

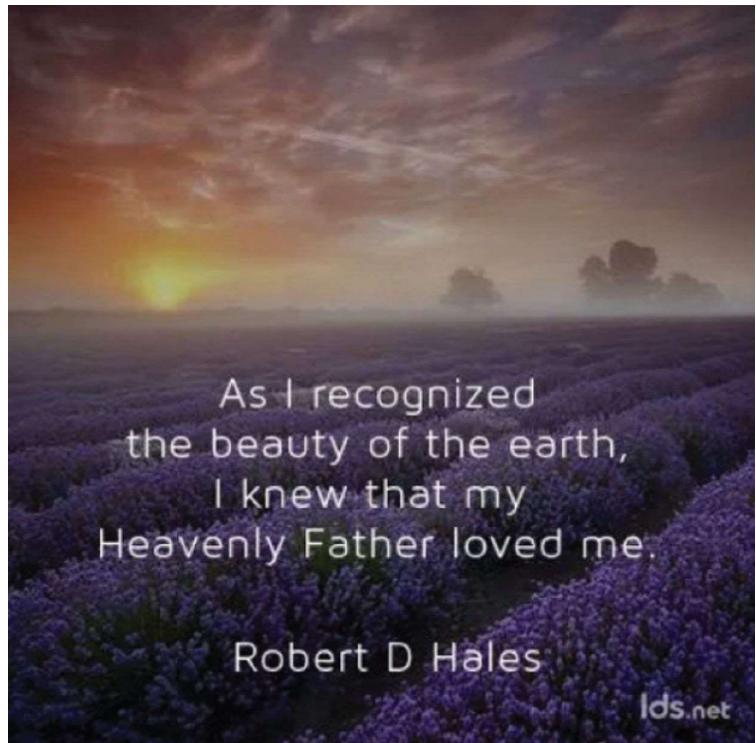
NORTH CANYON 5TH WARD SPIRE

Beauty of the Earth

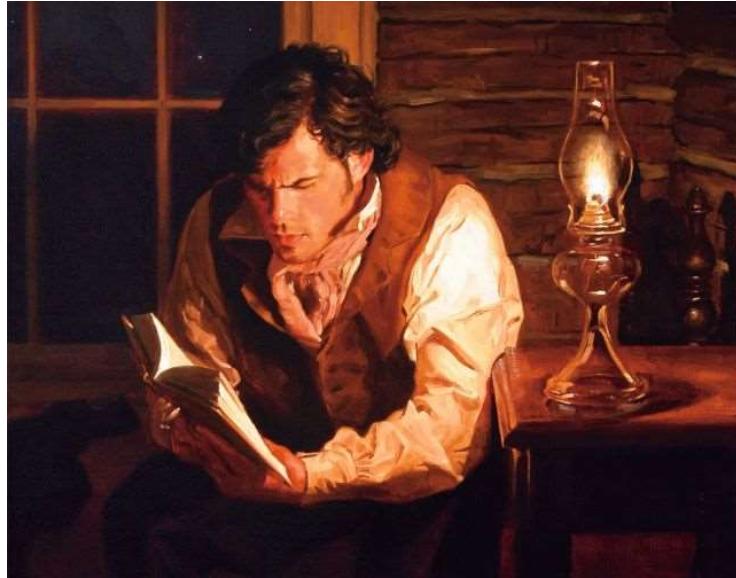
This past week while my family and I were driving to southern California, I was thinking about all the trips I had made with my parents without the aid of modern technology such as DVD players, video games, etc. that today keep our children occupied today. As I was thinking about my childhood trips, I realized my children were missing out on the beauty that God created by simply looking out the window of the car. I was reminded of the Hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth". A few lines of that hymn to consider, "For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth Over and around us lies, For the beauty of each hour, Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light. Chorus: Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise." As we continued our drive through Southern Utah, I challenged my children to look out the window and see the beauty. The conversation changed to another topic; however, it wasn't very long before our ten-year-old Deacon commented, "Those Mountains are beautiful." At that moment, the entire carload looked and recognized "The Beauty of the Earth." On the same trip, we took a small hike up to some tide pools. During that hike, the kids recognized the beauty of the coast. As we stood on the beach, it was rewarding to hear that my children also recognized the beauty that had been created for their benefit. In D&C 59:18 we read: Yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart. Later in verse 21 the Lord says: And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments. We don't need to take trips to see the beauty all around us. During this time of renewal, we see the death of winter transform to a rebirth of color and growth. In Genesis we learn, "out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight" (Gen. 2:9). I believe in the beauty of nature—the flowers, the fruit, the sky, the peaks, and the plains from which they rise. I especially love springtime as flowers bloom, grass greens, and trees bud.

President Hinckley said, "I see and admire beauty in people. I am not so concerned with the look that comes of lotions and creams, of pastes and packs, as seen in slick-paper magazines and on television. I am not concerned whether the skin be fair or dark. I have seen beautiful people in all of the scores of nations through which I have walked. Little children are beautiful everywhere. And so are the aged, whose wrinkled hands and faces speak of struggle and survival. I pray that we can take the time to, as the old cliché suggests to, "stop and smell the roses" and give thanks to our Father in Heaven for the Beauty of this Earth for beauty is all around us.

