similar story the other day. The state of Utah received an unsigned note together with \$200. The note read: “The enclosed is for materials used over the years I worked for the state—such as envelopes, paper, stamps, etc.”

Imagine the flood of money that would pour into the offices of government, business, and merchants if all who have filched a little here and there were to return that which they had dishonestly taken.

The cost of every bag of groceries at the supermarket, of every tie or blouse bought at the shopping center or department store, includes for each of us the burden of shoplifting.

How cheaply some men and women sell their good names! I recall the widely publicized case of a prominent public figure who was arrested for taking an item costing less than \$5. I do not know whether he was ever convicted in the courts, but his petty misdeed convicted him before the people. In a measure, at least, his foolish act nullified much of the good he had done and was capable of yet doing.

Each time we board a plane we pay a premium so that our persons and our baggage may be searched in the interest of security. In the aggregate this amounts to millions of dollars, all because of the frightening dishonesty of a few who by threat and blackmail would try to obtain that to which they are not entitled.

One of our national magazines recently featured an account of fraud running into the billions in connection with Medicaid. Implicated were some patients, hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and even doctors—all after a dishonest dollar. Padded insurance claims, padded expense accounts, bogus checks, forged documents—these are all symptomatic of an epidemic of unbelievable proportions. In most instances the amount involved individually is small, but in total it represents personal dishonesty on a huge scale.

The book of Genesis contains this remarkable statement: “And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, “That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine.” (**Gen. 14:22–23.**) Fortunately there are still those who observe such principles of personal rectitude. Recently we rode a train from Osaka to Nagoya, Japan. At the station were friends to greet us, and in the

excitement my wife left her purse on the train. We called the Tokyo station to report it. When the train arrived at its destination some three hours later, the railroad telephoned to say the purse was there. We were not returning via Tokyo, and more than a month passed before it was delivered to us in Salt Lake City. Everything left in the purse was there when it was returned.

Such experiences, I fear, are becoming increasingly rare. In our childhood we were told the stories of George Washington's confessing to chopping down the cherry tree and Abraham Lincoln's walking a great distance to return a small coin to its rightful owner. But clever debunkers in their unrighteous zeal have destroyed faith in such honesty; the media in all too many cases have paraded before us a veritable procession of deception in its many ugly forms.

What was once controlled by the moral and ethical standards of the people, we now seek to handle by public law. And so the statutes multiply, enforcement agencies consume ever-increasing billions, prison facilities are constantly expanded, but the torrent of dishonesty pours on and grows in volume.

Of course, falsehood is not new. It is as old as man. "The Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9.)

Asked the prophet Malachi of ancient Israel: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

"Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Mal. 3:8-9.)

Even following the miracle of Pentecost, deception was manifest among some who had come into the church. Those who were converted sold their lands and brought money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, "And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

"Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

"And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost. ... "And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

"And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

"Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? ... "Then she fell down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost." (Acts 5:1-5, 7-10.)

In our time those found in dishonesty do not die as did Ananias and Sapphira, but something within them dies. Conscience chokes, character withers, self-respect vanishes, integrity dies.

On Mount Sinai the finger of the Lord wrote the law on tablets of stone: "Thou shalt not steal." (Ex. 20:15.) There was neither enlargement nor rationalization. And then that declaration was accompanied by three other commandments, the violation of each of which involves dishonesty: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." "Thou shalt not bear false witness." "Thou shalt not covet." (Ex. 20:14, 16-17.)

Was there ever adultery without dishonesty? In the

vernacular, the evil is described as “cheating.” And cheating it is, for it robs virtue, it robs loyalty, it robs sacred promises, it robs self-respect, it robs truth. It involves deception. It is personal dishonesty of the worst kind, for it becomes a betrayal of the most sacred of human relationships, and a denial of covenants and promises entered into before God and man. It is the sordid violation of a trust. It is a selfish casting aside of the law of God, and like other forms of dishonesty its fruits are sorrow, bitterness, heartbroken companions, and betrayed children.

“Thou shalt not bear false witness.”

Dishonesty again. Television recently carried the story of a woman imprisoned for twenty-seven years, she having been convicted on the testimony of witnesses who have now come forth to confess they had lied. I know that this is an extreme case, but are you not acquainted with instances of reputations damaged, of hearts broken, of careers destroyed by the lying tongues of those who have borne false witness?

I am reading a book of history, a long and detailed account of the trickeries practiced by the nations involved in the Second World War. It is entitled *Bodyguard of Lies*, taken from the words of Winston Churchill who said: “In war-time, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.” (*The Second World War*, vol. 5, *Closing the Ring*, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1951, p. 383.) The book deals with the many deceptions practiced on each side of the conflict. While reading it, one is again led to the conclusion that war is the Devil’s own game, and that among its most serious victims is truth.

Unfortunately, the easy use of falsehood and deception goes on long after the treaties of peace are signed, and some of those schooled in the art in times of war continue to ply their skills in days of peace. Then, like a disease that is endemic, the evil spreads and grows in virulence.

When this nation was caught in an embarrassing situation and the president failed to speak truthfully to the world, our credibility fell so tragically that we have never entirely recovered. What dismal actions we have witnessed in recent times in contrast with the behavior of those Founding Fathers who two centuries ago pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to establish this republic. The years that followed that declaration witnessed the impoverishment and the deaths of many of these signers, but be it said to their eternal glory that not one ever tarnished his honor.

“Thou shalt not covet.” Is not covetousness—that dishonest, cankering evil—the root of most of the world’s sorrows? For what a tawdry price men of avarice barter their lives! I recently read a book of fiction dealing with the officers of a great financial institution. With the death of the president, a senior vice-president competed for his office. The story is an intriguing account of a man who was honorable and able, but who in his avarice to get ahead compromised principle until he was utterly destroyed, and in the process almost took down to ruin the very institution he sought to lead. The account is fiction, but the histories of business, of government, of institutions of many kinds are replete with instances of covetous men who in their selfish, dishonest upward climb, destroyed others and eventually destroyed themselves.

Good men, well-intentioned men of great capacity, trade character for trinkets that turn to wax before their eyes and dreams that become only haunting nightmares.

How rare a gem, how precious a jewel is the man or woman in whom there is neither guile nor deception nor falsehood! We have seen in recent weeks the tragedy of dishonesty as accounts of bribes have been carried on the

front pages of the papers of the United States, Japan, and Europe. And as those revelations have cascaded forth we have been reminded of the words of Benjamin Franklin: “A small leak will sink a great ship,” and also of the words of Andrew Jackson: “No free government can stand without virtue in the people.”

Wrote the author of Proverbs: “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: “A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, “An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, “A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Prov. 6:16–19.)

The appraisal spoken long ago by an English poet is true yet today: “An honest man’s the noblest work of God.” (Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man. Epistle III*, line 248.) Where there is honesty, other virtues will follow.

The final Article of Faith [A of F 1:13] of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints affirms that “we believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men.”

We cannot be less than honest, we cannot be less than true, we cannot be less than virtuous if we are to keep sacred the trust given us. Once it was said among our people that a man’s word was as good as his bond. Shall any of us be less reliable, less honest than our forebears?

To those who read these words who are living this principle, the Lord bless you. Yours is the precious right to hold your heads in the sunlight of truth, unashamed before any man. On the other hand, if there be need for reformation, let it begin where we now stand. God will help us if we will seek that strength which comes from him. Sweet then will be our peace of mind. Blessed will be those with whom we live and associate.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

39. The First Martyr *Friend*, July 1973, 16

HYMN: *The Sixth Article of Faith* p. 126

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-12

LESSON:

After the death of Jesus, His apostles continued to preach the gospel in the temple and in the homes of the people. They found that there was too much for them to do. So to help them take care of the money and the poor, they asked all those who had accepted the teachings of Jesus to choose seven wise men who were filled with the Holy Spirit.

These seven faithful men were called deacons, and the apostles laid their hands on the head of each and blessed him. They helped take care of the money and the poor.

The first man chosen was named Stephen. Many people who had not believed in the teachings of Jesus were touched by the faith and the power of Stephen, and throughout Jerusalem there was talk of his spirit and of his miracles.

This caused certain men of the synagogue to argue with Stephen, but they were not able to find fault with the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke. Since they could find no way to stop him, these leaders persuaded wicked men to spread lies about Stephen. They claimed that he spoke against God and against Moses, and they insisted that he should be punished.

The rulers and the scribes heard these lies and seized Stephen and brought him before the council. Those who had lied also went to the council meeting and said, "This man ceaseth not to speak words against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place and shall change the customs which Moses delivered to us."

As those in the council meeting looked at Stephen, a great light shone about him and his face was as the face of an angel. But those who had lied about Stephen still accused him, so the high priest turned to Stephen and asked, "Are these things so?"

Even though Stephen knew his life was in danger, he stood and bravely answered all the questions that were asked of him. He told the people the stories of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and other prophets of the Bible. And he reminded them of the disobedience and destruction of their forefathers. He also accused them of having killed Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and said that they would be punished.

The rulers were angry that this young man would dare to talk against what they had done, and they began to make threats against his life. But Stephen looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. This gave him courage to face the charges for those things that he had been inspired to say.

The rulers were so upset that they held their hands over their ears so they wouldn't have to listen to Stephen. In their fear and anger, they dragged him outside of the city and began to throw stones at him. This was the custom for punishing men at the time. To make it easier for them to throw stones, they took off their outer clothes and left them with a young man named Saul.

As the stones struck his body, Stephen knelt down, lifted his eyes to heaven, and prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And before he died, he called upon God and asked Him to forgive those who cast the stones and were sinning against Him.

Stephen was the first man to be killed for preaching the gospel after the crucifixion of Jesus. When

Stephen's friends heard about his death, they took his bruised body and sadly buried it. And they mourned for this brave young man who had given his life for the truth. (*Acts 6 and Acts 7.*)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

40. Peter and Cornelius *Friend, Mar. 1983, 38*

HYMN: *The Ninth Article of Faith* p. 128

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D. & C. 121:26-27

LESSON: There lived in the city of Caesarea a centurion named Cornelius, who was a Gentile. Normally Jews did not associate with Gentiles because there was a great deal of hatred between the two groups. But Cornelius was a good man, and even the Jews liked him. He and his family believed in God, prayed, and helped the poor.