**Michael Wright and the 5th Ward
Bishopric**



Come Follow ME



Come Follow Me

March 29 – April 4

Easter

April 5 – 11

Doctrine and Covenants 30-36

April 12 – 18

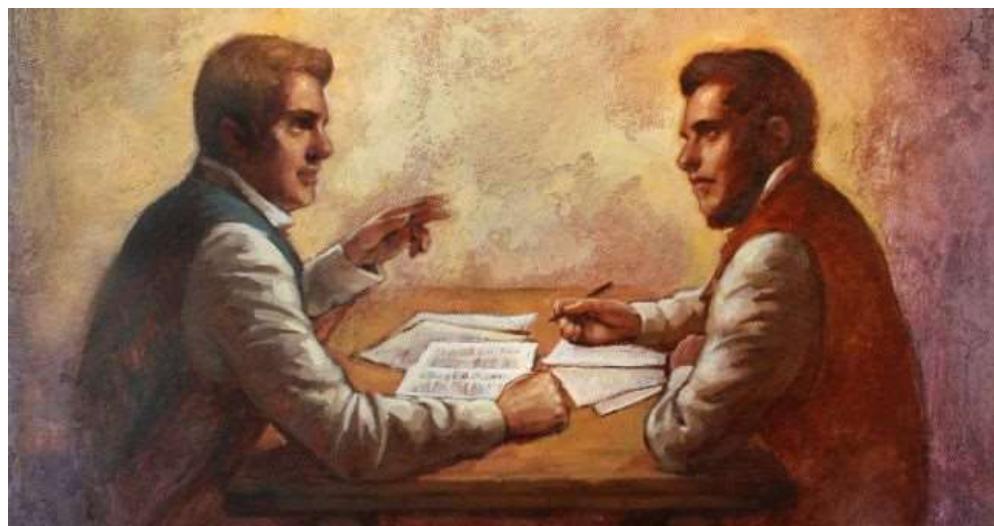
Doctrine and Covenants 37-40

April 19 – 25

Doctrine and Covenants 41-44

To Participate in the Gathering: A Commitment by Covenant

Here on earth, missionary work is crucial to the gathering of Israel. The gospel was to be taken first to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Consequently, servants of the Lord have gone forth proclaiming the Restoration. In many nations our missionaries have searched for those of scattered Israel; they have hunted for them “out of the holes of the rocks”; and they have fished for them as in ancient days. The choice to come unto Christ is not a matter of physical location; it is a matter of individual commitment. People can be “brought to the knowledge of the Lord” without leaving their homelands. True, in the early days of the Church, conversion often meant emigration as well. But now the gathering takes place in each nation. The Lord has decreed the establishment of Zion in each realm where He has given His Saints their birth and nationality. Scripture foretells that the people “shall be gathered home to the lands of their inheritance, and shall be established in all their lands of promise.” “Every nation is the gathering place for its own people.” The place of gathering for Brazilian Saints is in Brazil; the place of gathering for Nigerian Saints is in Nigeria; the place of gathering for Korean Saints is in Korea; and so forth. Zion is “the pure in heart.” Zion is wherever righteous Saints are. Publications, communications, and congregations are now such that nearly all members have access to the doctrines, keys, ordinances, and blessings of the gospel, regardless of their location. Spiritual security will always depend upon *how* one lives, not *where* one lives. Saints in every land have equal claim upon the blessings of the Lord.



Elder's Quorum

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of repentance. Because of the Savior’s Atonement, His gospel provides an invitation to keep changing, growing and becoming more pure.”

“The gospel is a message of joy! Our spirits rejoice with every small step forward we take.”

“Part of the gathering of Israel, and a very important part, is the charge for us as a people to be worthy and willing to help prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord.”

Pres. Russell M. Nelson



HONEST JON

by Jon Clark

©JCLARK

Ok brethren, all those who will volunteer to help with the move this Saturday, please slouch and look uninterested...Great-thanks for your overwhelming support!



How to get volunteers in Priesthood meeting...

Relief Society

Message from the Relief Society Presidency:

As the clouds of COVID lift, we are all beginning to emerge from figurative and literal states of isolation. Perhaps it is appropriate that this should occur in the Spring, during the season of renewal, hope and awakening.

Pondering this happy fact, I am reminded of a story my husband told our children about his great grandfather who was a farmer living in Star Valley, Wyoming. This ancestor would sometimes stand in the yard of his home on a hillside and look across the valley. Inspired by the beauty he beheld, he would exclaim in his Scottish accent, “Lukabucha,” which, in standard American English meant, “Look about you.” No matter what life has handed you, in good times and in bad, this is good advice.

Similarly, a poem I discovered decades ago inspires within me gratitude to Heavenly Father and our Savior for providing us with sensory reminders of Their promises of resurrection and eternal life if we step outside and simply “lukabucha.”



i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any--lifted from the no
of all nothing--human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

ee cummings



May we approach this season with open, grateful, and hopeful eyes—eyes that see the beauty in nature and in our fellow humans--and with ears to hear the reassuring sounds of new life and the whisperings of the Spirit.

Linda Schneider

The lesson schedule for the month of April is as follows:

April 11 Lesson given by Courtney Morrill: “Keep the Change,” by Sister Craven

April 26 Lesson to be given by Brooke Freebairn: “Ask, Seek, Knock,” by President Camargo

Humanitarian Committee

Hi Neighbors!



Congratulations to the Nathan & Elena Davis Family for winning the camp stove for the March drawing!

For April's 72-hour kit Challenge, we want to focus on Emergency Shelter. Our focus is on making sure that everyone has a mylar blanket & emergency tent in case of disaster. Please make this a priority and pack your items in your 72-hour bags. These blankets and tents can be found online and in camping areas of stores. These are lightweight and meant to be easily packed.

If you can, also purchase a small stove, candles, and matches in water-proof container for heat.

Finally, consider purchasing a tent that fits your household and sleeping bags for each member. If an emergency hits and you can stay at home, having a tent in your house will keep you warmer in the winter if the power is off and sleeping bags will help regulate your body temperature.

Thank you for working with us in getting yourself and families ready for emergencies! As always, once your mylar blanket & emergency tent is bought and, in your packs, contact Leilani (text 801-831-2210 or Leilani@BHHSUtah.com) to have your name entered into this month's drawing on May 1st. The prize will be an emergency tent (that fits 2 – 4 people) with 2 emergency sleeping bags.

As an additional note, if you ordered the backpacks, you have the mylar blanket, stove & matches already. Just order an emergency tent I have contacted ReadyWise and they will still honor the pricing of \$64.65 / backpack with code "North Canyon 5." So, think of Mother's Day / Father's Day / new family members, etc. Just call Mike Hatch at 801-928-2369.

Humanitarian Committee



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

72-HOUR KIT

Humanitarian Committee



MYLAR BLANKET

One for each member of your household. Cost around \$1 - \$3, depending on pack size and thickness.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

April Challenge

ALPINE SKI HOUSE



EMERGENCY TENT

Enough tent(s) to fit your household. Cost is usually under \$20 for a 2 – 4-person survival tent.



Camping Heating Stove

EMERGENCY HEAT SOURCE

Small stove, candles, and matches in water-proof container (for heat). This is an example. Cost is under \$20.

ALPINE SKI HOUSE



TENT FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD

If you can stay at home, using a tent in your house will keep you warmer in the winter if the power is off.



SLEEPING BAG

Look for warmer bags that pack lightly. Options include bags that can zip together or mummy bags.

APRIL CHALLENGE

1. Purchase emergency (mylar) blanket(s) and survival tent(s)
2. Pack in 72-Hour Kits
3. Enter family name in drawing for April
4. Purchase emergency heat source(s)
5. Work on getting household-sized tent and sleeping bags



ALPINE SKI HOUSE



THANK YOU

Leilani@BHHSUtah.com

801-831-2210 text with family name

Temple and Family History

April 2021

During the month of February Bishop Wright proposed an Indexing Challenge. This challenge turned out to be successful in that many records were indexed by members of our ward. So just what is indexing? Indexing is the process of entering information from a written historical record into a searchable database on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org). Those who index make it possible for others to discover their ancestors more easily and perform temple ordinances on their behalf.

Anyone can participate in the indexing process. It can be especially fulfilling for the youth, young adults, retired members who need something to keep themselves busy, and anyone who might be unable to attend church meetings regularly. It is a way to participate in the work of family history. For those who wish to participate in the indexing process it is important to remember a few things. Always read the instructions for indexing a particular type of document. For example, the instructions might be different for births from different places. Also, index only the information asked for and do not assume information if it is not recorded on the document. We might feel that there is information on a document that might be important to index, but only index the information asked for. Remember that indexing helps a member find information and they might be able to see the actual document that you have indexed.

Indexing can be fun!

Lawrence Schreiner
Ward Temple and Family History Leader





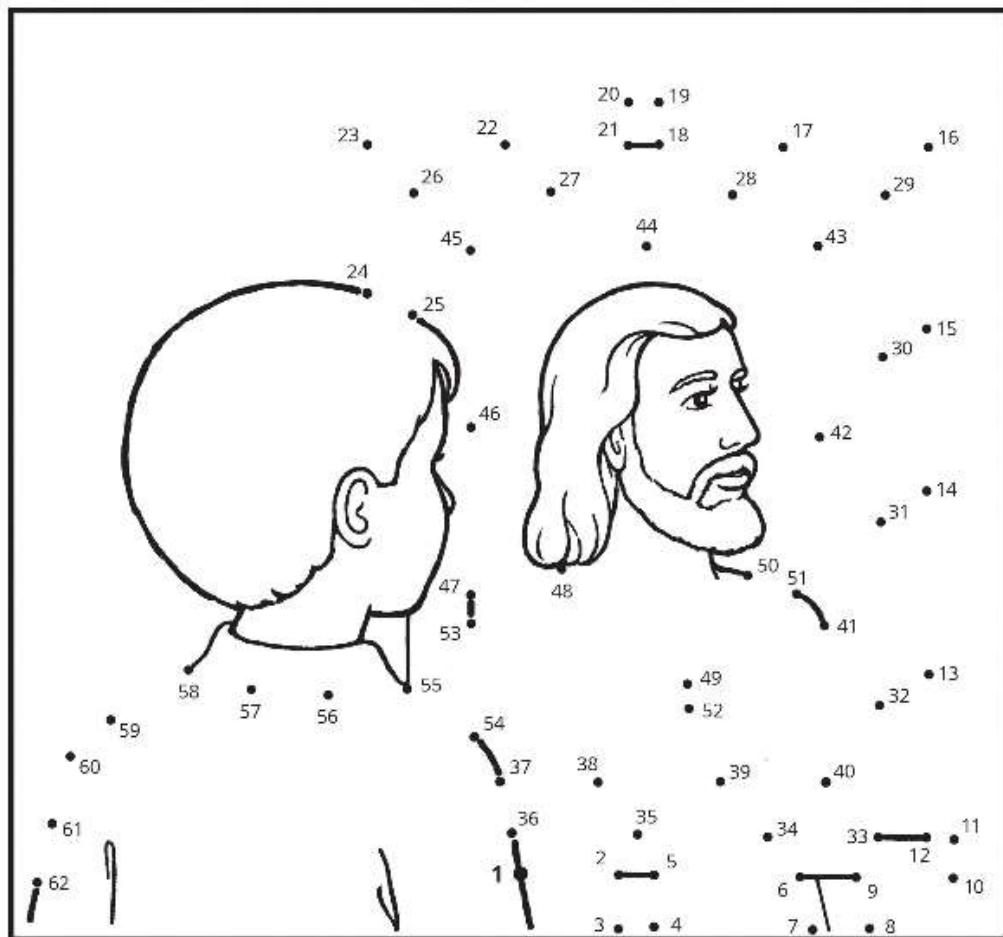
April 1
 Barbara Barnett
 Mark Calder
 Ranesha Seymore
April 3
 Andrea Vedaa
April 4
 Susan Brown
 Bruce Cochran
April 5
 Mathew Draper
April 6
 Tiffanie Hansen
April 7
 Tiare Porter

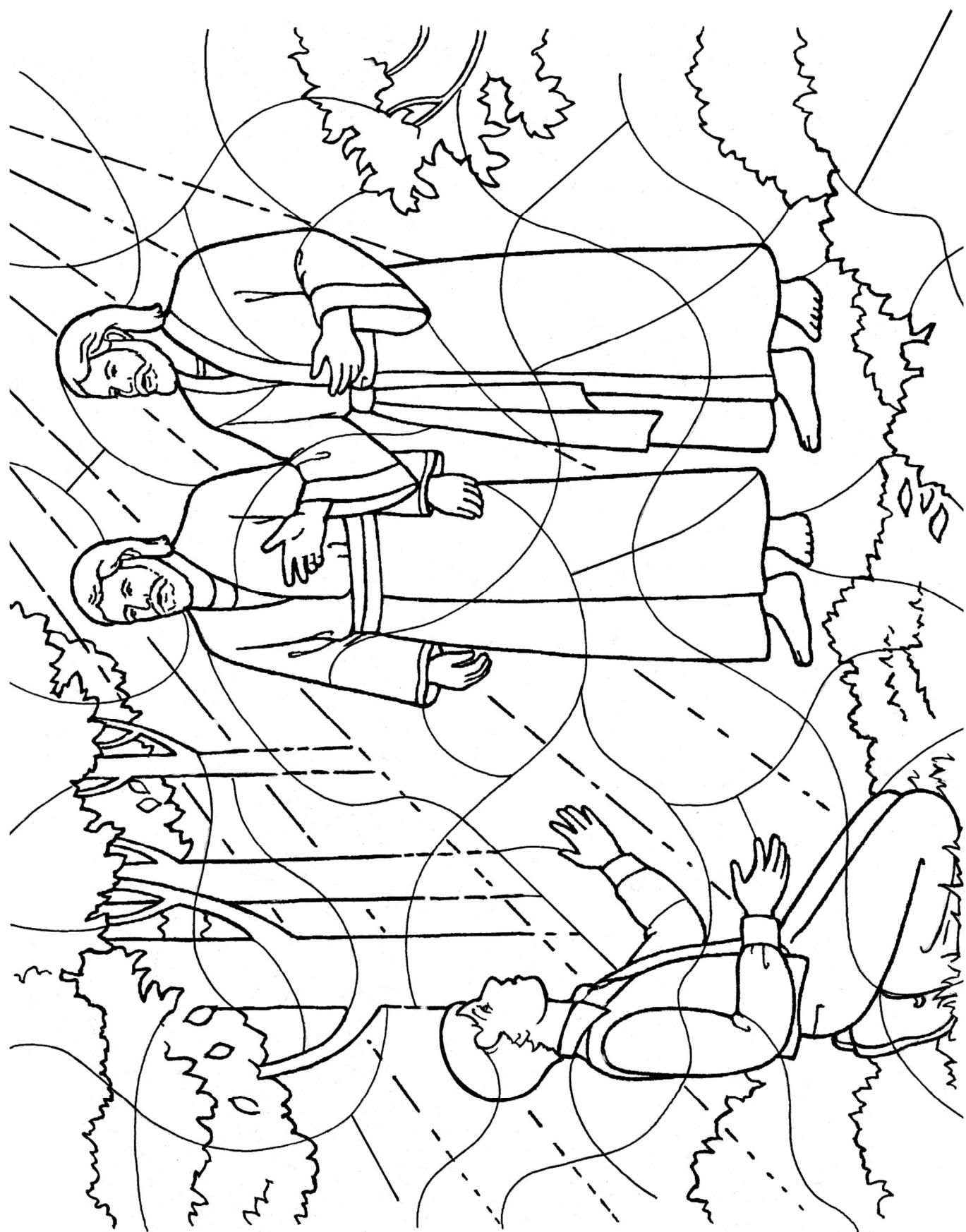
April 8
 Teresa Draper
April 9
 Jaren Garn
 Alissa Loftus
April 10
 Alan Meldrum
April 11
 Lincoln Loftus
April 12
 Lyndsey Nichols
 Jace Phillips
April 14
 Bailee Cooper
 Samuel Jensen
 Jason Mortensen