One day Cornelius had a vision in which an angel called him by name. He told Cornelius that God knew of his faith, his prayers, and his good deeds. "Send men to Joppa," the angel said, "and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

"He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do."

When the angel left, Cornelius sent for two of his servants and one of his soldiers. He told them about the angel and sent them to Joppa.

In Joppa Peter went onto a housetop to pray while he waited for the people downstairs to finish preparing the meal. Peter was overcome by the Spirit and was shown a vision. He saw the heavens open and a great sheet being lowered to the earth. On this sheet were all kinds of animals and birds that Peter had been taught not to eat. According to the law given to Moses, the Jews were commanded not to eat common, or "unclean," meat. Peter had always obeyed that law. Now, however, a voice said, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat." Peter protested, saying, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean." Again the voice spoke to Peter: "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." The vision was repeated three times, and then the sheet filled with animals was raised back into heaven. Peter did not understand what the vision meant. He was still wondering about it when the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men seek thee.

"Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them." Peter went downstairs to greet the men. "Behold, I am he whom ye seek," he said; "what is the cause wherefore ye are come?"

The men told Peter about Cornelius. They explained that he was a good man who loved God and that all the Jews admired him, even though he was a Gentile. They also explained about the angel advising Cornelius to listen to Peter's words. Peter invited the men inside, and they were fed and given a place to rest. The next morning Peter and some of the brethren from

Joppa left with the three men to go to Caesarea. Cornelius had been waiting anxiously for Peter to come, and he had gathered his relatives and close friends. He knew Peter's message was important, and he wanted to share it with those who were close to him.

When Peter came in, Cornelius fell down at his feet to worship him. Because Peter knew that men should worship only God, he said to Cornelius, "Stand up; I myself also am a man." Looking at the group of Gentiles who were with Cornelius, Peter realized what the vision he had seen meant. "Ye know ... that it is an unlawful thing for a ... Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation," he explained, "but God hath [shown] me that I should not call any man common or unclean. "Therefore came I unto you ... as soon as I was sent for."

Jesus had preached the gospel among the Jews, but after His resurrection He told the Apostles to take the gospel to all the world. Peter and some of the Apostles had not fully understood before what they were to do, but now the meaning of Peter's vision and of Jesus' words was clear. The gospel was for all men everywhere. It was time for the people of other nations to hear its message. Just as the Jews did not eat certain meats because they had been thought of as common or unclean, the Jews did not associate with Gentiles and looked upon them in the same way. But God did not want them called common or unclean any longer. The Church of Jesus Christ was to be for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews. Peter turned to Cornelius and asked why the centurion had sent for him. Cornelius told Peter about the angel's visit and explained that he and his friends and relatives were waiting to hear the word of God.

With love for these people whom the Jews had hated, Peter bore his testimony of Jesus' existence and of the truthfulness of the gospel. He told Cornelius and his friends that all men who believe in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be blessed.

As Peter spoke, the Holy Ghost fell upon all those present. This surprised the Jews who had come with Peter. They had thought that only faithful Jews could receive the Holy Ghost.

"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" asked Peter. Then Peter commanded that Cornelius and his friends be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

41. Your Name Is Safe in Our Home Cree-L Kofford, *Friend*, Feb. 2000, inside

front cover

HYMN: *I Have Two Eyes* p. 269

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Mosiah 4:30

LESSON: When we were children, a line on the ground had special significance. Whenever boyhood tempers caused disagreement, the time-honored solution called for a line on the ground. The antagonists stood on opposite sides of the line, attempting to act as intimidating as possible. Someone would say, “Step over the line, and you’ll be sorry,” though they usually didn’t say it in those genteel words.

In those moments, I learned the great value of a line on the ground and the consequences of stepping over it. In the years that have followed, I have come to understand that figurative lines on the ground are placed there by a loving Heavenly

Father who seeks to protect us from Lucifer's army. While each of us may have dozens of lines on the ground in our life today, I would like to discuss just one of them—the line that says, “Keep each person's name safe in your home.”

Have you noticed how easy it is to cross over the line and find fault with other people?

James, a disciple of the Savior, said: “Speak not evil one of another” (**James 4:11**).

In this latter day, the Lord renewed His long-taught command in a revelation given through the prophet Brigham Young:

“Cease to speak evil one of another” (**D&C 136:23**).

If you hear anyone in your family start to say something bad about someone else, will you please do what the father of Bambi's friend Thumper said—will you say in a loud voice, “If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all”? Even though that isn't correct English, everyone will understand exactly what you mean.

Young Gordon B. Hinckley—Preparing I pray that the Lord will bless each of us that we may never cross over the line on the ground and that we may live so that it can be said, “Your name is safe in our home. And God saw these souls that they were good, ... and he said: These I will make my rulers (Abr. 3:23).

“Young Gordon B. Hinckley—Preparing,” *Friend*, Mar. 2001, 36

All the prophets have testified of Jesus Christ and taught His gospel, and all were called as prophets because they were “noble and ... good” in pre-earth life.* Each has had a different personality, grown up in different circumstances, and had different talents and abilities. Each has had to develop his own testimony on earth as part of his preparation for this most important calling.

When President Gordon B. Hinckley was a little boy, he lived in a family who had strong testimonies of the Church. His parents had a great love of learning—and more than a thousand books in their library, which young Gordon found to be a great place to read and study in.

Because his father believed that boys should learn to work, he bought a farm. The family lived there in the summer and went there on Saturdays in the spring and fall. They pruned trees in winter and early spring, then picked the fruit in late summer and early fall. Young Gordon learned to work hard. He also learned the beauty of nature that God has given us “and the bad things that happen when nature is abused.”†

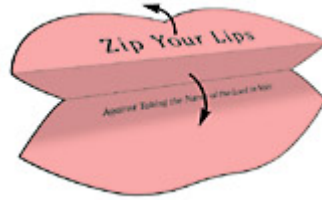
His parents and good teachers in his ward taught him the gospel. Sometimes he learned lessons the hard way. One day he used the Lord's name in vain, and his mother washed his mouth out with soap. “She then taught me about the Lord's name and quoted to me the commandment against taking it in vain. ... Since then I have never used the Lord's name in vain, and I hope that I never shall.”

When he was a deacon, he went with his father to a stake priesthood meeting. The brethren stood and sang “Praise to the Man,” and “there came into my heart the conviction that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.”

Young Gordon B. Hinckley later served a mission in England. His work there led to his calling as executive secretary of the Missionary Committee of the Church. He has always wanted all of Heavenly Father's children to learn the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Zip Your Lips Sharon Kiser, "Zip Your Lips," Friend, Mar. 2001, 36

Instructions: Remove page 37 from the magazine and mount it on white construction paper. Cut out the lips on the heavy black lines. Fold the lips in half on dotted line #1, then fold the upper part of the lips back along dotted line #2 (see illustration).



Cut out the boxed words. For a presentation in family home evening or a talk in Primary, tell the story on this page about President Hinckley when he was a young boy. Discuss why we should not take the name of the Lord in vain (see **Ex. 20:7**; **D&C 63:60–64**). Use the boxed words to discuss other things you should avoid—zip your lips against. Then tape or glue each boxed word inside the folded lips.

Zip Your Lips Against Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain

IMPROPER JOKES AND STORIES	GOSSIP
BAD LANGUAGE	UNKIND WORDS
CRUEL NICKNAMES	MEAN TEASING
LIES	BAD MUSIC

0

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

IMPROPER JOKES
AND STORIES

Zip Your Lips

Line 2

BAD MUSIC

Line 1

Against Taking the Name of the Lord in

UNKIND WORDS

MEAN TEASING

42. Saul's Conversion *Friend*, Nov. 1999, 39

HYMN: *Search, Ponder, and Pray* p.109

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: James 1:5

LESSON: At the time of Christ, Saul was born in Tarsus, a coastal city now located in Turkey. He was a Jew, and as he grew older, he diligently studied the scriptures. After the Savior's death, Saul, with the permission of the Jewish leaders, began to persecute and jail Christians. He believed that they were teaching false doctrine and leading many Jews away from the truth. Saul also received permission from the high priest in Jerusalem to go to the city of Damascus, 130 miles (208 k) away, and arrest anyone teaching about Jesus Christ in the synagogues there.

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

“And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? “And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. ... “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.” (**Acts 9:3–6.**)

Saul arose and found that he was blind. Those traveling with Saul led him to Damascus and to the home of a man named Judas. For three days Saul remained there, not eating or drinking. He prayed for help in understanding what the Lord wanted him to do.

Meanwhile, a Christian named Ananias received a vision that he should find Saul and give him a priesthood blessing to restore his sight. Knowing that Saul had persecuted and jailed many Saints in Jerusalem, Ananias was afraid, but the Lord assured him that Saul had changed. Ananias found Saul and gave him the blessing. “He received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. ...

“And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.” (**Acts 9:18, 20.**)

Because Saul prayed to know the Lord's will and was obedient after being blinded, his sight was restored and he learned and accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was known from then on as Paul, and he dedicated his life to teaching and testifying of the Savior and His gospel.

Instructions

Color the flannel-board figures, then mount them on heavy paper. Cut them out and use them to retell the story of Paul's conversion, and discuss how the gospel blesses your life.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

Saul receiving a vision on the road to Damascus; Saul praying; Ananias blessing Saul; Saul (now Paul) preaching in the synagogues. (Illustrated by Beth M. Whittaker.)