April 16
 Jennah Cutler
 Vicki Everett
 Ryan Gardner
April 17
 Angela Avei
 Bianca Hale
 David Pearson
April 18
 Tiffany Sorenson
April 20
 Karen Cochran
 Kevin Alcott
April 21
 Earnest Atwood
 Knox Miller

April 22
 Paulette Birdsall
 Jessica Erickson
 Gabriel Green
 Ashely Miller
 John Rogers
April 25
 River Larsen
 Wren Larsen
April 26
 Camille Jensen
 McKynlee Schnebly
 Sophia Wright
April 27
 Hope Jensen

April 28
 Steve Andrews
 Stevie Hansen
 Camryn Johnston
 Jonathan Waters
April 29
 Leslie Waters
 Elizabeth Radley
 Suzanne Tayler
April 30
 William Petersen
May 1
 Robert Aycock
 Casey Miller
May 2
 Adelyn Hansen
 Jeff Mann





President Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

Part of the gathering of Israel, and a significant part, "is the charge for us as a people to be worthy and willing to help prepare the world for the Second Coming."

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of repentance. "Because of the Savior's Atonement, His gospel provides an invitation to keep changing, growing and becoming more pure. It is a gospel of hope, of healing and of progress. Thus, the gospel is a message of joy! Our spirits rejoice with every small step forward we take."

During the past year, many have learned things they did not know previously. "Some lessons that I knew before have been written on my heart in new and instructive ways. The Lord directs the affairs of His Church; He has executed the hastening of His work – even during a global pandemic.

"My dear brothers and sisters, the strength of the Church lies in the efforts and ever-growing testimonies of its members. Testimonies are best cultivated in the home. During this past year, many of you have dramatically increased the study of the gospel in your homes."

**Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

God lives and cares about all His children, even in hours of turmoil, confusion and chaos. He has appeared in the latter days to restore truth and light, His gospel and His Church, and He speaks to prophets again.

"God is among us – and is personally involved in our lives and actively guiding His children."

Consider Heavenly Father's plan of salvation and exaltation, the plan of happiness for His children. He has provided instructions revealing the way back to Him, and at the center of it all is His beloved Son Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice. "Because of Jesus Christ, our failures do not have to define us. They can refine us. ... If we repent, mistakes do not disqualify us. They are part of our progress."

Heavenly Father loves with a perfect love and gave His Only Begotten Son as a sacrifice and a gift to His children to make the return to Heavenly Parents a reality.

"Open your hearts to our Savior and Redeemer, no matter your circumstances, trials, sufferings or mistakes; you can know that He lives, that He loves you, and because of Him, you will never be alone."

**President Joy D. Jones**

Primary general president

Children have never been secondary to Heavenly Father – they have always been "primary." Their care is primary to parents, as it is to Him. They are to be taught by word and example before and after they reach the age of accountability.

Becoming like the Savior will not happen randomly. As parents intentionally love, teach and testify, they can help children feel the influence of the Holy Ghost. Essential conversations about the gospel of Jesus Christ can lead them to understand the doctrine of repentance, have faith in Christ, choose baptism and the Holy Ghost and "pray and walk uprightly before the Lord."

These conversations can occur naturally. Additional opportunities can come through role-playing. By acting out situations of what to do when being tempted, children can be armed with "the shield of faith," rather than being caught unprepared on the battlefields of life.

Children deserve to understand the principle of agency. "As we nurture and prepare our children, we allow for their agency, we love them with all our heart, we teach them God's commandments and His gift of repentance, and we never, ever give up on them."

**Brother Jan E. Newman**

Of the Sunday School general presidency

Everyone deserves to have a learning experience both at home and at church that is doctrine-filled and invites individual learning.

Teachers can teach more like the Savior and help individuals become more deeply converted.

- "Take it upon yourself to learn all you can about the Master Teacher Himself."

- Truly life-changing conversion to the Savior "must involve our whole soul and permeate every aspect of our lives."

- "Remember that conversion must come from within."

Parents observe that their children inherit characteristics, but "a testimony is not one of them."

"We can teach [the word of God], we can preach it, we can explain it. We can talk about it, we can describe it, we can even testify of it. But until a person feels the sacred word of God distill upon his or her soul like the dews from heaven through the power of the Spirit, it will be like looking at a postcard or someone else's vacation photos. You have to go there yourself. Conversion is a personal journey."

**Elder Gary E. Stevenson**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Kindness is a fundamental, healing gospel principle.

Members of the Church are commanded to have "hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another" (Mosiah 18:21) and that "power or influence ought to be maintained ... by gentleness and meekness ... by kindness ... without guile" (Doctrine and Covenants 121:41-42)

Primary children should remember the Primary song "I'm Trying To Be Like Jesus" – "Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do."

For youth who participate in or passively observe any form of bullying, "I know of no better advice than that previously given by Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf: ... 'Stop it!' Did you hear that? Stop it!"

Adults have the responsibility of being role models of kindness, inclusion and civility and to teach Christlike behavior.

Even as individuals extend themselves in love, respect and kindness, they can be negatively affected by the bad choices of others. "What do we do then? We follow the Lord's admonition to 'love your enemies ... and pray for them which despitefully use you'"

**Elder Gerrit W. Gong**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

In this Easter season, Jesus Christ invites all to become like Him – and to make His inn, His Church, a refuge for all from life's storms.

"We prepare for His promised Second Coming as each day we do unto the 'least of these' as we would unto Him. The 'least of these' is each of us."

The Lord's disciples come to His inn with imperfections.

"Yet, we all have something needed to contribute. Our journey to God is often found together. We belong as a united community – whether confronting pandemics, storms, wildfires, droughts or quietly meeting daily needs. We receive inspiration as we counsel together, listening to each person, including each sister, and the Spirit."

The Savior's disciples are all equal. There is no "second class."

In Christ's inn, disciples learn true perfection by helping others. They become part of a gospel community centered in Christ and anchored in restored truth, prophets, the Book of Mormon and the temple.

"We rejoice that God loves His children in our different backgrounds and circumstances."

**President Henry B. Eyring**

Of the First Presidency

"The temple is a holy place where revelation comes to us easily if our hearts are open to it and we are worthy of it."

Those who attend the temple worthily can "see" the Savior "in the sense that He becomes no longer unknown to us" and can receive spiritual teaching about Him.

Hope, joy and optimism come through accepting ordinances performed in temples. "It is in the temple we can receive the assurance of loving family connections that will continue after death and last for eternity."

Eternal happiness depends on doing "our best to offer the same lasting happiness to as many of our kindred as we can," on both sides of the veil.

Youth who receive a temple recommend to perform proxy baptisms will learn "that the ordinances of the temple always point to the Savior and His Atonement."

"I pray that you will try to build desire in the hearts of Heavenly Father's children to go [to the temple], where they can feel close to Him, and that you will also invite your ancestors to qualify to be with Him and with you forever."



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Challenging times are part of mortal life, but the reassuring message of Christ is that He is "our refuge and strength, [our] very present help in [times of] trouble."

Today, conflict, contention and general incivility abound. Though the current generation has not had a third world war to fight, "we are ... facing a kind of third world war that is not a fight to crush our enemies, but a conscription marshaling the children of God to care more about each other and to help heal the wounds we find in a conflicted world."

The instruments needed to "create a brighter day" can be found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. "We cannot afford – and this world cannot afford – our failure to put these gospel concepts and fortifying covenants to full use personally and publicly."

In 21st-century culture generally and too often in the Church are too many broken hearts and broken covenants. "To any who are tempted to walk or talk or behave 'as the world giveth,' so to speak, don't expect that to lead to peaceful experience; I promise you in the name of the Lord it won't."

Easter is a time to pledge total loyalty to the Lamb of God and for the principles of the gospel to "pass over" conflict and contention.

**Elder Jorge T. Becerra**

General Authority Seventy

The gospel teaches that all are children of God – "your brothers and sisters." Many are searching for purpose in life and are concerned for their futures and their families.

"Throughout the years while serving in the Church I have tried to seek after those who needed help in their lives both temporally and spiritually."

A person's capacities and abilities are often increased when another offers him or her loving assistance and ministering.

The Apostle Paul taught a key element of ministering: The Lord's followers are the "body of Christ," and each member of that body is needed to ensure the entire body is edified.

"In each ward and branch we need everyone – those who may be strong and those who are struggling. All are necessary and vital to the edification of the entire body of Christ."

"I often wonder who we are missing in our various congregations that would strengthen us and make us whole."

Those not participating fully in the Church are needed.

President Russell M. Nelson has invited all to "keep on the covenant path" and follow the Savior. For those who have stepped off the path, please come back. There is a place prepared for all in the Lord's Church.

**Elder Dale G. Renlund**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

There is unfairness in the world of various kinds. While some can be explained through choices of individuals or circumstances, others are more complicated and still others have no explanation.

"Jesus Christ both understands unfairness and has the power to provide a remedy. Nothing compares to the unfairness He endured." That unfairness includes the pains and afflictions of mankind he experienced as part of the Atonement. The Savior chose to do that out of love.

"In the eternities, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ will resolve all unfairness." Instead of asking for how and when unfairness will be resolved, focus on developing faith in Christ. The Savior can help us find peace in this world and not only restore what was lost, but help "use the unfairness for our benefit."

As that faith develops, strive to become like the Savior and to "try to make things right within our sphere of influence."

Seeking to understand another's perspective and working to see things from an eternal viewpoint can help clarify and enlighten. In an unfair situation, rather than letting the situation create a hard heart or corrode faith, ask God for help.

**Elder Neil L. Andersen**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"Each person who comes to Earth is a unique son or daughter of God. Our personal journey did not begin at birth," and each individual's purpose includes "coming to Earth to receive a body and experience mortality."

Covenant children of God "love, honor, nurture, safeguard and welcome those spirits who are coming from the premortal world."

The women of the Church are amazing, loved and honored. "With intelligence and wisdom, you bear the burdens of your family. You love. You serve. You sacrifice. You strengthen faith, minister to those in need and greatly contribute to society."

Individuals in a position to make decisions that affect society might not share the beliefs of members of the Church. Members should both share their feelings about the sanctity of life and pray that those decision-makers will better understand this matter is about more than "just what a person wants for his or her own life."

Mothers who help an unexpected child to begin his or her mortal journey should be treated "with love, encouragement and, when needed, financial help."

Each personal journey as a child of God does not start nor end with a breath of air.

"May we welcome [each spirit child of God], safeguard them and always love them."

**Elder Thierry K. Mutombo**

General Authority Seventy

Many are blinded today by the subtle craftiness of men (Doctrine and Covenants 123:12). Truth is needed to become free from the lies that the adversary spreads.

While Elder Mutombo was growing up, he lived with his family in a home that "was not only small in size but it was a dark place." After meeting with the missionaries and being baptized, his family adopted a new lifestyle centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ and "truly became a family."

A few years ago, the people of Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo suffered from a conflict between a traditional group of warriors and government forces. As Brother Honoré Mulumba and his family hid in their house, a group of the militia found them and told them to choose to adhere to their militia practices or be killed.

Brother Mulumba told them: "I'm a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My family and I have accepted Jesus Christ and have faith in Him. We will remain faithful to our covenants and will accept to die."

Though the militia promised to come back and kill them, the soldiers never did.

"Jesus Christ is the light that we should hold up even during the dark times of our mortal life (3 Nephi 18:24). When we choose to follow Christ, we choose to be changed."

**President M. Russell Ballard**

Acting President, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

More than half of adults in the Church today are widowed, divorced or not yet married. "Some wonder about their opportunities and place in God's plan and in the Church. We should understand that eternal life is not simply a question of current marital status but of discipleship and being 'valiant in the testimony of Jesus.'"

"First, scriptures and latter-day prophets confirm that everyone who is faithful in keeping covenants will have the opportunity for exaltation."

Second, the time and manner in which the blessings of exaltation are bestowed is not known but they are assured.

Third, waiting upon the Lord implies continued obedience and spiritual progress.

Fourth, "all those who accept the Savior's gift of repentance and live His commandments will receive eternal life, even though they do not attain to all its characteristics and perfections in mortality."

Fifth, confidence in these assurances is rooted in faith in Jesus Christ by whose grace all things pertaining to mortality are set right.

Stake and ward leaders should call on single members "to serve, lift and teach. Disregard old notions and ideas that have sometimes unintentionally contributed to their feelings of loneliness and that they do not belong or cannot serve."



Elder Quentin L. Cook

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Supporting the rising generation in a time of unusual challenges and temptations is an essential responsibility given to parents and bishoprics. Bishops and their counselors can appropriately be called "shepherds over the Lord's flock" – with an emphasis on being shepherds for the rising generation.

The bishop and his counselors also have a seminal role in caring for the children and youth in the ward. Time spent with a young priest, young woman or young adult can help them understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ and provide a vision that will have a profound and lasting influence. To help bishops focus their time and energy ministering to youth and their families, it is recommended that bishops not have assigned ministering families. Bishoprics have also been counseled to delegate appropriate meetings and counseling time with adults.