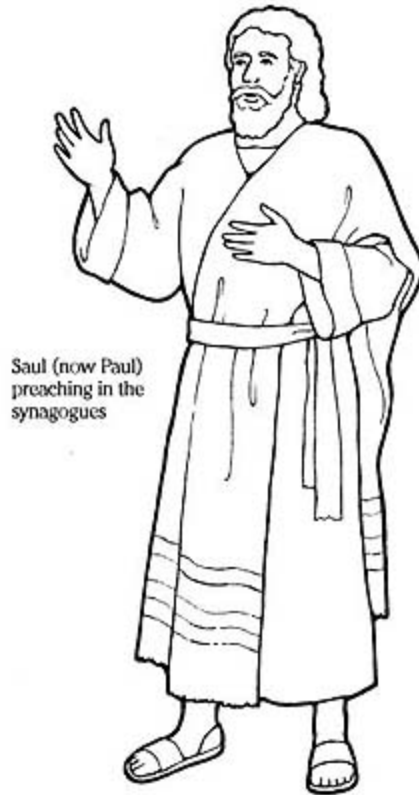
Saul receiving a vision
on the road to Damascus



Saul praying



Ananias blessing Saul



Saul (now Paul)
preaching in the
synagogues

43. The Living Christ:

The Testimony of the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Photo by Jed Clark

"The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," *Friend*, Jan. 2002, 28

HYMN: *Did Jesus Really Live Again?* P. 64

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D&C 107:23

LESSON:

We offer our testimony of the reality of [Jesus Christ's] matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.

He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. ... He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, [and] the purpose of our life on earth. ...

We solemnly testify that His life, which is central to all human history, neither began in Bethlehem nor concluded on Calvary [ended on the cross]. He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.

He rose from the grave to "become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). ...

We declare [solemnly] that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth. ...

We testify that He will someday return to earth. ... He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords. ...

We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

Special Witnesses (*Ensign*, April 2000, pages 2–3.)

(NOTE: That some of these men are no longer living on this earth. Does this make their witness of Christ any less value to each of us?) "Special Witnesses," *Friend*, Apr. 1994, 38

The Twelve Apostles [are] special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world (D&C 107:23).

The First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses who know by personal revelation that Jesus is the Christ, and they are called to declare this to all mankind. The First Presidency were chosen from among the Apostles, and we sustain all of these Brethren as prophets, seers, and revelators. They all have a sacred responsibility to bear their testimonies to the whole world. The following testimonies of these Brethren are taken from talks given during general conferences of the Church.



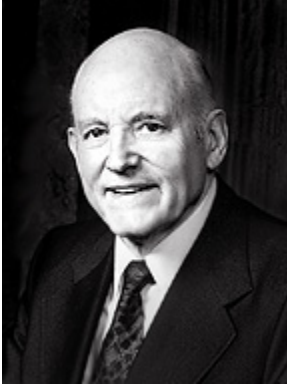
Ezra Taft Benson I testify that Jesus is the Christ and that He stands at the head of His Church today, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I testify that He will come again in power and great glory and that He will leave nothing undone for our eternal welfare. (*Ensign*, May 1987, page 7.)



Gordon B. Hinckley Of His divinity and reality I bear solemn witness. He is the Lamb without blemish who was offered for the sins of the world. ... He is my Teacher, my Exemplar, my *Friend*, and my Savior whom I love and worship as the Redeemer of the world. (*Ensign*, November 1992, page 52.)



Thomas S. Monson He is the literal Savior of the World, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, the Holy One of Israel, even the risen Lord. ... As His witness I testify to you that He lives. (*Ensign*, May 1988, page 56.)



Howard W. Hunter I know that God lives, that Jesus is his Only Begotten Son, the Savior of the world. I know that this is the church of Jesus Christ. He is at its head. (*Ensign*, November 1992, page 97.)



Boyd K. Packer He is our Redeemer. Of him I bear witness— Jesus Christ the son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father, who sacrificed himself that we might be clean. (*Ensign*, November 1990, page 86.)



L. Tom Perry This is the Lord's work in which we are engaged. God lives! Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world, is my solemn witness to you. (*Ensign*, May 1990, page 20.)



David B. Haight **God our Father lives, as does His son, Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. I am a grateful recipient of His healing power and love. This is His work.** (*Ensign*, November 1990, page 61.)



James E. Faust I testify, as one of His humble servants called to be His special witness, that He lives. I witness from the depths of my soul that we are engaged in His holy work, to which, if we are faithful, we can be crowned with honor, glory, and eternal life. (*Ensign*, May 1991, page 70.)



Neal A. Maxwell I witness that Jesus Christ is the only name under heaven whereby one can be saved! ... I testify that He is utterly incomparable in what He *is*, what He *knows*, what He has *accomplished*, and what He has *experienced*. ... There is none like Him! (*Ensign*, November 1981, page 8.)



Russell M. Nelson I know that God lives and that Jesus the Christ is his Son. He is “the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25). He lives. He is my Master. I am his servant. With all my heart, I love him. (*Ensign*, May 1987, page 10.)



Dallin H. Oaks **I testify with the ancient and modern prophets that there is no other name and no other way under heaven by which man can be saved except by Jesus Christ.** (*Ensign*, November 1988, page 68.)



M. Russell Ballard I testify to you that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of our Eternal Heavenly Father. He is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Friend and Brother. I love him with all my heart and count it the greatest privilege ... to be a special witness to his name throughout the world. (*Ensign*, May 1986, page 15.)



Joseph B. Wirthlin Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind, and yes, the Prince of Peace. (*Ensign*, May 1991, page 38.)



Richard G. Scott I testify that the Lord lives. He loves you and will help you. (*Ensign*, May 1989, page 37.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

44. Everyday Heroes: They Also Serve Shanna Ghaznavi, *New Era*, Mar. 2001, 12

HYMN: *I Want to Be a Missionary Now* p. 168

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:16 & D. & C. 4:2-3

LESSON: From his earliest days of singing “I Hope They Call Me on a Mission,” Jared Cassity planned on serving as a full-time missionary. He had read the scriptures and was familiar with all the missionary discussions. Most importantly, he was worthy and desired

to go on a mission.

But he couldn't go. Jared's mental disabilities and some physical problems meant he could not serve a proselyting mission. "It took courage for me to accept that," he says.

That was more than three years ago. Now, Elder Jared Cassity—that's right, *Elder*—has been serving for three years. Elder Cassity was called on a stake mission. He is an assistant in the North Ogden Utah Stake's missionary preparation class, helping other young men who are planning to go on missions become more prepared. "It took a lot of praying, but I know this is the right thing for me to be doing," he says.

Elder Cassity shares his responsibilities in the class with Elder Paul Hansen, who has also been serving for three years. Elder Hansen also has mental and physical disabilities, but he manages to make it to class to set up chairs and distribute hymnbooks long before anyone else gets there. His mom, Janeen, says, "He felt really bad, because he's always wanted to go on a mission, but it wasn't right, and this was right." Alma Harris, who teaches the class, says that as the time approached for Elders Cassity and Hansen to be released from their two-year missions, they wanted to remain in their callings, and he still needed their help.

"Members who have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities that would prevent them from serving effectively are not called to full-time missionary service" (*Church Handbook of Instructions*, 1:81).

"Paul and Jared might not be full-time elders, but they are serving real missions," says Vance Child, a returned missionary serving in the class, who also took the class before his mission. "I think it's all just serving the Lord. They do a tremendous job. They really do bring the Spirit into the classroom."

Another classmate agrees: "They have a knowledge even though they haven't gone out," says Micah Rodenbough. "It kind of humbles me."

Elders Hansen and Cassity have various responsibilities each week in the class, including bringing refreshments, setting up chairs, and giving an occasional talk. But their most important duty is preparing their stake's future missionaries.

"I love the change that comes upon these wonderful boys when they serve missions," Elder Cassity says, nearly crying. "I love seeing what the Spirit can do. . . . Sometimes I cry when I hear their wonderful testimonies, because I feel like I was one who helped that person."

One of the young men Elder Cassity helped was Jared Staheli. Jared was called on a service mission to the bishops' storehouse in Lindon, Utah. He recently returned to his old missionary class to give his mission report: "Going on a mission is helpful to you and your spirit. It helped me most going on my mission to help my testimony grow and to know the Church is true, and the gospel is true," Jared says, as he stands in front of the class of young men ready to go out and serve their own missions.

According to Elder Hansen's mother, it's a real blessing for her son to be able to say, "I've gone on my mission. I think that's important to every boy. It doesn't matter what kind of mission you go on. What matters is that you're serving the Lord."

Full-time mission alternatives

Young men or women who are unable to go on full-time proselyting missions for health reasons may have the alternative of giving Church service if they so desire:

- With your parents' permission, talk with

your bishop or branch president about your desire to serve a mission.

priesthood leader will search for opportunities to use your specific skills; for example, you might serve in Church Welfare Services or in a community service organization.

• Your

- To be eligible, you must live at home and be able to function independently.
- Your stake president will determine the length of your mission.
- Young men must be at least 19, and women must be at least 21.
- You will receive a mission call from the First Presidency before your mission and a release certificate at the end of your service.
- All the same mission rules apply to Church service missions as apply to full-time missions and, where possible, you may go team teaching with the full-time missionaries.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

45. Gifts from God *Friend, Mar. 2003, 36*

HYMN: *The Seventh Article of Faith* p.126

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 82:6

LESSON: You have many gifts from God. Some of you are good at sports. Some are peacemakers. Some can make people laugh and feel better about themselves. Some know just when something needs to be done and do it. Some can sing or dance or do gymnastics. Some are good at math or science or spelling. Some have lots of good ideas for better ways to do things. Some are good with animals.

These are all wonderful gifts, but there are other gifts that Church members have. They are spiritual gifts, and all are needed in the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote about them in his first letter to the people of Corinth: “No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. “Now there are diversities of [many different] gifts, but the same Spirit.

“And there are differences [in how these gifts are used], but the same Lord. ...

“It is the same God which worketh all in all.” (1 Cor. 12:3–6.)

Paul lists many of these gifts, and says that each of us can recognize the gift or gifts we have from the Spirit: “To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; “To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; “To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues [the ability to speak different languages]; to another the interpretation of tongues [understanding of different languages]” (1 Cor. 12:8–10).

Then Paul explains that we are to use these spiritual gifts for the good of the Church, and that because all are needed, we must not think that the gift we have is more important. He said that if “one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or [if] one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).

Finally, Paul said that we need to work hard to recognize the gifts we have and to help them grow so that we can help each other the very best we can.