To youth, "allow the bishop to be your friend and counselor. ... As President Nelson has invited you, please qualify yourself to be part of the Lord's youth battalion."

The Church has more than 30,000 bishops and branch presidents serving across the world. To each of them, "please know how much we love and appreciate you."

**Brother Ahmad S. Corbitt**

Of the Young Men general presidency

"When Jesus Christ promised He would come into mortality and give His life to gather and save us, you did not simply believe Him. You 'noble spirits' had such 'exceedingly great faith' that you saw His promise as sure. He could not lie, so you saw Him as if He had already shed His blood for you, long before He was born."

Great faith is like muscles that get stronger and bigger the more they are exercised.

"Intentionally envisioning or viewing things that conflict with who you really are, especially pornography, will weaken your faith in Christ, and without repentance could destroy it. Please use your imaginations to increase faith in Christ, not ruin it."

"When youth lead in living the gospel, caring for others, inviting all to receive the gospel, uniting families for eternity, and organizing fun activities," the same faith exhibited in Christ in the premortal life "will resurface and empower [youth] to do His work in this life!"

"Your true identity and the enormous power of faith in Christ within you will enable you to 'help prepare the world for the Savior's return by inviting all to come unto Christ and receive the blessings of His Atonement.'"

**Elder S. Gifford Nielsen**

General Authority Seventy

In 1978, as Elder Nielsen participated in his first game as a starting quarterback in the National Football League, he wondered if he should be there. After taking a hard hit, he had to decide if he would give in to doubts or find the courage to try again. "I needed to learn that I could be strong and courageous in the face of difficult situations."

Individuals might not feel up to their challenges. "But our Heavenly Father sees us as fearless builders of His kingdom. That is why He sent us here during this most decisive time in the world's history. This is our time!"

Members of the Church are called upon to do life-changing things as representatives of the Lord. "He will not forsake us. This is our time!"

Heavenly Father wants individuals to love themselves – not to be self-centered or prideful but "to see ourselves as He sees us."

As individuals view themselves with respect, their hearts are open to treating others similarly. "The more we recognize our divine worth, the better we understand this divine truth: that God has sent us right here, right now, at this momentous time in history, so that we can do the greatest possible good with the talents and gifts we have. This is our time!"

**President Henry B. Eyring**

Of the First Presidency

Being even more effective in priesthood service comes by understanding why individuals are given the priesthood. The purpose for receiving the priesthood is to allow them to bless people for the Lord, doing so in His name.

Priesthood service is given out of love, and the Lord blesses service given in His name. The key to serving and blessing others in His name is praying that the people feel the Lord's love through one's loving service.

When giving a priesthood blessing, pray to know what blessing the Lord has in store. Ask to know how He wants to bless that person, not what others want. "My experience is that even when the blessing is not what the others desire for themselves or their loved one, the Spirit touches hearts to experience acceptance and comfort rather than disappointment."

Magnifying priesthood service depends on one's diligence in seeking the Lord's will and voice. That magnification may come slowly, but it will come.

For those who "feel small" in the Lord's work, "I invite you to ask prayerfully how the Lord sees you. He knows you personally, He conferred the priesthood upon you." He loves and trusts His priesthood holders to bless people He loves in His name.

**President Dallin H. Oaks**

Of the First Presidency

The Savior has done everything essential for one's successful journey through mortality toward the joyful destiny outlined in God's plan of salvation.

"The Resurrection [of Jesus Christ] from the dead is the reassuring personal pillar of our faith. It adds meaning to our doctrine, motivation to our behavior and hope for our future."

The resurrection also provides a powerful incentive to keep the commandments of God during mortal life and qualify for the choicest blessing promised to resurrected beings.

"The promise that the resurrection can include an opportunity to be with our family members – husband, wife, children, parents and posterity – is a powerful encouragement to fulfill our family responsibilities in mortality. It also helps us live together in love in this life and it comforts us in the death of our loved ones."

The Savior feels and knows each individual's temptations, struggles, heartaches and suffering. He willingly experienced them as part of His Atonement.

"Our Savior willingly experienced all mortal pains and infirmities that He would know how to succor or strengthen us in our afflictions. Jesus Christ did all of this because He loves all of the children of God."

**President Russell M. Nelson**

President of the Church

What are lessons learned – and never to be forgotten – in the two years since the last general conference priesthood session?

Lesson 1: "The home is the center of faith and worship."

The commitment to make home the primary sanctuary of faith should never end. "I urge you to continue to make your home a truly holy place, 'and be not moved' from that essential goal."

Lesson 2: "We need each other."

"If you know of anyone who is alone, reach out – even if you feel alone, too! ... Pandemic or not, each precious child of God needs to know that he or she is not alone!"

Lesson 3: "Your priesthood quorum is meant for more than just a meeting."

"Expand your vision of why we have quorums. How does the Lord wish you would use your quorum to accomplish His work – now? Seek revelation from the Lord. Humble yourself! Ask! Listen!"

Lesson 4: "We hear Jesus Christ better when we are still."

"Discipline yourself to have time alone and with your loved ones. Open your heart to God in prayer. Take time to immerse yourself in the scriptures and worship in the temple."



Elder Ulisses Soares

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

By overcoming "the sting of physical and spiritual death," Jesus Christ offers all the "glorious possibility" of eternal salvation.

"Jesus was the only Being capable of realizing this eternal and perfect sacrifice for all of us. He was chosen and foreordained in the Grand Council in heaven, even before the world was formed."

Through Christ, His followers can experience "a mighty change of mind and heart" — bringing a fresh attitude toward God and life.

Allow Christ's Atonement to become "wholly effective" in one's life.

"We will become free from the bondage of sin, find joy in our earthly journey and become eligible to receive eternal salvation, which was prepared from the foundation of the world for all who believe in Jesus Christ and come unto Him."

The Savior also offers relief from mortal life's afflictions, temptations and weaknesses. He understands all of the bitterness, physical pain and emotional and spiritual challenges one might face.

"He offers us comfort and assurance in difficult times . . . I assure you that as we put our trust in Jesus Christ . . . we will enjoy the promises of our beloved Heavenly Father."

**Sister Reyna Isabel Aburto**

Of the Relief Society general presidency

A few days after the tragic death of her friend and Master, Mary Magdalene wept at His empty tomb. The resurrected Savior came to her and asked why she was weeping. Thinking He was the gardener, she asked if he had taken the Lord's body and where it was. He then called her by name, and she recognized Him.

Many can relate to the anguish felt by Mary Magdalene and her friends as they grieved the Lord's death. Because of the Savior, all will be resurrected. He has also made it possible for all to be reunited as families and have eternal joy in God's presence if they make and keep covenants with Him.

As President Russell M. Nelson has taught: "Death is a necessary component of our eternal existence. . . For sorrowing loved ones left behind . . . the sting of death is soothed by a steadfast faith in Christ, a perfect brightness of hope, a love of God and of all men, and a deep desire to serve them."