Instructions: Mount page 37 on a piece of white or colored paper, cut out the strips, then make loops and link them together with glue or staples to form a gifts chain. All gifts are

important, and together they form a strong chain. Illustrated by Julie F. Young

CLOSING PRAYER:



REFRESHMENTS:

Sports  Sports  Sports

Faith  *Faith*  *Faith*

Music  Music  Music

Peacemaker  *Peacemaker*  *Peacemaker*

Math  Math  Math

Languages ^(Gift of Tongues)  *Languages* ^(Gift of Tongues)  *Languages* ^(Gift of Tongues)

^{Good with} Animals  ^{Good with} Animals  ^{Good with} Animals

Prophecy  *Prophecy*  *Prophecy*

Friendly  Friendly  Friendly

Healing  *Healing*  *Healing*

Science  Science  Science

Wisdom  *Wisdom*  *Wisdom*

46. What a Joyful Day! Diane Nichols, *Friend*, Dec. 2001, 21

HYMN: *When He Comes Again* p.82

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: 1 Nephi 10:5

LESSON: Imagine that you lived over two thousand years ago in a city named Zarahemla. The city is surrounded by a high wall that protects the people from their enemies. Imagine that one day, while walking through the city with your parents, you hear a lot of commotion ahead of you. As you come nearer, you see a man standing upon the city wall. He is prophesying of the coming of the Messiah and the things that will happen in both Zarahemla and in the land of Jerusalem as signs that He has been born.

You and your parents stop and listen to this man's message. He is named Samuel and is a Lamanite prophet. The Lamanites have been your enemies for many years, but as you listen to him, you feel that the things he is saying are true. He says that in five years the Messiah will be born in the land of Jerusalem and that when He is born, a new star will appear in the heavens. There will be a day and a night and a day without any darkness. It will appear to be as one day. When these things happen, the people in Zarahemla will know that the Savior has been born. Some of the people around you, however, do not believe Samuel and are very angry with him. They begin to throw stones at him and try to shoot him with arrows. He cannot be injured, though, and he escapes.

After returning home, your parents tell you that the man you heard is a prophet of God and that the things he taught are true. You and your family are baptized and prepare for the coming of the Messiah (see Hel. 16:1–5). You study the scriptures together, pray to Heavenly Father, and listen to the teachings of the prophets. In five years, a new star does appear and there is a night without darkness. You know that the Savior has been born, just as the prophet Samuel had said. What a joyful day!

It is fun to imagine that we lived long ago and heard Samuel prophesy about the coming of Jesus Christ. Many prophets besides Samuel told the people of their times about the Savior's birth. Those prophecies were fulfilled that night in Bethlehem. Just as the prophets testified of the Savior's birth, they have prophesied that He will come again. At His Second Coming, Jesus Christ will come not as a child but as an adult, and He will then rule and reign forever. All people everywhere will know that He is the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world.

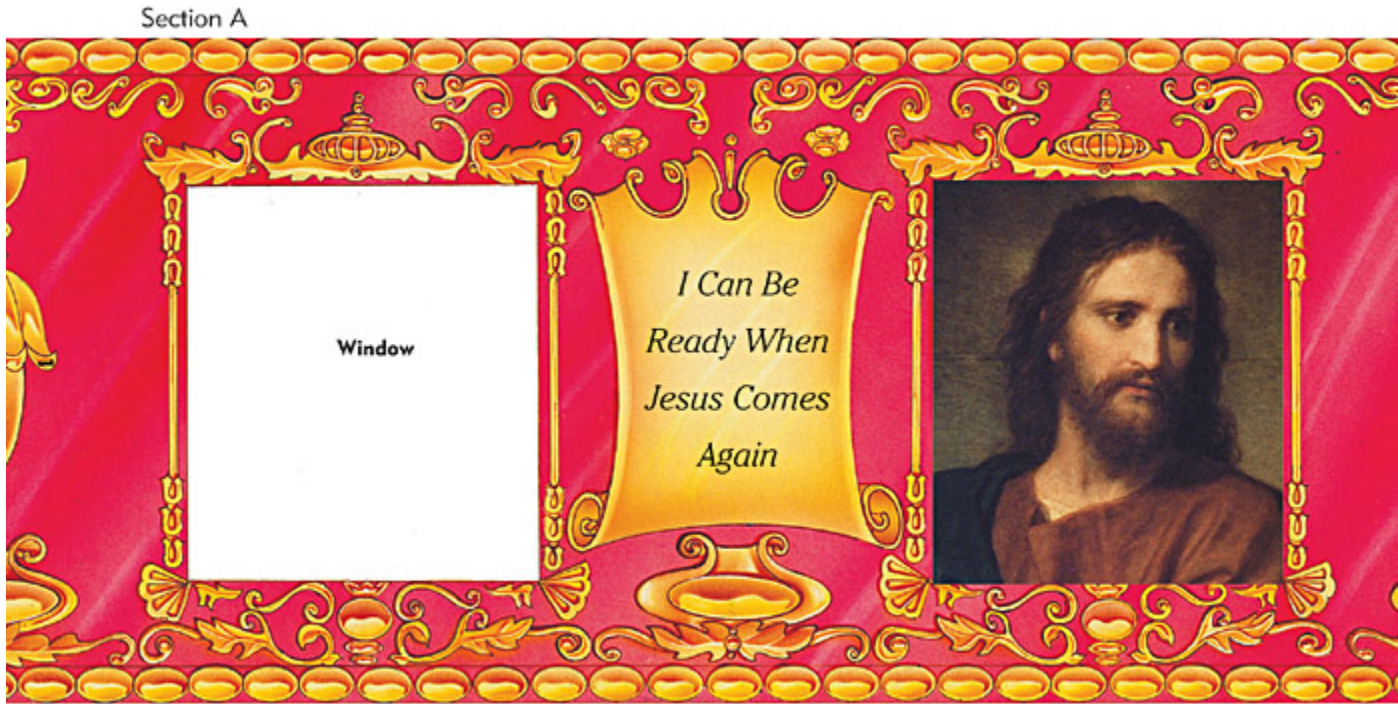
Although we do not know when He will come again, we have been told to prepare for that time. We can prepare for His Second Coming just as the righteous people in Zarahemla prepared for His birth. We can follow the words of the prophets. We can study the scriptures and pray to Heavenly Father. We can keep our baptismal covenant and heed the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

Prophets today continue to prophesy that the Savior will come again. If we follow the prophet, we will be prepared. What a joyful day that will be!

I Can Be Ready When Jesus Comes Again

(Note: Make or copy all the items you want on page 19 before doing this activity.) 1. Glue this page onto a heavier piece of paper. 2. Color the picture of things you can do to prepare for the Savior's Second Coming. 3. Cut out Sections A and B and the window in

Section A. 4. Form two tubes by gluing Tab 1A behind Tab and Tab 2B behind Tab 2
Place Section B inside Section A. As you turn Section B, pictures will appear to help
remind you of some of the things you can do to be ready for the Second Coming. Choose
one thing each week that you will try to do a little bit better to help you be better
prepared.

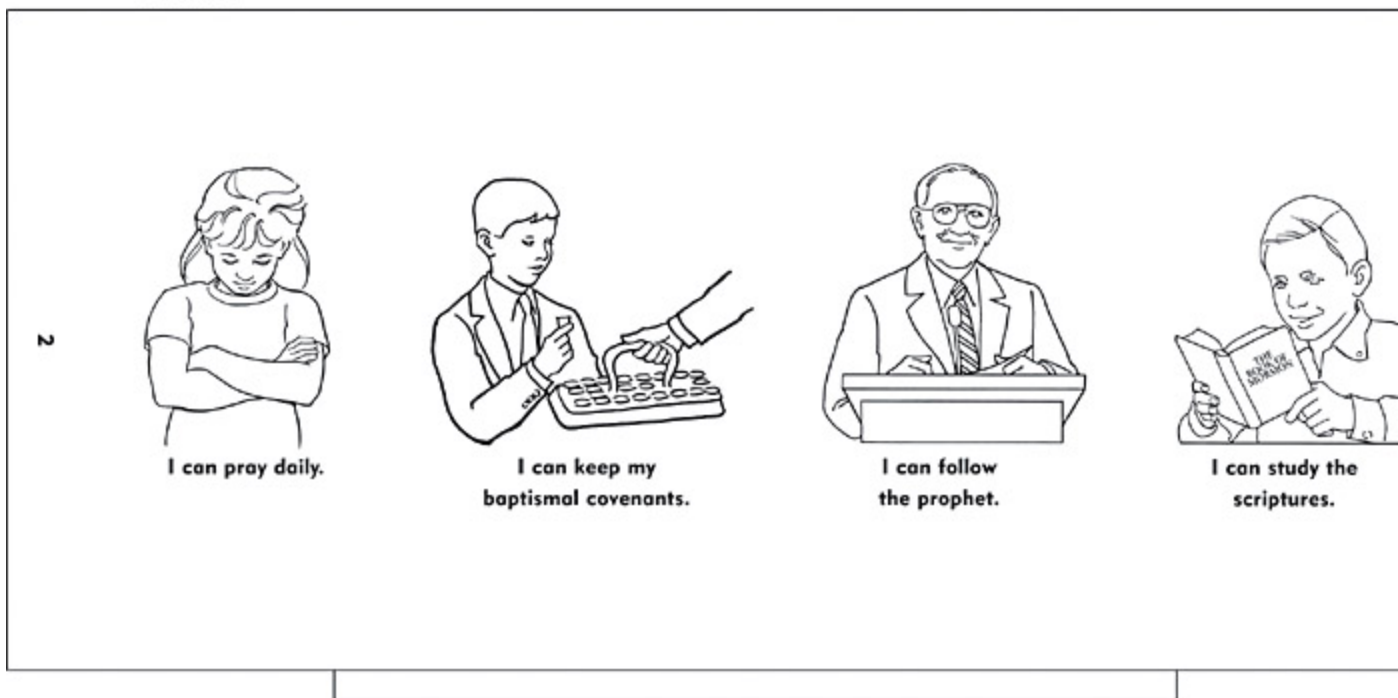


I can pray daily. I can keep my baptismal covenants. I can follow the prophet. I can study the scriptures.



Section A. Illustration by Joe Flores; detail from *Christ and the Rich Young Ruler*, by Heinrich Hofmann Section B. Illustrations by Jerry Harston

Section B



47. The Power and Authority of God *Friend, July 2001, 44*

HYMN: *The Holy Ghost* p. 105

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D&C 35:17

LESSON: Since the time of Adam, people have turned away from the gospel. They have turned away no matter how long and hard the prophets tried to teach them of the love of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and of Their desire for us to live with Them and enjoy all that They have for eternity. Each period of time when there has been at least one prophet on the earth is called a “dispensation.”* The prophets of each dispensation have had the power and authority of God, known as the priesthood, to help them testify of Jesus Christ and His gospel and perform the ordinances necessary for people to return to Him and Heavenly Father.

The first of these important ordinances is baptism. In our dispensation, known as the final dispensation, or the dispensation of the fulness of times, the Prophet Joseph Smith learned about the priesthood when he was translating the Book of Mormon.

In May 1829, he and Oliver Cowdery, who was writing down what the Prophet translated, wanted to learn about baptism for the remission of sins, mentioned on the gold plates. They went into a woods and prayed about it.

While they were praying, John the Baptist came to them and ordained them to the Priesthood of Aaron (the Aaronic Priesthood). He told them to baptize each

other, then to ordain each other to the Aaronic Priesthood.

John the Baptist ordained them “in the name of Messiah.” He told them that this priesthood held the “keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins.” He also said that it would “never be taken again from the earth.” He explained that he acted under the direction of the ancient Apostles Peter, James, and John and that they would soon come to ordain Joseph and Oliver to the Melchizedek Priesthood.† Later that spring, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood, the priesthood that the Savior holds. Then, on April 3, 1836, after partaking of the sacrament on the Sabbath, Joseph and Oliver were visited by Moses, Elias, and Elijah, who conferred upon (gave) them more priesthood keys pertaining to the kingdom of God on earth.‡ Since the Prophet Joseph, each Church President has held all the priesthood keys for the ordinances that people need to return to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. These keys are delegated to worthy priesthood holders to perform needed ordinances, such as baptism and the conferring of the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice: Sacred Priesthood Blessings From an October 1995 general conference address. James E. Faust, “Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice: Sacred Priesthood Blessings,” Friend, Oct. 2004, 2
President Faust explains how priesthood blessings strengthen and magnify us.

A priesthood blessing is sacred. It can be a holy and inspired statement of our wants and needs. If we are in tune spiritually, we can receive a confirming witness of the truth of the promised blessings. Priesthood blessings can help us in the small and great decisions of our lives. If, through our priesthood blessings, we could perceive [see] only a small part of the person God intends us to be, we would lose our fear and never doubt again.

As a small boy, I remember being intrigued [interested] by my grandmother’s magnifying glass which she used in her old age to read and do needlework. When the glass was in focus, everything I looked at was greatly magnified [made larger]. But I was most intrigued by what happened when the lens concentrated the sunlight on an object. When it passed through the magnifying glass, the sunlight’s power was absolutely amazing.

Blessings strengthen and magnify us. In the Church, blessings are available to all who are worthy through those authorized to give priesthood blessings. Worthy fathers and grandfathers, as well as other Melchizedek Priesthood holders, may give blessings to members in times of sickness and when important events occur. Such individual blessings are part of the continuous revelation that we claim as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Like the images in my grandmother’s magnifying glass, [through priesthood blessings] we can become stronger, our talents and ability can be magnified and multiplied, our understanding can be greatly enlarged, and our spirituality can flower.

Honor the Priesthood (Adapted from an address delivered in the priesthood session of

the Dortmund, Germany, area conference on August 6, 1976.)

Boyd K. Packer, "Honor the Priesthood," *Friend*, Apr. 1986, inside front cover

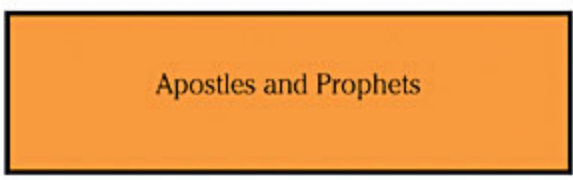
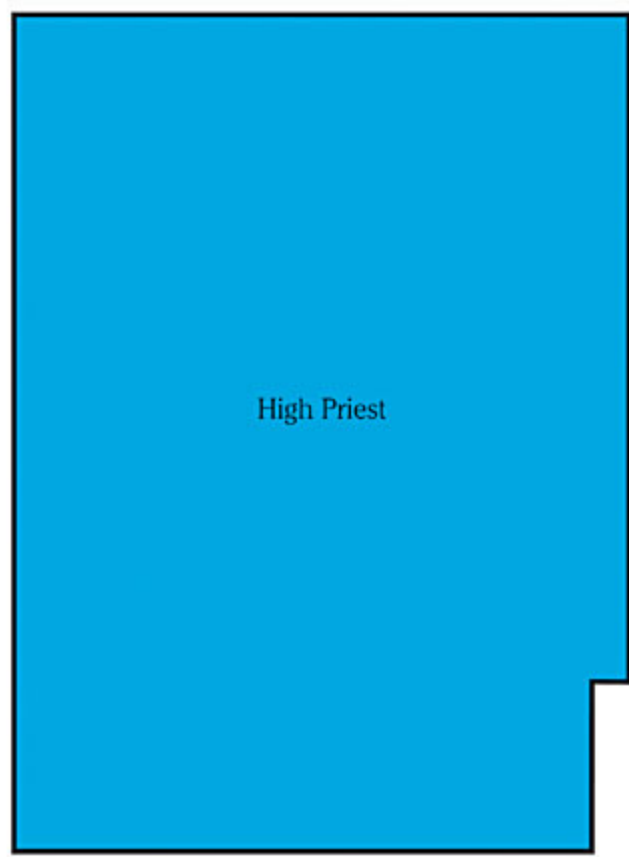
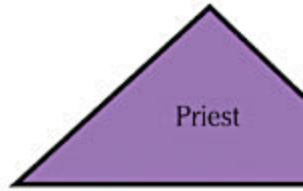
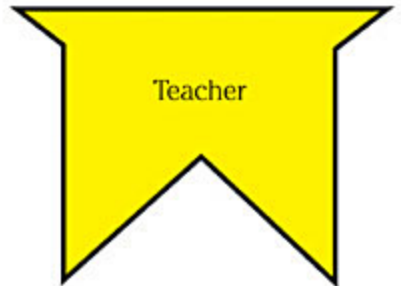
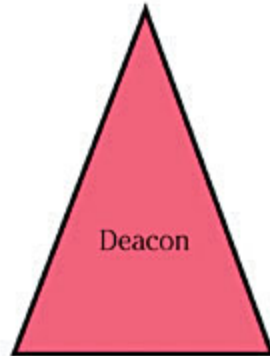
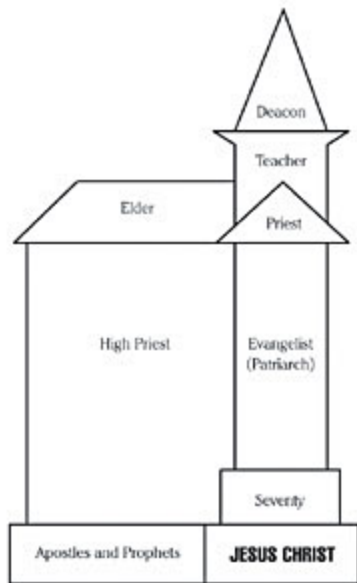
On one occasion Karl G. Maeser was going with a group of young missionaries across the alps. They were crossing a high mountain pass on foot. There were long sticks stuck into the snow of the glacier to mark the path so that travelers could find their way safely across the glacier and down the mountain on the other side.

When they reached the summit, Brother Maeser wanted to teach the young elders a lesson. He stopped at the pinnacle of the mountain and pointed to those sticks that they had followed. And he said, "Brethren, behold the priesthood of God. They are just common old sticks, but it's the position that counts. Follow them and you will surely be safe. Stray from them and you will surely be lost." And so it is in the Church. We are called to leadership positions and given the power of the priesthood. And we are just common old sticks, but the position we are given counts. It is separate and apart from us, but while we hold it, we hold it. Now in our wards and in our branches and in our stakes, the Lord calls to positions of leadership the brethren who are there. None of them is perfect. But they hold the office, and we are to be obedient to them.

Poster Article Activity: The Priesthood of God *Mount it on lightweight cardboard. Cut out the puzzle pieces. Assemble the puzzle, and you will discover that the organization and priesthood of the Church can be compared to a building. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, and the Apostles and prophets are the foundation. See A of F 1:6.)*

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



48. Why Do We Have Fast Sunday? Sally Gunnell, *Friend*, Feb. 1983, 34

HYMN: *The Eleventh Article of Faith* p. 130

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE:

LESSON: Matthew 4:2

Role Play this:

Glen: Why do we have Fast Sunday? What *is* fasting, anyway?

Dad: To fast means to go without eating and drinking. Jesus set the example Himself by fasting. **Glen:** I don't know if I could go without food and water.

Dad: It certainly isn't easy, and Heavenly Father doesn't expect little children to fast. When you are old enough and want to fast, it's best to start out by missing just one meal.

Glen: I still don't know why we fast.

Dad: One reason we fast is that it is a teaching of Jesus Christ. We can read about fasting in the scriptures. Some good verses to look up are: Exodus 34:28, [Ex. 34:28] Matthew 4:2 [Matt. 4:2] and 6:16–18 [Matt. 6:16–18], Helaman 3:35 [Hel. 3:35], and Doctrine and Covenants 59:12–14 [D&C 59:12–14]. Another reason we fast is to help the poor and needy. We give the money we save by not eating our meals to the fast offering fund. That fund helps others who don't have enough food.

Fasting is also a way of developing self-control. If we can learn to have control over what and when we eat, we'll have greater control in other things we do too. That is one of the blessings of fasting.

Glen: When do we fast? I know we don't do it every Sunday.