Through the redeeming Atonement and glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ, "broken hearts can be healed, anguish can become peace, and distress can become hope. He can embrace us in His arms of mercy, comforting, empowering and healing each of us."

**Elder S. Mark Palmer**

General Authority Seventy

Because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, everyone will live again after death. "This knowledge gives meaning and purpose to our lives." By going forward in faith, one can endure any hardship.

When they were a young couple, Elder Palmer's parents lost their 17-month-old daughter Ann, causing them unspeakable sorrow. "It also caused a yearning for answers to life's most important questions."

Years later, missionaries from the Church began teaching them truths from the Book of Mormon and Bible, including "the unique and remarkable doctrine that families can be bound together forever by the same priesthood authority Jesus Christ gave His chief apostle, Peter."

His parents recognized truth, received a witness of the Spirit and were baptized, and their family was sealed in the temple. "Many years later Dad told me that if not for Ann's tragic death, he would never have been humble enough to accept the restored gospel."

All who feel sorrow, wrestle with doubt or wonder what happens after death are invited to have faith in Christ. "I promise that if you desire to believe, then act in faith and follow the whisperings of the Spirit, you will find joy in this life and in the world to come."

**Elder Edward Dube**

General Authority Seventy

The Apostle Paul was able to serve with love and gratitude despite his great sufferings because he "pressed toward the mark."

When Elder Dube attended his first general conference leadership meeting, he felt overwhelmed and inadequate. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland showed him love and kindness and helped him overcome the feelings of inadequacy.

Pressing toward the mark also means forgetting past fears, past focus, past failures and past sadness.

His mother provided him an example of pressing forward and accepting God's will in her painful battle with cancer.

As she endured intense pain, she said, "It is not up to you or anyone else, but it is up to God whether this pain will go away or not."

Jesus Christ suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross at Golgotha to "do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me."

A bishop in South Africa who recently buried his wife and daughter after their lives were claimed by the coronavirus pandemic found hope and comfort in knowing that the Savior has taken upon Himself the pains of His people, "that He may know how to succor us."

**Elder José A. Teixeira**

Of the Presidency of the Seventy

Recognize and remember the pathway back to Heavenly Father — then faithfully and joyfully persevere throughout the journey.

First, remember "we are children of God."

"Remind yourself of this heritage. Make time regularly to boost your spiritual immune system by remembering the blessings you have received from the Lord. Trust the guides you have been given from Him, rather than turning solely to the world to measure your personal worth and find your way."

Second, remember protective foundations.

"Strength comes to us when we remain righteous, true and faithful to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, even when others overwhelmingly disregard the commandments and the principles of salvation."

Third, remember to be prayerful.

"When we remember to pray, we find His sustaining love, and the more we pray to our Father in Heaven in Christ's name, the more we bring the Savior into our life and the better we will recognize the path He has marked to our heavenly home."

Fourth, remember to serve others.

"Do not underestimate the potential you have to influence others for good, both by the service of your actions and by the service of your example. Loving service to others guides us along the path to our heavenly home."

**Elder Taniela B. Wakolo**

General Authority Seventy

Three specific ways Heavenly Father manifests His love for His children:

1. Relationships with God and family manifest His love.

"Our most valuable relationships are with the Father and the Son and with our own families, because our ties to them are eternal. The great plan of happiness is a wonderful manifestation of God's love for us."

2. He manifests His love to His children by calling prophets.

During 2020, the Philippines was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and a myriad of natural disasters.

"But like a pillar of light shining through dark clouds of fear, loneliness and despair came the words of the Prophet. . . The Philippines, along with the entire world, are so blessed to feel God's love through the words of His chosen Prophet."

3. Chastening can be a manifestation of God's love for His children.

"Sometimes God manifests His love by chastening us. It is a way of reminding us that He loves us and that He knows who we are. His promised blessing of peace is open to all those who courageously walk the covenant path and are willing to receive correction."

Recognizing and willingly receiving chastisement bring refining and purifying changes.



Elder Chi Hong (Sam) Wong

General Authority Seventy

"Although earth and hell may combine against us, they cannot prevail if we choose to let God prevail by establishing our lives upon His rock."

Where individuals build on their foundation "has a decisive effect on the outcome ultimately and eternally." All should find and stay on the sure foundation as they establish their lives.

That foundation's placement matters because, "We may not be able to change all of what is coming, but we can choose how we prepare for what is coming."

"Just going to Church once a week is not enough to build upon the rock. Our entire lives should be filled with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is not part of our life, but our life is actually part of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Heavenly Father knows the potential of each individual better than they know their potential. "He knows not only the details of our lives. God knows the details of the details of the details of our lives."

**Elder Michael John U. Teh**

General Authority Seventy

A few years ago, Elder David A. Bednar asked the following questions as part of his remarks: "Do we only know about the Savior, or are we increasingly coming to know Him? How do we come to know the Lord?"

"As I studied and pondered, I came to the stark realization that what I know about the Savior greatly outweighed how much I really know Him. I resolved then to put forth more effort to know Him."

First, recognize "knowing the Savior is the most important pursuit of our lives. It should take priority over anything else."

Second, in coming to know the Savior, the words of the prophets and scripture passages will become more meaningful as we receive a witness from the Holy Ghost.

Third, recognizing and understanding how the Atonement applies personally and individually can help us know Him. "The Atonement of Jesus Christ is infinite and eternal and all-encompassing in its breadth and depth but wholly personal and individual in its effects."

In coming to know the Savior, "I am realizing that how intimately I know the Savior significantly influences my ability to hear Him, as well as how I respond."

**President Russell M. Nelson**

President of the Church

"My dear brothers and sisters, my call to you this Easter morning is to start today to increase your faith. Through your faith, Jesus Christ will increase your ability to move the mountains in your life (1 Nephi 7:12), even though your personal challenges may loom as large as Mount Everest."

To do anything well requires effort. Becoming a true disciple of Jesus

Christ is no exception. First, study. Become an engaged learner. Second, choose to believe in Jesus Christ. Third, act in faith. Fourth, partake of sacred ordinances worthily. And fifth, ask Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, for help.

"Faith takes work. Receiving revelation takes work. ... Do not minimize the faith you already have. It takes faith to join the Church and remain faithful.

"It takes faith to follow prophets rather than pundits and popular opinion. It takes faith to serve a mission during a pandemic. ... It takes faith to teach the gospel to children in a secular world. It takes faith to plead for the life of a loved one, and even more faith to accept a disappointing answer."

On this Easter Sunday, "with my deep feelings of love and gratitude, I declare my witness that Jesus Christ is indeed risen. He is risen to lead His Church."

**President Dallin H. Oaks**

Of the First Presidency

The U.S. Constitution contains at least five divinely inspired principles.

First, the source of government power is the people.

Second is the division of delegated power between the nation and its subsidiary states.

Third is the separation of powers, "so these three branches could exercise checks upon one another."

Fourth is the cluster of guarantees of individual rights and specific limits on government authority in the Bill of Rights.

Fifth is "the vital purpose of the entire Constitution. ... and our loyalty is to the Constitution and its principles and processes, not to any officeholder."

Because of the many threats that undermine the principles of the Constitution, Latter-day Saints have a unique responsibility to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution by praying for the Lord to guide and bless all nations and their leaders.

Learn and advocate the principles of the Constitution by seeking out wise and good persons and be knowledgeable citizens.

"No party, platform or individual candidate can satisfy all personal preferences. Each citizen must therefore decide which issues are most important to him or her at any particular time. Then, members should seek inspiration on how to exercise their influence according to their individual priorities. This process will not be easy."

**Elder Ronald A. Rasband**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Easter is a commemoration of the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the greatest miracle in human history.

"Miracles, signs and wonders abound among followers of Jesus Christ today, in your lives and in mine." They are expressions of God's limitless power.

"Many of you have witnessed miracles, more than you realize." They may seem small, but "magnitude does not distinguish a miracle, only that it came from God."

Last fall, Elder and Sister Rasband hosted a Face to Face event in Goshen, Utah. Twenty minutes before 6 p.m., the power in the complex went out. He stepped away from the others "and pleaded with the Lord for a miracle." Seven minutes after 6, the power miraculously returned.

"Miracles are worked through the power of faith." They also come as answers to prayer.

Miracles don't always come on one's desired timetable or preferred resolution. "Does that mean we are less than faithful or do not merit His intervention? No. We are beloved of the Lord."

Just as the Lord appeared to Mary in the garden calling her name, "He calls to us to exercise our faith."

**Elder Timothy J. Dyches**

General Authority Seventy

While rappelling in a dark cave with his sons, Elder Dyches gained a deep appreciation for light.

The Savior's spiritual light is equally as important as sunlight is for all life on Earth. The light of Christ, frequently called a conscience, leads to receiving the Holy Ghost's influence, which is the greatest source of light from Heavenly Father in mortality.

"Just as sunlight daily bathes the Earth to renew and sustain life, you can daily brighten the light within you when you choose to follow Him."

"Sunshine" is added through seeking God in prayer, studying the scriptures, acting on guidance and revelation from living prophets and obeying and keeping the commandments.

Other ways to add "sunshine to the soul" include repentance, partaking of the sacrament, bearing testimony, sharing the gospel, serving others, attending the temple and acting in kindness, forgiveness and charity.

If sin has led to an unexpected and undesirable place, it is possible to pull back the curtain of darkness by approaching Heavenly Father with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

"Jesus Christ is the everlasting Light that still 'shines in the darkness.' There is no darkness that can ever suppress, extinguish, overpower or defeat that Light."



Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The "covenant path" is the one that leads to the celestial kingdom of God.

In the course of the covenant path (which extends beyond mortality), one receives all the ordinances and covenants pertaining to salvation and exaltation.

Following the principles and commandments of the gospel is the happiest, most satisfying course in life. It helps a person avoid many problems and regrets. Many of life's problems are often self-inflicted – the result of poor choices.

By diligently pursuing the covenant path "we bypass the people and things that, even if popular, would jeopardize our physical and spiritual well-being. We avoid the choices that harm or disadvantage others and instead acquire the habits of self-discipline and service."

With covenants, obedience to gospel principles becomes "rooted in our very soul."

"Another unique aspect of the covenant path is our relationship with Deity. The covenants God offers to His children do more than guide us. They bind us to Him."

The gift of the Holy Ghost is a key blessing of following the covenant path. The path also brings blessings of forgiveness and cleansing from sin.

Pursuing the covenant path also requires gathering with other Latter-day Saints.

**Elder Alan R. Walker**

General Authority Seventy

Since the Restoration of the gospel that started just over 200 years ago, the "gospel light of truth and love" has spread across the earth. The ongoing Restoration includes the building of temples at an increasing pace to help "gather Israel on both sides of the veil."

Three trips to the temple for sealings have been significant for Elder Walker. The first was as a 2-year-old on a 6,000-mile trip from Argentina to Utah in April 1973 so his family could be sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

"I clearly remember being in a sacred room of the Salt Lake Temple where sealings of couples and of families are performed for time and for all eternity. I remember the beautiful altar of the temple and recall the bright sunlight shining through the room's exterior window. I felt then, and have continued to feel since, the warmth, safety and solace of the gospel light of truth and love."

The other two were in the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple – 20 years later to be married and sealed and then 22 years later to be sealed to their daughter.

"As we gather on both sides of the veil, as we make sacrifices to serve and make the temple pivotal in our lives, the Lord is truly building us – He is building His covenant people."

**Elder David A. Bednar**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

A gospel principle is a doctrinally based guideline for the righteous exercise of moral agency. Principles derive from broader gospel truths and provide direction and standards.

Learning, understanding and living gospel principles strengthen faith in the Savior, deepen devotion to Him, invite a multitude of blessings and spiritual gifts and help one look beyond personal preferences and self-centered desires by providing the perspective of eternal truth.

Recent general conference examples of the instruction of principles: President Dallin H. Oaks in 1998 addressed the principle of non-distraction, President Russell M. Nelson in 2015 taught the Sabbath as a sign, and President Nelson six months ago emphasized the principle of being willing to let God prevail.

"We have been blessed abundantly in this general conference to learn about eternal principles from the Lord's authorized servants. Now, our individual responsibility is to govern ourselves according to the truths of which they have testified. ...

"I invite all of us to learn, live and love principles of righteousness. Only gospel truths can enable us to 'cheerfully do all things that lie in our power' to press forward on the covenant path and to 'see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed.'"

**President Russell M. Nelson**

President of the Church

Following a period of pandemic-prompted closures, temples around the world are reopening in phases, in adherence to local regulations and safety protocols.

"We are grateful for your patience and devoted service during this changing and challenging period. I pray that your desire to worship and serve in the temple burns more brightly than ever."

When will Latter-day Saints be able to return to the temples in their districts? When local government regulations allow it and the incidence of COVID-19 in the area is within safe limits.

"Do all you can to bring COVID-19 numbers down in your area so that your temple opportunities can increase. Meanwhile, keep your temple covenants and blessings foremost in your minds and hearts. Stay true to the covenants you have made."

The Church will construct 20 more temples: Oslo, Norway; Brussels, Belgium; Vienna, Austria; Kumasi, Ghana; Beira, Mozambique; Cape Town, South Africa; Singapore, Republic of Singapore; Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Cali, Colombia; Querétaro, México; Torreón, México; Helena, Montana; Casper, Wyoming; Grand Junction, Colorado; Farmington, New Mexico; Burley, Idaho; Eugene, Oregon; Elko, Nevada; Yorba Linda, California; and Smithfield, Utah.

"Temples are a vital part of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness. Ordinances of the temple fill our lives with power and strength – available in no other way. We thank God for those blessings."