Dad: Unless there is a special conference on the first Sunday of the month, fast Sunday is always held on that day. Fast Sunday is also a time when we share our testimonies. The Spirit of our Heavenly Father always seems to be very close during testimony-bearing time. Do you think that might be because we are fasting? **Glen:** Sure. I love testimony meeting. It really does make me think more about Heavenly Father. But can we fast only on Fast Sunday?

Dad: No, we can fast whenever we want to or whenever we need special blessings for ourselves or others. Remember when Aunt Kathy had cancer? The whole family fasted and prayed for her. She was given a special blessing, too, and the operation and the treatments she had were successful.

Another very important reason we fast is so that we can be more humble and feel closer to Heavenly Father and have His guidance and influence in our lives.

Glen: How long do we go without food and water?

Dad: Your mother and I fast twenty-four hours, or from dinnertime one day until dinnertime the next day. **Glen:** That's a long time!

Dad: Yes, and because it isn't always easy, we can pray and ask our Heavenly Father for strength to complete our fast. The more often we fast, of course, the easier it becomes. The time will come when with prayer and practice you will be able to do the same.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

49. Milk Money (Based on a true story) Caleb Warnock, *Friend*, July 2006,

38

HYMN: *I Pray in Faith* p. 14

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 7:7

LESSON: Ten-year-old Vernon walked beside his father along the dusty road. He was helping herd the family's new milk cow to the corral behind their house. Vernon's father had been saving money to buy a cow because canned milk was too expensive and the family needed milk.

"What are we going to call her?" his father asked.

Vernon

thought for a moment. "I think we should call her Daisy," he said.

Vernon soon learned that Daisy had to be milked twice a day—every morning and every night. Before long Daisy was producing more milk than the family could drink.

One day Vernon's mother came home from a Relief Society activity and said that one of the women in the ward had a sick baby. The doctor had said that if the baby had fresh cow's milk to drink, he might get better.

"Since we have extra milk, would you please take a quart to Sister Goodman's house every morning before school?" asked Vernon's mother.

Vernon said he would. Sister Goodman did not live by the school so Vernon knew that he would have to get up early every morning to deliver the milk.

Each

morning before school Vernon stopped at Sister Goodman's house to deliver the jar of fresh milk. One day, just as he was saying good-bye to Sister Goodman, a neighbor asked Vernon to wait.

"Sister Goodman says you deliver the finest fresh milk around," the neighbor said. "Will you please ask your parents if we could have some delivered to our house too? We would pay for the milk, of course." That night, Vernon told his parents about what Sister Goodman's neighbor had asked. The next morning, Vernon delivered two quarts of milk, one to Sister Goodman and one to her neighbor. Before long, more neighbors wanted milk.

Soon almost everyone in town was asking if Vernon and his brothers could deliver fresh milk and butter to their homes. So many people wanted deliveries that Vernon's father started using the horses and wagon to take Vernon and his brothers around before school. They bought a second cow, and then a third.

Vernon and his brothers got up at 4 a.m. each morning in order to get all the milking and delivering done before school started. And every two weeks, Vernon and his brothers went around town after school to collect the money for the milk. Because so many people wanted milk, Vernon's father quit his job on the railroad. Now all of the

money the family had come from the milk business. One day after school, Vernon rode his horse from house to house collecting the milk money for the past two weeks. At each house he put the money into a leather pouch that he hung on the saddle.

When he got close to home, he realized the leather pouch was gone. He looked on the ground around his horse to see where it had fallen, but he couldn't find it.

Vernon got on his horse again and rode back up the road. He rode all the way back to town searching for the leather pouch, but he couldn't see it anywhere. As the sun began to set, he rode his horse up and down the dirt road two more times. Still he couldn't find the money.

As it got dark, Vernon knew his parents would expect him home soon. He also knew that the milk money was all his family had to buy food for the next two weeks. He felt sick to his stomach as he thought about going home without the money. He just couldn't go home until he found it.

Vernon thought he might get into trouble for losing the money. For a moment he thought about hiding so he wouldn't get into trouble. But he knew that would only cause his parents to worry. Then he remembered that you should pray to Heavenly Father when you need help. Vernon got off his horse and knelt down at the side of the road. As he prayed, he explained that he had lost the money and couldn't find it. He asked Heavenly Father to help him find the leather pouch before it got too dark to see.

When he finished praying, Vernon felt that if he would walk instead of ride the horse, he would find the money. But the sun was going down and Vernon knew this was his last chance to look before it got dark. If he rode his horse he could go faster, he thought to himself. But once again, he felt he should walk.

Leading his horse by the reins, Vernon began walking back toward town. As he walked, Vernon looked everywhere—behind weeds and rocks and in old, dried-up mud puddles.

Then, about halfway to town, Vernon kicked a large tumbleweed. There on the road where the tumbleweed had been sitting was the leather pouch. A few of the coins were spilled on the ground. As Vernon gathered the coins, he could see that all of the money was still there.

Vernon knew that if he had ridden his horse down the road again, he would have missed the leather pouch and it would have been too dark to look again. He knelt by the side of the road and thanked Heavenly Father for helping him find the leather pouch.

When Vernon got home, he told his mom and dad about how he had lost and found the money. He told them that he had prayed and had felt that he should walk instead of ride his horse. That night, Vernon and his family knelt together in prayer and thanked Heavenly Father for helping Vernon find the milk money.

“Inspiration ... comes to us as we bend our knees and seek the help of God.”

President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “Pathways to Perfection,” *Ensign*, May 2002, 100.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

50. Friend to Friend: The Power of Prayer Kellene Ricks Adams and L. Edward
Brown, *Friend*, June 2002, 8

HYMN: *Children All Over the World* p. 16

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kgs. 19:20

LESSON: I have a very deep and strong faith in the power of prayer, and I developed that testimony when I was very young. Although in my early childhood my father was not active in the Church, my mother taught my brothers and sisters and me about prayer. In Primary, I also learned about the importance of prayer. Later on, my father began to attend church. In fact, he was called to be our branch president. Prayer became an important part of our family.

I remember very clearly an experience I had when I was about twelve years old. It was a Saturday, and my father and I were at the meetinghouse,

preparing the building for meetings the next day. All of a sudden, my father stopped. “I feel that we need to go home,” he said. So we locked up the building and left.

At home, Dad took a shower and put on his suit. Almost immediately the phone rang. My mother, who had left earlier in the day to attend a Primary leadership meeting, had been in a terrible car accident. She and the other sisters in the car had been taken to the hospital. The doctors didn’t expect my mother to live. My father left immediately for the hospital. I had a paper route and left to deliver my papers. I didn’t understand exactly what had happened, but I knew that my mother was hurt very seriously. During my route, I stopped and knelt in a secluded area. I poured out my heart to Heavenly Father, asking Him to bless and help my mother. I felt a strong assurance that she would be all right. After I

finished my paper route, I stopped to visit my younger sister, who was baby-sitting. We knelt together and prayed for my mother. Afterward, we felt a deep sense of peace.

In the months that followed, we relied heavily on those feelings we had received as we prayed. My mother had sustained very serious brain damage, and she was in a coma for weeks. Even after she returned home, she was never the same. Her physical and mental health was fragile, and her memory had been affected. But she had a profound faith and a deep love for us, her children.

That experience strengthened my testimony that Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers. When I knelt to pray for my mother that first time, I hadn’t known just how badly she had been hurt. In fact, I prayed that her arm would not be broken. But Heavenly Father understood. That’s the beauty of prayer and the Spirit. The Lord understands our heart, and we don’t have to worry about saying exactly the right thing. We can just relax and pray with a sincere heart, knowing that our prayers will be heard.

My wife and I have taught our children about the importance of prayer. They learned at a very young age that they could turn to Heavenly Father for help and guidance. I remember one experience when our family had just returned from Korea. I had served as a mission president there for three years. Although the experience was wonderful, our family was exhausted. A friend offered to let us use his cabin for a much-needed vacation.

We were excited! We headed up to the mountain and found the cabin. As we got out of the car, we were attacked by mosquitoes. It felt as if they were thick enough to carry us away.

We ran to the door, only to discover that the key we had been given didn’t fit in the lock! We were desperate. We ran around the cabin, trying to find another way to get in. We even considered trying to break in through a window, but we didn’t want to damage the building. After only a few

minutes, I heard my six-year-old son, Steven, yell out, “I’ve opened the door. Come on in, everybody!”

I couldn’t believe it, but as I rounded the corner of the cabin, I saw Steven standing at the door, waving everyone inside. After we’d escaped the mosquitoes, I asked, “Steven, how did you find the key? What happened?”

His answer was simple: “I closed my eyes and told Heavenly Father that we needed to find another key. I opened my eyes and saw a rock lying nearby. I had the feeling that a key was under the

rock. And there was!”

I have seen such experiences happen over and over again. When a child or an adult prays in simple faith, his prayer is answered. Two years ago, my granddaughter Sarah started first grade. At first, she appeared to love it. But within only a couple of weeks, she started to cry every morning and beg her parents to let her stay home. They asked what was wrong, but she either couldn't or wouldn't tell them. They talked to her teacher, who had no idea what the problem might be. Sarah was well liked, she had friends, and she was doing well in her schoolwork.

One day after Sarah returned from school particularly upset, her father asked if she thought it would help if they knelt in prayer as a family the next morning and asked for Heavenly Father's help. "Oh, yes, Dad," Sarah replied. "I think that would help."

The next morning, the family went through their regular routine, Sarah crying and protesting but eventually ending up in the car, ready to go to school. "Wait, Dad," Sarah said just before they left. "We forgot to pray."

Sarah and her father went back inside and knelt in prayer with her mother and little sister. They prayed specifically that Sarah would have a happy day and a good time at school. That afternoon, when her father picked her up, Sarah left the building with her arms raised in victory. "Prayer works, Dad!" she exclaimed. "Prayer works!"

It most certainly does! I know that Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers. I know that He understands the intent and purposes of our hearts. And I know that He will give us the guidance and help we need to live our lives righteously and return to live with Him.

Additional Helps: Idea List: Pray with Power *New Era*, Aug. 2006, 7

Prayers have moved mountains. They have brought down fire from heaven. They have even raised the dead. Although we may not always receive dramatic answers to our prayers, prayer can be a powerful tool in our lives. Try these ideas to make your communication with Heavenly Father more meaningful and powerful.

- Before you pray, think about all the blessings you have been given during the day, and thank Heavenly Father for them. Once in a while, offer a prayer of gratitude, not asking God for anything but thanking Him for what you have already received from Him.

- Pray with faith, believing that God hears you and will answer you.
- Prayer is a process of bringing our will into agreement with Heavenly Father's. Remember to sincerely say a phrase such as "if it is Thy will" when you ask for blessings. He will bless you according to His will for you, and you need to be willing to accept it.

- Be awake and aware. If you are usually too tired to pray before you go to bed, try saying an evening prayer just before or after dinnertime.

- When you ask for a blessing, do all you can in your power to make your situation better while you patiently wait for answers to your prayers.

- Always have a prayer in your heart. Pray about your family, your homework, your safety—everything that is of concern to you. You could remind yourself by deciding to pray silently whenever you hear a telephone ring or every time you open a door.

• In your prayers, ask Heavenly Father if there is anything He wants you to pray about or to do, and then listen.

• Ask the right question to get the answer you need. For instance, if you pray for relief from a burden and it doesn't go away, try praying for strength to bear your burden.

• Pray with real intent. If you ask God to forgive you for committing a sin, be sure you really intend to give up the sin. If you ask for a blessing, be sure you are willing to do what He asks you to do to receive that blessing.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

51. My Sister, My Example Shanna Butler, *The Friend (Liahona)*, July 2006, F8

Based on a true story

HYMN: *The Thirteenth Article of Faith* p. 132

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: D&C 136:20

LESSON:

When I was about eight years old, I lived in Jamaica. Jamaica can be very hot. I was so excited one day when my aunt invited me to go with her and my cousin to the house of a friend who had a swimming pool. A cool pool on a sunny day sounded great.

My mother said I could go but that I couldn't swim since she didn't know who would be there to watch us. I told her I would just put my feet in the pool to get cool.

When I got to the house, my cousin immediately jumped in the pool. Some of our other friends came over and started to swim too. Everyone kept begging me to come in the pool, and finally I gave in. It was so hot outside, and I thought my mom wouldn't know because my aunt said she wouldn't tell her.

I knew my aunt was wrong to keep secrets from my mother, but I played with my friends for a while in the pool anyway. I was so scared the whole time about what would happen if my mother knew I had disobeyed her. When we got home, my hair was a little wet, even though I had tried to keep it out of the water. My mom asked me if I had gone swimming, and I lied. I told her no. I felt really bad about it for a really long time, but I didn't want to get in trouble.

A few years later, when my sister, Briélan, was seven, she was invited to go to the beach with some friends and their parents. My mom told her the same thing she had told me: go and have fun, but don't go swimming. When my sister got to the beach, her friends' parents told her she could go ahead and swim. They wouldn't tell her mother, so it would be OK.

Even though my sister thought my mom would never know, she told her friends' parents that she would not go swimming because her mother had asked her not to, and she wanted to be obedient. The grown-ups tried to convince her it was OK, but she still said no because she knew she should do what was right, and they were trying to get her to do something wrong.

My sister's day at the beach was just as hot as mine at the pool, and she wanted to swim just as badly as I did. But my little sister became my big example when she chose to honor our parents by obeying them.

When my mom told me this story about my sister, I told her how I had lied to her. She was thankful that I finally told her the truth. She was very proud of my little sister, who had chosen to obey her, and so was I.

[Honesty]

"Honesty is a very important part of character. ... Honesty begins when we are young."

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "We Seek After These Things," Ensign, May 1998, 44.

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Discuss what it means to be honest. Read the quote by President James E. Faust. Including the stories in the article, pass out other stories with examples of honesty and dishonesty. Let each family member read or role-play his or her story and discuss the blessings of being honest.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

52. To Hear the Angels Sing Sheila Kindred, *Friend*, Dec. 2001, 4 Based on a true incident

HYMN: *When Joseph Went to Bethlehem* p. 38

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 11:15

LESSON: Carrie settled down on the floor in front of a display case full of Christmas jewelry. She waved to her big brother, and he grinned. He was standing on the risers with other members of the children's choir waiting to begin their Christmas concert at the mall. She thought he looked very handsome in his choir uniform. The boys in the choir were all dressed alike in white shirts with red-striped ties. The girls all wore blue dresses with lacy white collars and a red rose. They looked very dressed-up.

Carrie thought back to earlier in the day, when the choir had given a concert in a local church. The church had very tall stained-glass windows that reflected a softly-colored rainbow of light across the children's faces as they sang. Their beautiful voices rose to the high rafters of the church. Mom had said that they sounded just like angels. *Like the angels that announced the birth of Jesus Christ to the shepherds long ago*, Carrie hoped.

Now the choir was giving the same concert at the shopping mall, but things felt different here. Carrie looked around. She was impatient for the concert to begin, but not if it was going to be this noisy. A nearby cash register was making loud beeps as a store clerk rang up sales. There was a person in a teddy-bear costume

entertaining some giggling children. People were talking loudly around a large Christmas tree decorated with gifts that could be bought at the different stores in the mall.

Finally the concert began. A boy in the choir stepped forward and began to sing a solo with a violin accompaniment. When Carrie had heard this song in the church, it made her feel joyful. At the church, everyone had listened quietly. She had even noticed tears in the eyes of some of those in the audience. As she looked around the shopping mall now, few people were listening. Most were busy shopping or chatting or eating. She didn't see reverent tears in anyone's eyes.

When the concert was over, she was sad that hardly anyone had really listened to the beautiful music. Taking her mother's hand, she walked out of the mall to meet her brother.

"Did the shepherds listen to the angels, Mom?" she asked. "Or were they too busy tending the sheep?" Mom smiled. "They listened, Carrie. That's how they knew where to find Baby Jesus."

"Did the angels sing for anyone besides the shepherds?" "I don't know. The scriptures don't tell us about anyone else." "What about all the people staying near the stable? You told me that there were so many people in Bethlehem that there wasn't any room in the inns for Mary and Joseph."

"The city was very crowded that night. But I suppose those people were too tired to listen to angels after their long journey to Bethlehem. Or maybe they were busy finding a place to sleep, preparing food, or thinking about the taxes they'd have to pay."

Carrie thought about that for a few minutes, then sighed. "Mom, I hope that no matter what I'm doing, I'll always be able to hear the angels sing."

"Me, too." Mom gave Carrie a hug. "Me, too."

Nativity Ornaments Friend, Dec. 2001, 31

To make the ornaments, you will need: heavy paper, glue, scissors, crayons or markers, and paper clips.

1. Glue this page to heavy paper and let the glue dry.
2. Cut out the ornaments and punch a hole in each small circle.
3. On the back of each ornament, draw your own picture of the same event or of a modern Christmas decoration.
4. Bend a paper clip into a hanger and hook one end through the hole.
5. Read aloud Sweet Little Baby have family members can take turns hanging the ornaments on your Christmas tree.

Sweet Little Baby Linda Hoffman Kimball, Friend, Dec. 2001, 10

Sweet little Baby
Resting in the hay,
Do You know why shepherds come
To worship You today?
Sweet little Baby,
While Mary hummed to Thee,

Angels sang out "Gloria!"
O'er flock and field and tree.
Sweet little Baby
Peaceful in the night,
Shepherds ran here breathless
To see this wondrous sight.
Sweet little Baby
Wrapped up snug and tight,
You set them free from fear and death
By being born tonight.
Sweet little Baby
Smiling at these men,
In time, You'll be their Shepherd
To guide them home again.

(Clockwise from top center) *The Birth of Christ* by Carl Bloch; *Annunciation to the Shepherds* by Del Parson; *The Annunciation* by Robert T. Barrett; *Flight into Egypt* artist unknown; *No Room at the Inn* by Robert T. Barrett; *The Arrival* by Michael Albrechtsen

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:



53. The Gift of the Holy Ghost: What Every Member Should Know Boyd

K. Packer, *Liahona*, Aug. 2006, 18 From an address given on June 24, 2003, at a seminar for new mission presidents, Missionary Training Center, Provo, Utah.

Preparation: This is long. Read ahead and pray about what to share with your family. Then prepare the activity to go with your family home evening.

HYMN: *The Fourth Article of Faith* p. 124

OPENING PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:2-4

LESSON: My purpose is to teach you through doctrine and scripture why it is that we do things as we do. I will give some direction and suggestions as to how we can do things better in order that each member of the Church will be thoroughly converted and never will fall away.

Joseph Smith said: “You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if not done in view of the remission of sins and getting of the Holy Ghost. 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” (*History of the Church*, 5:499).

To prepare people for baptism without teaching about the gift of the Holy Ghost is like a sacrament meeting where only the bread is blessed and passed. They would receive but half.

We will discuss linking baptism in an absolutely tight relationship to confirmation and the conferring of the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Confirmation and Conferring the Gift of the Holy Ghost

Confirmation has two parts: to confirm as a member of the Church and then to confer the gift of the Holy Ghost. The priesthood holder performing that ordinance “bestows the gift of the Holy Ghost by saying, ‘Receive the Holy Ghost’ ” (*Family Guidebook* [pamphlet, 2001], 20). There are two examples of the visible manifestation of the Holy Ghost I know of in the scriptures. The first was when the Lord was baptized:

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him” (**Matt. 3:16**; see also **1 Ne. 11:27**; **2 Ne. 31:8**; **D&C 93:15**).

The other example came on the day of Pentecost. The Apostles had no doubt been ordained, but the Lord had now left them. They wondered what to do. They remembered He told them to stay in Jerusalem, and so they obeyed. And then it happened. They were in a house, and there was “a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. “And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost” (**Acts 2:2–4**). Then they were authorized; they were prepared.

Then they could move about in the ministry that the Lord had called and commissioned them to do. In the Doctrine and Covenants that pattern was repeated when the Lord said: “Thou didst baptize by water unto repentance, but they received not the Holy Ghost;

“But now I give unto thee a commandment, that thou shalt baptize by water, and they shall receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, even as the apostles of old” (**D&C 35:5–6**).

When Paul went to Ephesus he found 12 men who had been baptized, but they had not yet received the Holy Ghost.

They said to Paul, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost” (Acts 19:2).

What happened next is significant. Paul had them baptized again. Then he conferred upon them, by the laying on of hands, the gift of the Holy Ghost (see Acts 19:2–7).

Remember the fourth article of faith: “The first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.” [A of F 1:4]

When parents are teaching their children and when missionaries are teaching investigators, preparing them for baptism by water, they 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.

Someone may ask the missionaries, “How are things going?” or “Are you teaching anyone?” The missionaries automatically answer, “Yes, we have a family preparing for baptism and confirmation, *for receiving the Holy Ghost*.” Or a father and mother might say to a child, “When you are eight years old, you will be ready to be baptized and *receive the Holy Ghost*.”

I repeat, *to be baptized* and *to receive the Holy Ghost*—link those two together.

All I say is evident and outlined in section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants (see D&C 20:41–43, 45, 68). There are also some other references where this message is affirmed (see Acts 8:12, 14–17; D&C 33:11, 15; D&C 36:2; D&C 39:23; D&C 49:13–14; D&C 55:1; D&C 68:25; D&C 76:51–52; A of F 1:4). Joseph Smith said, “The baptism of water, without the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost attending it, is of no use; they are necessarily and inseparably connected” (*History of the Church*, 6:316).

Baptism of Fire

I want to talk to you about the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. I also want to talk to you about angels.

“When they were all baptized and had come up out of the water, the Holy Ghost did fall upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and with fire” (3 Ne. 19:13).

An excerpt from another verse teaches that this will come “if it so be that ye believe in Christ, and are baptized, first with water, then with fire and with the Holy Ghost, following the example of our Savior” (Morm. 7:10).

Again, there are *two* parts to baptism—baptism by water and baptism by fire or the Holy Ghost. If you separate the two, as the Prophet Joseph Smith said, it is but half a baptism.

Communication from the Holy Ghost

How does the Holy Ghost communicate?

There is an example in 1 Nephi chapter 17 where Laman and Lemuel had been brutal to Nephi. They, in fact, had tried to take his life. In due course he said to them: “Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to

time; and he hath spoken unto you in a *still small voice*, but ye were past *feeling*, that ye could not *feel* his words” (1 Ne. 17:45; emphasis added).

That communication seldom comes audibly. Most of the time it comes through your *feelings*, as it did in this case. Another example: The Lord taught this principle to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery: “You must study it out in your mind [work, study]; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you [the fire, burn]; therefore, you shall *feel* that it is right” (D&C 9:8; emphasis added). This applies to all of us.

Speaking with the Tongue of Angels

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism—yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost.” Now this important principle: “And *then can ye speak with the tongue of angels*, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.

“But, behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying: After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire [that is the conferring] of the Holy Ghost, [ye] can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels” (2 Ne. 31:13–14; emphasis added).

Nephi explains clearly what happens after baptism and confirmation and the reception of the Holy Ghost: “Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do; for, for this cause have they been shown unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water [which is a symbolic witness of repentance]; and then cometh [the promise of cleansing for] a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost” (2 Ne. 31:17).

We sometimes speak of baptism for the remission of sins. The remission, if you will read the scriptures carefully, comes through the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost.

“And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way.” Here is someone who has been baptized and received the Holy Ghost, and they wonder what they are to do. Nephi answers: “But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts?” “Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?”

“Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Ne. 32:1–3).

Everything that missionaries are to know and to do is to bring their investigators to understand both baptism and confirmation. Then the investigators have

their agency. Consider these simple words: “Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

“For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and *receive the Holy Ghost*, it will show unto you *all things* what ye should do.

“Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh” (2 Ne. 32:4–6; emphasis added).

Now you must understand that baptism by water, as the Prophet Joseph Smith said plainly, is but half a baptism. Paul, when they had not received the Holy Ghost, started over again (see Acts 19:2–7).

You can receive this great blessing—to become familiar with the still, small voice and learn that this voice will tell you all things that you must do. The word we use to describe this communication is *promptings*, the way we *feel*. These promptings can come many times, through many experiences. That is the voice of the Lord speaking.

Nephi explained that angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost, and you can speak with the tongue of angels, which simply means that you can speak with the power of the Holy Ghost. It will be quiet. It will be invisible. There will not be a dove. There will not be cloven tongues of fire. But the power will be there.

Missionaries sometimes think they are only to do half the work; they are to teach and then baptize by water, and that concludes their work. In many cases the other half, the teaching about the baptism of fire, never really gets done. Put the two together so that you almost forbid yourself to say “baptism” without saying “confirmation”—that is baptism of the water and confirmation and the conferring of the gift of the Holy Ghost. Get that idea in your mind with those two fixed together so tightly that, as one, it becomes part of you. Then we will not have the first half done, as is often the case at present, and the other half left undone.

Remember what Joseph Smith said: “You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if not done in view of the remission of sins and getting of the Holy Ghost. 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.”

Missionaries—and parents as well—are to teach both halves: “Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins [and the] Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost” (A of F 1:4). Make it one sentence. Fix it in the front of your minds so that when you say one, you say the other, and when you think one, you think the other. Then you will begin to *feel* and understand, and the promptings will come.

Opposition by the Adversary

One word of warning: there is also a spirit of opposition and evil. That warning can also be found in the scriptures: “Whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil; for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no, not one; neither do his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him” (Moro. 7:17).

The spiritual communications from the Holy Ghost can be interrupted by the promptings and influence of the evil one. You will learn to recognize that.

To further our understanding of this

principle, Nephi taught: “If ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray” (2 Ne. 32:8–9).

So when we speak of angels communicating by the power of the Holy Ghost and we are told by the prophets that we can speak with the tongue of angels, then we must know that there is an opposing influence. We must be able to detect it.

There is one word in the book of Jacob that should alert us: “Behold, will ye reject these words? Will ye reject the words of the prophets; and will ye reject all the words which have been spoken concerning Christ, after so many have spoken concerning him; and deny the good word of Christ, and the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and *quench* the Holy Spirit, and make a mock of the great plan of redemption?” (Jacob 6:8; emphasis added). **So the Spirit can be quenched!**

Discerning Spiritual Experiences

When you receive these special spiritual experiences, they are not to be chattered about. They are private, and they are personal. You will come to know with a very personal conviction that the Lord knew you were coming that way.

You may learn by trial and error and say: “I *knew* I shouldn’t have done that. I *knew* I shouldn’t have!” How did you know? Because you knew. You were being *prompted*.

Or you will say regretfully, “I knew I should have done that and didn’t.” How will you know? You are being worked upon by the Spirit.

Promptings may come as “sudden strokes of ideas” (*History of the Church*, 3:381).

and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost” (D&C 8:2).

“I will tell you in your mind
“Put your trust
in that Spirit which leadeth to do good—yea, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit.

“... I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy;

“And then shall ye know, or by this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which are pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive” (D&C 11:12–14).

“Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?” (D&C 6:23).

Conversion

Conversion does not always happen immediately. Nevertheless, it comes as a quiet thing. It is a still, small voice. There are these very interesting verses in the book of Alma:

“Blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble; or rather, in other words, blessed is he that believeth in the word of God, and is *baptized without stubbornness of heart*, yea, without being brought to know the word, or even compelled to know, before they will believe.

“Yea, there are many who do say: If thou wilt show unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe” (Alma 32:16–17);

emphasis added). Investigators may say: “It looks right and feels right. I still don’t know about it. It just feels good.” Reason is prompting them, and they are baptized without stubbornness of heart. So the conversion comes. Others may say: “You talk about this gift of the Holy Ghost and baptism by fire. Show me! Give me the witness, and then I will be baptized.” For some it will take time. They may be disappointed when you say: “You will know *after* you decide! It takes an exercise of faith. You may not know at first and have that firm conviction, but it will come.”

The Word of Wisdom

Surely you can understand where the Word of Wisdom fits into this. How significant it is, “given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all saints, who are or can be called saints” (D&C 89:3).

This principle comes with a promise: “Run and not be weary, . . . walk and not faint” (D&C 89:20). That is desirable.

But there is a more important promise: “And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures” (D&C 89:19).

Can you see the necessity of the Word of Wisdom? We press our people, almost beg our people, to behave themselves, to keep their spiritual person in tune so that they can have the reception of the Holy Ghost. Your body is the instrument of your mind and spirit. You must take proper care of it.

Never Will Fall Away

If people are properly taught, they never will fall away: “And as sure as the Lord liveth [that is an oath], so sure as many as believed, or as many as were brought to the knowledge of the truth, through the preaching of Ammon and his brethren, according to the spirit of revelation and of prophecy, and the power of God working miracles in them—yea, I say unto you, as the Lord liveth [a second oath], as many of the Lamanites as believed in their preaching, and were converted unto the Lord, *never did fall away*” (Alma 23:6; emphasis added). Those who have been taught and who receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, the baptism of fire, will never fall away. They will be connected to the Almighty, who will guide them in their lives.

The Comforter

You never need to feel or be alone: “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; . . . “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:16, 18). “The field is white already to harvest; wherefore, thrust in your sickles, and reap with all your might, mind, and strength.

“Open your mouths and they shall be filled. . .

Yea, open your mouths and spare not, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your backs, for lo, I am with you” (D&C 33:7–9).

The baptismal

prayer given in the Book of Mormon states: “These are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: “Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen” (3 Ne.

11:24–25).

I bear witness of these words and of these Names. I invoke the blessings of the Lord upon you as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ to the end that His Spirit will be with you, and you will understand and can move forward accompanied by that power of the Holy Ghost.

Activity: Draw some pictures of familiar objects or write some common phrases on pieces of paper, and fold each one in half. Show one half, and have family members guess what’s on the other half. Read the Prophet Joseph Smith’s quotes in this article, and discuss why baptism by water only is incomplete. Assign sections of the article to family members, and have them explain what their sections teach about the Holy Ghost.

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS: