



FAMILY HOME EVENING STUDY GUIDE

2017-2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 2017: AM I PREPARED?

[PAGE 1](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

DECEMBER 2017: TEMPLES

[PAGE 6](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

JANUARY 2018: THE GODHEAD

[PAGE 13](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 5](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

FEBRUARY 2018: THE PLAN OF SALVATION

[PAGE 19](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

MARCH 2018: THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

[PAGE 24](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

APRIL 2018: THE BOOK OF MORMON

[PAGE 29](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

MAY 2018: JOSEPH SMITH

[PAGE 34](#)

[Week 1](#)

[Week 3](#)

[Week 2](#)

[Week 4](#)

*Please assign opening and closing prayers for each lesson.

AM I PREPARED?

NOVEMBER 2017

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

In the past month we have witness fires, earthquakes, hurricanes and the constant threat of war. Some of us have hurriedly raced out to purchase additional food storage and commodities. As a Presidency we continually invite you prepare and to be aware of all of these temporal needs.

However, “man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live” (Deuteronomy 8:3). The kind of storage we are most concerned about is sometimes better performed by casting your bread upon the waters rather than in the freezer. The only real home storage you can take with you is yourself and your family. Once we have stored up the words of eternal life, it can constantly be shared and your supply will never be depleted.

Spiritual preparation is the greatest fortification against all that is coming. The days of tribulation are upon us. It will be our spiritual capacity gained through constant prayer, scripture study and temple service that will ultimately save us and our families.

The Lord will bless you with what you need to do to prepare yourself and your family. Pray to know what he would have you do.

WEEK #1

BEING SPIRITUALLY SELF-RELIANT

Opening Song: Hymn #304 - *Teach Me to Walk in the Light*

Lesson: Being Self Reliant in the Gospel does not mean we are totally independent of God and those that he has placed in our path. Self Reliance means that we are actively engaged in God's Plan of Happiness. We take the initiative to make and keep the covenants and commandments He has planned for us and are actively living "after the manner of happiness." (2 Nephi 5:27)

Our Father in Heaven wants to have the greatest influence in our lives. To help keep us free from worldly influences and distractions, He has given us many resources. We have our families, ward families, scriptures, prayer, prophets, Holy Ghost, temples and the list goes on. Are we taking advantage of all these gifts?

Scripture: Read Helaman 5:12

Watch "Spiritual Whirlwinds" <https://goo.gl/AsUY1z>

Discussion Questions:

- What spiritual whirlwinds have we faced? How has that been a blessing for the storms we face now and will face in the future?
- Each of us will need Spiritual strength to weather the storms ahead in life. Are we consistently building upon the spiritual foundation of Christ, that we have been blessed with? Through small and simple efforts we can follow our Heavenly Father's plan, He has put this plan in place so that we can succeed. He knows that we face hard times, but has prepared a Savior from all challenges. As we make and keep our covenants we have promised protection that with a surety can rely on.
- So how will we build upon the foundation of Christ? What things are critical to believe and do to receive the grace of Christ in our lives? Does anyone have a story of when they were strengthened or helped by Christ? Challenge everyone to pick one thing to do this week to build their spiritual foundation.

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children's Songbook #281 - *The Wise Man and the Foolish Man*

Activity: Play Jenga and discuss the importance of having a good foundation to stabilize a building/life.

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Read the Story of the Wise and Foolish Man and Discuss

Young Women: Fulfill 1 of the experiences from the Choice and Accountability Section of Personal Progress

Young Men: Work on 1 section of Spiritual Strength from the Duty to God program.

WEEK #2

LIVING TEMPORALLY SELF-RELIANT

Opening Song: Hymn #219 - *Because I Have Been Given Much*

Lesson: "If there is any one thing that will bring peace and contentment into the human heart, and into the family, it is to live within our means. And if there is any one thing that is grinding and discouraging and disheartening, it is to have debts and obligations that one cannot meet." Pres. Heber J Grant. We have consistently been taught to be temporally self-reliant, why is this a gospel principle? One way to look at this is as a well of water, there is no way to draw water from an empty well. There will always be times when we or those we love will need to draw from a reserve and so it is imperative that we be resourceful during the good times to help assure our well has a reserve to draw from both spiritually and temporally. So where do we go to be self-reliant, we go to work! Pres. Gordon B Hinckley said, "I believe in the gospel of work. There is no substitute under heavens for productive labor... It is work that provides the food we eat, the clothing we wear, the homes in which we live."

Scripture: Read D&C 42:42 "Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer." Watch "A Work in Progress" <https://goo.gl/kQ7fAf>

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to be idle? Find out what the children think of this scripture, does it seem harsh or can they see why God has commanded this? Re-read the first quote by Pres. Heber J Grant, and discuss why the prophets teach us to be self-reliant?
- Elder D. Todd Christofferson said "In matters both temporal and spiritual, the opportunity to assume personal responsibility is a God-given gift without which we cannot realize our full potential as daughters and sons of God. Personal accountability becomes both a right and a duty that we must constantly defend; it has been under assault since before the Creation. We must defend accountability against persons and programs that would (sometimes with the best of intentions) make us dependent. And we must defend it against our own inclinations to avoid the work that is required to cultivate talents, abilities, and Christlike character." (Free Forever, to Act for Themselves) What is one thing that you can do to be less dependent on others? By being self-reliant how does this affect your ability to serve God and others?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn # 229 - *Today, While the Sun Shines*

Activity: Pick a chore or work task and do it as a family, discuss how it feels to accomplish the task together and why God wants us to do for ourselves all that we can.

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Read the Story of the Ant & the Grasshopper discuss how it applies to your family

Young Women: Fulfill 1 of the experiences from the Choice and Accountability Section of Personal Progress

Young Men: Work on 1 section of Spiritual Strength from the Duty to God program.

WEEK #3

“LORD...HELP THOU MINE UNBELIEF”

Opening Song: Hymn #89 - *The Lord Is My Light*

Lesson: We all will have challenges to our testimony and struggles spiritually to feel the connection that we seek with God. What can we do when we feel engulfed in darkness and doubt? Just as Joseph Smith did when he was engulfed in darkness as he sought for understanding before the first vision, we can exert all our powers to be connected with God. Just as good things come through hard work temporarily likewise the pearl's of great price will spiritually come to us through great effort and seeking.

Scripture: Watch or Read from Elder L. Whitney Clayton's April 2015 conference talk "Choose to Believe"

Found here - <https://goo.gl/x613zs>

Read Mosiah 7:33 - explain how these are the word of King Limhi to his people who were in bondage to the Lamanites and had been defeated various times. At this point they had become submissive to the Lamanites and were open to trusting in God. Discuss how waiting on the Lord is part of the process to conversion.

Discussion Questions: Why do you think that God often requires diligent effort from us before He gives us a witness? Share an experience where you had to seek diligently before you received the answer to your prayers.

- Read John 7:17; Sister Bonnie Oscarson in October 2013 conference taught about this scripture. "Sometimes we try to do it backwards. For example, we may take this approach: I will be happy to live the law of tithing, but first I need to know that it's true. Maybe we even pray to gain a testimony of the law of tithing and hope the Lord will bless us with that testimony before we have ever filled out a tithing slip. It just doesn't work that way. The Lord expects us to exercise faith. We have to consistently pay a full and honest tithe in order to gain a testimony of tithing."

We may have unanswered questions, but as we stay true to what we already believe God will answer us in His own timing and way.

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn # 143 - *Let the Holy Spirit Guide*

Activity: Have a family testimony meeting and encourage each to share how they have gained their testimony.

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Help them record their feelings for God in their journal.

Young Women: Fulfill 1 of the experiences from the Choice and Accountability Section of Personal Progress

Young Men: Work on 1 section of Spiritual Strength from the Duty to God program

WEEK #4

A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #158 - *Dare to Do Right*

Lesson: In our ever changing world we can be a constant amid all the uncertainty and doubt. We can choose to keep ourselves unspotted, by holding fast to our covenant to Take His Name Upon Us. As we choose to do the things that Christ would do we will be a peculiar people, we will be a light in this darkening world. One of the reasons that God will bless us is if we are aligned with his will. He will give us strength to lift those around us if we are willing to prepare ourselves to do so. He wants our wells to be full not just so we can be independent of the world, but that we may have some living water in us to give to those around us in need.

Scripture: Watch "Staying Spiritually Fit" (link below)

<https://goo.gl/jUQem3>

Read Luke 22:32

Discussion Question: Why was it important for Peter to be converted? Do we believe Christ prays for our conversion? Pre. Stephen W. Owen said, "whether we realize it or not, people are looking up to us-family members, friends, even strangers...We cannot be satisfied receiving spiritual blessings for ourselves; we must lead the people we love to those same blessings"

- Have you seen how your spiritual strength has blessed those around you?
- What are things you can do to have the Light of Christ in you life consistently? Can we expect to have the Spirit with us if we are not striving for this? Set goals for specific things to do to receive more light into your lives.

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn # 246 - *Onward, Christian Soldiers*

Activity: Plan a family night where you will invite another family to come and share with you.

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Sing the song Do as I'm Doing Follow Follow Me and act it out. Then talk about how others will follow when they see us doing good.

Young Women: Fulfill 1 of the experiences from the Choice and Accountability Section of Personal Progress

Young Me: Work on 1 section of Spiritual Strength from the Duty to God program.

TEMPLES

DECEMBER 2017

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

Through service in the temple we are promised the protection of the Lord from Satan and his minions. Elder Bednar promised the strength to resist temptations and that angels will attend us. The Lord tells us that HE will go before our face and He will be on our right hand and our left, His Spirit will be in our hearts and His angels round about us to bear us up. All of these blessings of protection and safety will be ours as we serve selflessly in the Lord's house. Pres. Zemp has also promised us that those ancestors and people in the spirit world who we do the work for in the temple will be our own personal army to fight against Satan in this world. We need this extra help for these last days. We testify that these promises are real and that there is great peace and safety to be found within the walls of the holy temples.

WEEK #1

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE TEMPLE

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #95 - I Love To See the Temple

Lesson: Read through these questions and their answers together as a family or split them up and share together what you find.

What is a temple?

- A temple is a sacred place to worship Heavenly Father. It is a place to make covenants with Heavenly Father. It is a place to feel His Spirit. It is a place of reverence, peace, beauty, and learning.

When can I go to the temple?

- You can go to see a temple at any age. Your family can walk or drive around the temple grounds. If you are worthy, when you are 12 you can go inside the temple and be baptized for people who didn't get baptized when they lived on earth. Baptismal fonts in temples are set on the backs of 12 oxen. The oxen represent the twelve tribes of Israel. When you are an adult, you can go to the temple to receive your endowment. The endowment is a gift of knowledge and blessings from Heavenly Father.

What are some other rooms in the temple?

- After you receive your endowment, you go into the celestial room. The beauty and reverence help you feel close to Heavenly Father. A sealing room is where a man and a woman are sealed in marriage for eternity. They receive blessings, and if they are faithful they and their children will be together for eternity.

What is a temple recommend?

- To enter another country, you need a passport to show that you are a citizen of your country. To enter the temple, you need a temple recommend to show that you are a worthy member of the Church. Beginning at age 12, young men and young women may get a temple recommend to do baptisms for the dead. Young men need to hold the Aaronic Priesthood. You can get a recommend by going to your bishop or branch president or one of his counselors. He will ask you if you keep the commandments and if you have a testimony. If you do, he will sign your recommend, showing that you are worthy to enter the house of the Lord. Children who are going to the temple to be sealed to their parents also receive recommends.

What do I wear to the temple?

- You should wear the same kind of modest, clean clothes that you wear on Sundays when you go to church.

What do I wear in the temple?

- After you enter the temple, you will be given white clothes to change into. In the temple everyone wears white.

Why is a statue of the angel Moroni on top of many temples?

- Moroni wrote the last book of the Book of Mormon on the gold plates and buried the plates in the Hill Cumorah. Many years later, Joseph Smith translated the plates. Moroni reminds us that the gospel has been restored to the earth.

Can people who are not members of the Church go inside temples?

- After a temple is built but before it is dedicated, an open house is held. Those who attend are invited to walk through the temple with a guide who explains the purpose of temples and why they are so important to members of the Church. After temples are dedicated, only Church members with temple recommends may enter.

Scriptures:

Isaiah prophesied about temples: [Isaiah 2:1-3](#)

Jesus taught in the temple when He was 12 years old: [Luke 2:42-49](#)

Jesus taught in the temple during His ministry: [John 8:2](#)

Jesus cast people who were buying and selling out of the temple: [Matthew 21:12-14](#)

Jesus taught daily in the temple: [Mark 14:49](#)

Nephi built a temple: [2 Nephi 5:16](#)

King Benjamin spoke to the Nephites at the temple in Zarahemla: [Mosiah 1:18-2:7](#)

Christ appeared at the temple in Bountiful: [3 Nephi 11:1-17](#)

The Lord described what a temple is like: [D&C 88:119](#)

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children's Songbook #188 - *Families Can Be Together Forever*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Read Psalm 27:4

Young Women: Complete Good Works #6

Young Men: Complete Live Worthily section in Duty to God p. 64

WEEK #2

WHY DO WE HAVE TEMPLES?

Opening Song: Hymn # 294 - *Love at Home*

Lesson: Show a picture of the temple closest to your family and ask young children:

“What is this?” “How is it different than a school, a store, or even a church?” “What does sacred mean?” (Temples are sacred buildings.)

Each one is called “The House of the Lord.” In the temple we learn many things about Heavenly Father’s plan for us. In the temple we make special promises to Heavenly Father, and He makes promises to us.)

- **OBJECT LESSON:** Using a Ziploc bag, fill it with little people toys or things to represent the family. Don’t zip it up. Turn it upside down and show what happens to our family when we are not sealed. Then show how we stay together when the bag is sealed. Use strips of paper and write the names of each family member on a strip. Staple or tape each strip into a ring and hook them together to make a chain showing that we are all linked or sealed together.

Scripture: The Family: A Proclamation to The World, paragraph 1 <https://goo.gl/DUwB4q>

Discussion Question:

- **WORTHINESS:** Explain that not just anyone can go inside the temple. Those who go must be old enough and must live a righteous life. Discuss temple recommends. Show your children your temple recommend, or if you are working to get one ask someone to come and show your children theirs. Explain how we must continue to make righteous choices and be approved by the bishop every 2 years for another temple recommend.
- **SEALINGS:** Nobody’s family is perfect. We all have problems. But we can help our family become better. What can we do to help? We need to help each other to become worthy so we can be a FOREVER FAMILY. Besides keeping the commandments, what else must we do to be with our family forever? (Be sealed in the temple) What power seals us as a family? (the priesthood) The priesthood power to seal is eternal – even after people die. Those who are sealed in the temple will be together forever if they keep the promises they made with Heavenly Father.

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children’s Songbook #153 - *The Lord Gave Me a Temple*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Read the words to the song Families Can Be Together Forever and discuss with a parent.

Young Women: Complete Choice & Accountability #6

Young Men: Complete Priesthood Duties p. 28 “Come unto Christ”

WEEK #3

THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD/ WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Opening Song: Hymn #239 - *Choose the Right*

Lesson: The temple is Heavenly Father's special gift to prepare us to return to His celestial home. It is more like His heavenly home than any building on earth. Prepare yourself to be worthy to make the temple an integral part of your life—not just a place to be married but a place you will return to often and feel His divine presence.

For younger children: Read the story: "Little Brothers and Temples" <https://goo.gl/SvECbr>

For the youth and older: Share parts for the article: "The Temple—What it Means to You", Elder J Richard Clarke <https://goo.gl/kjGguX>

Scripture: Read D&C 59:9

Discussion Questions:

Younger Children Story Questions:

- What did Deanna learn in Primary?
- Why didn't she let Robbie use her crayons?
- What did Kevin do to Deanna's puzzle?
- What is Deanna doing to prepare to enter the temple?
- What can we do to prepare to enter the temple?

Youth Article Questions:

- What does the temple symbolize?
- How is a temple recommend like a passport?
- What ordinances are done in the temple?
- When was a time that you felt from the temple?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bear powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #308 - *Love One Another*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Place a picture of the temple in your room.

Young Women: Complete Integrity # 1

Young Men: Family and Friends p. 80

WEEK #4

TAKE THE TEMPLE CHALLENGE

Opening Song: Hymn #5 - *High on the Mountain Top*

Lesson: The new temple challenge from Elder Andersen is this:

“Prepare as many names for the temple as baptisms you perform in the temple and help someone else to do the same.”

For children:

- Before the lesson, gather together pictures of your ancestors. At the start of the lesson, ask your children what they think family history is and what they know about family history. Read aloud: Family history has many parts to it. In many ways, family history is like a puzzle with lots of pieces. Not only is family history about learning about our family and ancestors, but it is about preparing to do the ordinances in the temple. An ordinance is an outward act that shows how much we love God. During ordinances we often make promises to God and he makes promises to us. An example of an ordinance in baptism. In the temple, we perform baptisms for our ancestors along with all the ordinances necessary for us to return to Heavenly Father and be with our families forever.

For youth and adults:

- Watch video “Sharing the Temple Challenge” <https://goo.gl/zXSZQr>
- Read aloud: This video was created last year and tens of thousands accepted the challenge. Elder Neil L. Andersen has issued a new challenge by adding eight words.
- Finish with any stories about your ancestors and doing temple work.

Scripture: [D&C 109:22](#)

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Elder Andersen added the part about helping others do family history work as we do our own?

Read aloud: Elder Andersen, when he announced the new challenge, said:

“Looking at this scope of what is before us, someone might say: ‘It is impossible. No one can do that.’ I remind you of these words of scriptures: ‘With men [it] is impossible; but with God all things are possible.’ ‘With God nothing shall be impossible.’”

“Through the visit of angels and the power of God, the gospel was restored in our days and this sacred work of providing ordinances for our ancestors was begun. With your generation the work will be accelerated. One day, with the help of heaven, the work will be completed. How will we do it? We will advance this glorious work as we have always pursued the work of God—one son or daughter at a time, one child of God at a time—until all the work is finished. “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

- How can we accomplish the temple challenge as a family? What are some ways we can personally share family history with others?
- Discuss and make a list of how you can get your children involved in the temple challenge. Ideas include decorating slips of papers with your ancestors names to put on a wall, learning how to index, and putting the family ordinance cards in a special place.

Read aloud: Elder Andersen has left us with this promise if we take this challenge:

“As you accept this challenge and teach it to others, I promise you that you will feel the beautiful link that binds us together as families through eternity.”

Activity: Finish by bearing your testimony and sharing any personal experiences. To complete the lesson, consider doing our Temple Challenge activity at the bottom of this page.

Temple Challenge Activity or Interview Family Members Temple Challenge Activity

- Go to [the official temple challenge site](#) and accept the challenge! Choose what step you want to start with. You can gather around the computer and familiarize yourself with FamilySearch or give everyone time to do some research on their own. Make goals for how much time you want to spend a week on working on the challenge. Consider planning a day to invite friends over to; learn about how to do family history. Go through your electronic devices and install the indexing and family tree apps. Invite your family to share what they’re doing with others. You can use the hashtag #templechallenge to share what you’re doing online.

Interview Family Members

- Have your family members split up into teams and take turns interviewing each other. Make a list of questions ahead of time. Ideas can include: What is your favorite subjects to study in school? What is your favorite scripture and why? How has Heavenly Father helped you with something hard? You can also have your family call up grandparents or other family members and ask them questions about their lives or their parents. Record the answers and then add the stories to FamilySearch.

Start finding your family names

- Log in to [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).
- See Elder Andersen’s RootsTech 2014 full talk <https://goo.gl/HwiLvX>
- Watch “[Finding Our Cousins — The Eberts’ Experience](https://goo.gl/9tSwW4)” <https://goo.gl/9tSwW4>

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children’s Songbook #90- *Truth from Elijah*

WEEKLY GOALS::

Primary Children: Article of Faith #11

Young Women: Pick a Faith experience and complete

Young Men: Duty to God Priesthood Duties

THE GODHEAD

JANUARY 2018

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

“If men do not comprehend the character of God, they do not comprehend themselves...

If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds the world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by His power, was to make Himself visible, - I say, if you were to see Him today, you would see Him like a man in form - like yourself in all the person, image, and very form as a man.”

— Joseph Smith Jr.

In the sacred grove, Joseph Smith learned that God the Father and Jesus Christ are two separate and distinct individuals. That God and Christ have bodies of flesh and bones. The Christian world taught then as it does now that “God is merely a spirit without a body, parts or passions.

No other religion in all the world understands the nature and character of God as do the Latter-day Saints. We know he is our literal father. He loves us as his children. The scriptures teach us that we come unto the Father through Jesus Christ. Christ is our mediator and advocate with the Father.

In John 17:3 the Savior states, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.”

Coming to know the Father and Christ should become our life’s work. To know the father, we need to read his words and hear his voice as we study the scriptures, converse with him in prayer, forsake our sins, and strictly obey his commandments. Over the course of your life, he will reveal himself to you. You will come to know him and you shall “see his face” and know with a perfect knowledge that he lives! (D&C 93:1)

This is the key to eternal life!

WEEK #1

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE GODHEAD?

Opening Song: Hymn #302 - "I Know My Father Lives"

Lesson: The Godhead includes God the Eternal Father, the Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. Although the members of the Godhead are distinct beings with distinct roles, They are one in purpose. They are perfectly united in bringing to pass Heavenly Father's plan of salvation.

Scriptures:

Read Article of Faith 1:1:

Read [Joseph Smith—History 1:14-17](#):

Read John 17:21

Elder Robert D. Hales talk: "Eternal Life — to Know Our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ" <https://goo.gl/r57V6J>

Seminary Book of Mormon Reading: [Nephi 11:4-11](#)

Discussion Question:

- How are the members of the Godhead different from one another, and how are they alike?
- How does this knowledge affect us?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children's Songbook #102 - When Jesus Christ Was Baptized

WEEKLY GOALS:

Pray as you start and end each day, and as a family at least once a day, then take note of the blessings you receive throughout the day.

Primary Children: Memorize or recite the 1st Article of Faith

Young Women: What are some of the divine qualities of a daughter of God? Read "[The Family: A Proclamation to the World](#)";

Young Men: What effect do consistent prayer and studying the scriptures have on your relationship with God?

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #228 - My Heavenly Father Loves Me

WEEK #2

COMING TO KNOW HEAVENLY FATHER

Lesson: Heavenly Father loves us and wants us to draw near to Him. He has given us the opportunity to pray to Him and has promised to hear and answer our prayers. We can also come to know Him as we study the scriptures and the words of latter-day prophets and as we strive to become more like Him by following His will.

Scripture:

Read [Alma 37:35-37](#)

Read [2 Nephi 32:3](#)

Read [Helaman 3:29-30](#)

October 2009 General Conference, Robert D. Hales “Seeking to Know God, Our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ” <https://goo.gl/tUfgww>

Seminary Book of Mormon Reading: [Nephi 11:4-11](#)

Discussion Questions:

- What can I do to know my Heavenly Father better?
- How does Heavenly Father feel about me?
- How do my parents feel about me & how can I relate this knowledge to how my Father in Heaven feels about me?
- Watch this video on prayer & then discuss how prayer helps you come closer to Heavenly Father: <https://goo.gl/MyuV4Y>

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #292 - *O My Father*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Pray faithfully each day this week for something specific, then patiently look for an answer as you study the scriptures and as you go throughout your daily life.

Primary Children: Show love to our Father in Heaven, be kind to everyone.

Young Women: Complete [Individual Worth value experience 1](#)

Young Men: Share his commitment to strengthen his relationship with his Heavenly Father through a consistent pattern of prayer and scripture study.

WEEK #3

THE HOLY GHOST

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #106 - *The Still Small Voice*

Lesson: The Holy Ghost bears witness of the truth. He is the source of personal testimony and revelation. He can guide us in our decisions and protect us from physical and spiritual danger. He is known as the Comforter, and He can calm our fears and fill us with hope. Through His power, we are sanctified as we repent, receive saving ordinances, and keep our covenants. In order to serve effectively as priesthood holders, it is essential that we learn to listen to and follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

Scripture:

Watch the following video "The Voice of the Spirit": <https://goo.gl/S5Pw31>

Read [John 15:26](#)

Read [2 Nephi 32:5](#)

Read [3 Nephi 27:20](#)

Seminary Book of Mormon Reading: [Moroni 10:5](#)

Discussion Questions:

- Invite all to share a time that they have felt the influence of the Holy Ghost
- What did they do to receive His influence?
- What difference did His influence make?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #143 - *Let the Holy Spirit Guide*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Strive to receive the Holy Ghost each day this week

Primary Children: Choosing the Right (CTR) will allow us to have the Holy Ghost be with us

Young Women: Determine one way they can better prepare themselves to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Ghost, and then write down and act on impressions they receive from the Holy Ghost during the week.

Young Men: Strive to be worthy of and seek the companionship of the Holy Ghost.

WEEK #4

JESUS CHRIST

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #78 - *I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus*

Lesson: Jesus Christ was chosen to be our Savior. His Atonement makes it possible for us to be resurrected and to repent and be forgiven so we can return to our Heavenly Father's presence. In addition to saving us from our sins, the Savior also offers us peace and strength in times of trial. He sets the perfect example for us, and His teachings are the foundation for happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come.

Scripture:

Read [John 6:38](#)

Read [3rd Nephi 11:11](#)

Read [3rd Nephi 27:14-16](#)

Watch the following video "Reclaimed": <https://goo.gl/RnWH2M>

October 2016 General Conference, Elder David A. Bednar "If Ye Had Known Me" <https://goo.gl/JTKsJ5>

Seminary Book of Mormon Reading: [2nd Nephi 2:3-9; 9:5-12](#) (Lehi and Jacob testify of the Atonement of Jesus Christ)

Discussion Question:

- Why is Jesus Christ important in my life?
- What can I do to become more like Jesus Christ?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #134 - *I Believe in Christ*

WEEKLY GOALS::

Feed My sheep, serve someone everyday this week

Primary Children: Memorize or recite the 3rd Article of Faith

Young Women: Strive to live more like the Savior and share your experiences at the next family home evening

Young Men: Ponder how your testimony of the Savior could bless someone you know

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #163 - *I am like a Star*

WEEK #5

WHO AM I?

Opening Prayer: Assign a family member

Lesson: We are all beloved children of our Heavenly Father. By divine design, we have unique gifts and talents that will help us fulfill our destiny as daughters and sons of God. Knowing who we are gives our lives purpose and helps us make the right decisions.

Scripture:

Read [Genesis 1:26–27](#), Read [Matthew 25:14–30](#), Read [Moses 1:39](#), Seminary Book of Mormon Reading: [Alma 18:24–40](#), Read from the For the Strength of the Youth pamphlet the First Presidency's message (Found here <https://goo.gl/84h7da>), April 2015 General Conference, Elder Dale G. Renlund, "[Latter-day Saints Keep on Trying](#)"

Discussion Question:

- Who am I, and who can I become?
- Why do we have adversity in our lives
- What are positive ways to react to adversity?
- How do our choices shape who we will become?
- How can the members of the Godhead help me to become who they want me to be?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #301 - *"I Am a Child of God"*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Focus on the things of eternal importance

Primary Children: Memorize or recite the 13th Article of Faith

Young Women: Memorize Psalm 82:6 and repeat it often

Young Men: Think of one way you will use your gifts and talents to bless Heavenly Father's children

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

FEBRUARY 2018

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

God has a plan. It is an individualized plan. It is a plan that if we can successfully live will bring eternal happiness. It was a plan that each of us agreed to in the pre-existence. It was a plan by which we could rise above the sins of the world and in time become perfected to live with him, and live as he lives.

The Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood states that if we honor our covenants then; "all the my Heavenly Father hath shall be given unto him."

If Heavenly Father is willing to give all that he has. What is the Lord asking us to give in return for such a gift? Does he want our house? Our mortgage? Our car payment? No he wants our agency. He wants us to choose by our own free will that our greatest desire is to be with him, to become like him, and to take his image in our countenance. If we want to live with God again we have to become like God.

Even though it sounds impossible, it is not. The beauty of the plan is that has been individualized to each of our personal situations, our strengths and our weaknesses. It is a perfect plan and only requires a willing heart and willing mind. The Lord has said that the weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong one...and confound the wise (D&C 1:19)

After we leave this world we will see in hindsight the perfection of the plan. We will see the Divine hand that guided us through stormy waters. We then understand how perfectly the Lord loves each of us.

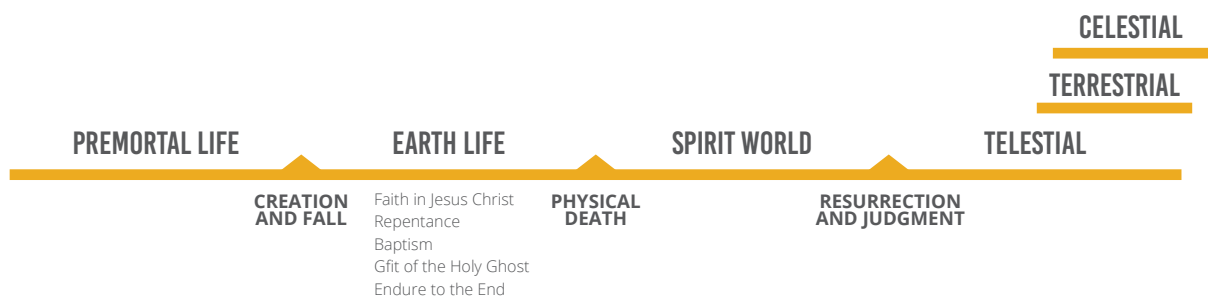
WEEK #1

WHAT IS THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #4 - *I Lived in Heaven*

Opening Prayer: Assign family member

Lesson: Heavenly Father prepared a plan to enable us to become like Him. The plan includes the Creation, the Fall, the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and all the laws, ordinances, and doctrines of the gospel. This plan allows us to be perfected through the Atonement, receive a fulness of joy, and live forever in the presence of God.



Scripture: Read talk by President Monson October 2016 “The Perfect Plan of Happiness” <https://googl/FXxjo3>

Discussion Questions:

- Where did we come from?
- Why are we here?
- Where do we go after we leave this life?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #187 - *God Loved Us, So He Sent His Son*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Invite family to read Elder Weatherford T. Clayton's April 2017 talk "[Our Father's Glorious Plan](#)"

Primary Children: Draw the plan of salvation or something that brings you happiness

Young Women: Individual Worth Value Experience 1

Young Men: Understand Doctrine section

WEEK #2

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE?

Opening Song: Hymn #301 - *I Am a Child of God*

Lesson: During this life we obtain physical bodies and are tested to see if we will obey God's commandments. Our experiences during mortality are meant to help us become more like our Heavenly Father.

Scripture:

Read Alma 12:24

Read Alma 34:32

Read Alma 42:4 (This life is a time to be tested and prepare to meet God)

Review "The Family, A Proclamation to the World"

Discussion Questions:

- Invite your family to read the Beatitudes in [3 Nephi 12:3-12](#) and look for attributes that Heavenly Father wants us to develop during our mortal lives.
- Ask them to think of people in the scriptures or in their own lives who exemplify these principles.
- How do the Savior's teachings in 3 Nephi 12 help us understand our purpose as children of God of God?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #292 - *O My Father* 1st verse

WEEKLY GOALS:

Study "The Family: A proclamation to the World"

Primary Children: 3rd Article of Faith

Young Women: Individual Worth Value Experience 1

Young Men: Understand Doctrine section

WEEK #3

WHY DO WE HAVE ADVERSITY

Opening Song: Hymn #304 - Teach Me to Walk in the Light

Lesson: As part of Heavenly Father's plan, we must experience adversity during mortality. In some cases, adversity comes as the result of our own poor choices or the choices of others. Other trials are simply a natural part of our mortal experience. Though they are difficult, our challenges can help us grow spiritually and become more like Jesus Christ.

Scriptures: Read [2 Nephi 2:11](#) (There must be opposition in all things)

Read [Mosiah 23:21](#) (God gives us adversity to test our faith)

Read [Ether 12:27](#) (God gives us weakness so that we will be humble)

Read October 2017 Elder Stanley G. Ellis "Do We Trust Him? Hard Is Good" <https://goo.gl/SYJoFU>

Discussion Questions:

- Ask each family member to write down a trial they are having. Invite them to search the scriptures in this outline or others they know of to find something that teaches why we have adversity. Invite them to share what they find. How could this scripture help them overcome the trial they wrote down?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #301 I am a Child of God

WEEKLY GOALS:

Study the topic of Adversity in True to the Faith

Primary Children: Learn the song My Life is a Gift song in Children's Songbook

Young Women: Virtue Value Experiences 1&2

Young Men: Priesthood duties: pages 23, 46-47, 70-71

WEEK #4

WHY SHOULD I TREAT MY BODY LIKE A TEMPLE?

Opening Song: Children's Songbook # 95 - I Love To See The Temple

Lesson: Our bodies were created in the image of God. They are a gift from Heavenly Father to allow us to experience mortality and continue to become more like Him. This knowledge influences the way we treat our bodies and how we feel about Heavenly Father and ourselves. When we treat our bodies as temples of God, we obtain physical, emotional, and spiritual blessings.

Scriptures:

Genesis 39:1-2, Daniel 1:3-21, 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20, D&C 93:33-35, D&C 88:15-16, Moses 6:9, D&C 103 22

Discussion Questions:

- Assign each family member one of the scripture passages above. Invite them to study the passages and summarize in a sentence what they learn about why our bodies are sacred. Ask them to share what they can do to keep their bodies and minds clean.

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #301 - *I am a Child of God*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Read "Dress and Appearance" section in For the Strength of Youth to answer questions such as "What are the Lord's standards concerning modesty?" "Why is it important to follow these standards?" and "How does our modesty show respect for the sacredness of our bodies?"

Primary Children: Do something healthy for your body (eating healthy, exercise etc)

Young Women: Virtue Value Experiences 1&2

Young Men: Read Physical Health pages 31-34

THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

MARCH 2018

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

It is through the Atonement of Jesus Christ that we receive a remission of our sins. The Savior has provided the way for us to live as families in the celestial kingdom as we keep His commandments and endure to the end. None of this would be possible without our Savior's sacrifice for us. We testify that as we turn to our Savior Jesus Christ and take advantage of His mercy and love and as we apply His atonement through repenting of our sins and making Him the foundation of our lives, we will have peace in this life and eternal life in the world to come. We bear testimony that He lives and that He waits for us to draw near unto Him and then He will draw near unto us. NO ONE has sinned too deep or gone too far to be cleansed by His atoning power. Our Savior loves each of you and knows you by name. We belong to His true church. He guides us through living prophets and apostles. We love the Lord Jesus Christ and we love all of you.

WEEK #1

HOW CAN I USE THE WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS AND APOSTLES TO STRENGTHEN MY FAITH IN THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST?

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #110 - *Follow The Prophet*

Lesson: Like the prophets of old, prophets and apostles today testify of Jesus Christ and invite all to partake of His Atonement. They are called to be "special witnesses" of Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost bears witness when living prophets and apostles testify of Christ, and we are blessed when we live by their teachings.

Scriptures:

[Jacob 7:11-12](#); [Mosiah 13:33-35](#); (All prophets testify of Jesus Christ)

[D&C 76:22-24](#) (Joseph Smith's testimony of Jesus Christ)

[D&C 27:12](#); [107:23](#) (Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ)

Discussion Questions:

- As you prayerfully study the words of prophets and apostles, what do you feel will strengthen your faith and the faith of those around you?
- What is your favorite story from General Conference and why?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #19 - We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Think about Jesus during the sacrament this week

Young Women: Faith Value Experience #3

Young Men: "Live Worthily" Pages 16-17, 40-41, 64-65

WEEK #2

HOW CAN THE BOOK OF MORMON HELP ME STRENGTHEN MY FAITH IN THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST?

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #118 - Book Of Mormon Stories

Lesson: The primary purpose of the Book of Mormon is to convince all people that Jesus is the Christ. It teaches that we "must come unto Him or [we] cannot be saved" ([1 Nephi 13:40](#)). It contains many examples of faithful disciples who had faith in Jesus Christ and received the blessings of His Atonement. Book of Mormon prophets bore powerful testimony of the Savior, that we "may know to what source [we] may look for a remission of [our] sins" ([2 Nephi 25:26](#)).

Scripture:

[Title page](#) and [Introduction](#) page to the Book of Mormon

[2 Nephi 25:26](#) (Nephites preach about Christ to strengthen the faith of their children)

[3 Nephi 27:13-14](#) (The Savior testifies to the Nephites of His divine mission)

Discussion Questions:

- How has the Book of Mormon brought you closer to Jesus Christ?
- What are some scriptures in the Book of Mormon that have strengthened your testimony of the Savior?
- What is your favorite story from the Book of Mormon and why?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #304 - *Teach Me To Walk In The Light*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Learn Article of Faith 8

Young Women: "Faith" Value Experience #1

Young Men: "Live Worthily" Pages 16-17, 40-41, 64-65

WEEK #3

HOW CAN RELYING ON THE SAVIOR'S GRACE HELP ME BECOME BETTER AND MORE LIKE HIM?

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #34 - *He Sent His Son*

Opening Prayer: Assign a family member

Lesson: We can take courage from the Lord's promise that His "grace is sufficient ... [to] make weak things become strong" ([Ether 12:27](#)). As we humble ourselves, acknowledge our weaknesses, and exercise faith in Jesus Christ, He will strengthen us to teach His gospel in a manner pleasing to Him.

Scriptures:

[Jeremiah 1:5-9](#), [Moses 6:31-34](#) (Prophets felt inadequate, but received the Lord's help.), [Jacob 4:7](#), [Ether 12:23-29](#) (The Savior's grace is sufficient to strengthen the humble.), [Alma 17:9-11](#); (We can become instruments in the Lord's hands to bring others to Him.)

Discussion Questions:

- How have you found answers to your gospel questions?
- When was a time in your life that you felt weak and He strengthened you?
- What study methods have helped you most?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #100 - *Nearer My God To Thee*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Think of a way you can be nice to a friend at school this week

Young Women: "Individual Worth" Value Experience #1

Young Men: Pray & Study the Scriptures Pages 14-15, 38-39, 62-63

WEEK #4

WHAT CAN THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ME ABOUT THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST?

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #74 - *I Feel my Savior's Love*

Lesson: The principal purpose of the scriptures is to testify of Jesus Christ, helping us come unto Him and partake of His Atonement. As we search the scriptures diligently, we will learn about the Savior through teachings, stories, and symbols.

Scriptures:

[Genesis 22:1-14](#) (Abraham offering his son Isaac as a sacrifice is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Son of God; see [Jacob 4:5](#))

[2 Nephi 11:4](#); [Moses 6:63](#) (All things that God gives us teach about His Son)

[Mosiah 13:33-35](#) (All prophets testify of Jesus Christ)

Discussion Questions:

- What scriptures about Jesus Christ are meaningful to you?
- What symbols of Jesus Christ have you found in the scriptures? (Sacrament, Rock, etc...)
- Which scriptures have helped you better understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #193 - *I Stand All Amazed*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Learn the song Scripture Power

Young Women: "Knowledge" Value Experience #1

Young Men: Pray & Study the Scriptures Pages 14-15, 38-39, 62-63

THE BOOK OF MORMON

APRIL 2018

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

President Thomas S. Monson – General Conference April 2017 “The Power of the Book of Mormon.”

We live in a time of great trouble and wickedness. What will protect us from the sin and evil so prevalent in the world today? I maintain that a strong testimony of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and of His gospel will help see us through to safety. If you are not reading the Book of Mormon each day, please do so. If you will read it prayerfully and with a sincere desire to know the truth, the Holy Ghost will manifest its truth to you. If it is true—and I solemnly testify that it is—then Joseph Smith was a prophet who saw God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Because the Book of Mormon is true, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's Church on the earth, and the holy priesthood of God has been restored for the benefit and blessing of His children.

If you do not have a firm testimony of these things, do that which is necessary to obtain one. It is essential for you to have your own testimony in these difficult times, for the testimonies of others will carry you only so far. However, once obtained, a testimony needs to be kept vital and alive through continued obedience to the commandments of God and through daily prayer and scripture study.

My dear associates in the work of the Lord, I implore each of us to prayerfully study and ponder the Book of Mormon each day. As we do so, we will be in a position to hear the voice of the Spirit, to resist temptation, to overcome doubt and fear, and to receive heaven's help in our lives.

WEEK #1

THE BOOK OF MORMON - ANOTHER TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

Opening Song: Hymn # 136 - *I know that My Redeemer Lives* (or Children's Songbook #118 - Book of Mormon Stories)

Lesson: Summarize or share an excerpt from Elder K. Brett Natress of the Seventy in an October 2016 Conference address, No Greater Joy Than to Know That They Know:

Scripture:

A good subtitle for the Book of Mormon is: "Another Testament of Jesus Christ". (2 Nephi 29:7-11)

Invite family members to share in reading scriptures from the Book of Mormon that teach or testify of Christ (such as; 2 Nephi 33:10-11 [Mosiah 3:5-10](#); [3 Nephi 11:7-11](#)).

Discussion Question:

- How has your testimony of Jesus Christ been strengthened by the Book of Mormon?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #274 - *The Iron Rod* (or Children's Songbook #109 Search, Ponder & Pray)

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Recite Article of Faith #8

Young Women: Make a personal plan to read the Book of Mormon and complete the Virtue value project in Personal Progress

Young Men: Study 1 Nephi 15:23-24 and make a list of words or phrases you find that describe how you should approach your study of the scriptures and word of the living prophets.

WEEK #2

HOW PRECIOUS IS THE BOOK OF MORMON TO YOU?

Opening Song: Hymn # 85 - *How Firm a Foundation*

Lesson: Consider sharing from President Russell M. Nelson's October 2017 conference address: The Book of Mormon –What would your life be like without it?

Scripture: Mosiah 5:2

Discussion Questions:

- How precious is the Book of Mormon to you?
- If you were offered diamonds or rubies or the Book of Mormon, which would you choose? Honestly, which is of greater worth to you?
- What would your life be like without the Book of Mormon?
- What would you not know?
- What would you not have?

President Nelson shares his testimony of the Book of Mormon

“When I think of the Book of Mormon, I think of the word power. The truths of the Book of Mormon have the power to heal, comfort, restore, succor, strengthen, console, and cheer our souls.

My dear brothers and sisters, I promise that as you prayerfully study the Book of Mormon every day, you will make better decisions—every day. I promise that as you ponder what you study, the windows of heaven will open, and you will receive answers to your own questions and direction for your own life. I promise that as you daily immerse yourself in the Book of Mormon, you can be immunized against the evils of the day, even the gripping plague of pornography and other mind-numbing addictions.”

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #298 - *Home Can Be a Heaven on Earth* (or Children's Songbook #109 Search, Ponder & Pray)

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Recite Article of Faith #8

Young Women: Make a personal plan to read the Book of Mormon and complete the Virtue value project in Personal Progress

Young Men: Write your plans to begin or strengthen a habit of regular prayer and scripture study. Your scripture study could include the words of living prophets in the Ensign or Liahona.

WEEK #3

HOW THE BOOK OF MORMON TRANSFORMS YOU

Opening Song: Hymn #277 - *As I Search the Holy Scriptures* (or Children's Songbook #108 *The 8th Article of Faith*)

Lesson: Read and share how reading the Book of Mormon transformed the life of a doctor and a nurse (both colleagues of President Russell M. Nelson) in his October 2010 conference address.

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) said: "There is a power in the book which will begin to flow into your lives the moment you begin a serious study of the book. You will find greater power to resist temptation. You will find the power to avoid deception. You will find the power to stay on the strait and narrow path."

Consider using FHE Object Lesson: Your Daily Get-Up-and -Go to help assist your family discussion: found here <https://goo.gl/SuuC51>

Scripture: Russell M. Nelson talk "Be Thou an Example of the Believers" <https://goo.gl/xlyjjU>

Discussion Questions:

- The prophets have counseled us to study the Book of Mormon. For example, the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "A man would get nearer to God by abiding by [the Book of Mormon's] precepts, than by any other book" What are some ways in which you might feel nearer to God when you are consistently reading the Book of Mormon?
- Many additional blessings come from sincere study of the Book of Mormon. What blessings have our current prophet and apostles said will come? (Search conference.lds.org or view video clip: *The Book of Mormon: Messages From Heaven*)

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children's Song (CSMP 2006) *Scripture Power*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Article of Faith #8

Young Women: Virtue value project in Personal Progress

Young Men: Share what you've learned from your scripture study. For example, you could share with your family, with friends, or in quorum meeting.

WEEK #4

THE BOOK OF MORMON CAN BECOME THE KEystone OF OUR TESTIMONIES

Opening Song: Hymn # 137 - *Testimony* (or Children's Songbook #86 *The Golden Plates*)

Lesson: Consider preparing for your family to read, listen or watch God's Compelling Witness: The Book of Mormon from October 2017 General Conference given by Sunday School General President Tad R. Callister

"The Book of Mormon is not only the keystone of our religion, but it can also become the keystone of our testimonies so that when trials or unanswered questions confront us, it can hold our testimonies securely in place."

Brother Callister concludes with his testimony:

"I bear my solemn testimony that the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God. It is God's compelling witness of the divinity of Jesus Christ, the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith, and the absolute truth of this Church. May it become the keystone of our testimonies, so it may be said of us, as it was of the converted Lamanites, they "never did fall away" ([Alma 23:6](#))."

Scripture: Alma 23:6

Discussion Questions:

- How have you seen the Book of Mormon act as both a shield and a sword?
- Why do you think the testimonies of the Anti-Nephi-Lehies were unshakeable?
- What can you do to protect your testimony and those of other family members to prevent them from faltering?
- How can you continue to show love or even show an increase in love for those whose testimony may be wavering?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Children's Songbook #120 - *Nephi's Courage* (or Children's Songbook #168 *I Want to be a Missionary Now*)

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Article of Faith #8

Young Women: Virtue value project in Personal Progress

Young Men: Write down your testimony of the Book of Mormon and share it with your family, with friends, or in quorum meeting.

JOSEPH SMITH

MAY 2018

STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

When Moroni first appeared to the boy Joseph Smith he said that “his name would be spoken of for both good and evil among all nations, kindred, and tongues.”

Later, when the Prophet Joseph Smith was struggling in Liberty jail the Lord revealed:

D&C 122:

- The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee;
- While the pure in heart, and the wise, and the noble, and the virtuous, shall seek counsel, and authority, and blessings constantly from under thy hand.

The great question is “what think ye of the Prophet Joseph Smith?” Do you believe that he is the Prophet of the Restoration?

Many voices proclaim that Joseph Smith was a fraud. That he was a thief, a gold digger, and a charlatan. Truly we are living in a day of fools!

However, the pure in heart continue to seek his counsel, authority and blessing from under his hands. I bear my witness that Joseph Smith is indeed a Prophet. Called to restore the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness to the earth in the latter-days. I love the Prophet Joseph. I honor him.

So now you must answer this question on your own. Do you know that Joseph Smith is a prophet? Because if he is then the Book of Mormon is true, and the church is true!

I promise, the Lord wants you to know he is a Prophet. Through the power of the Holy Ghost the Lord will burn into your heart an undeniable witness. Then you will know! Study, ponder and pray! I promise your testimony will come.

WEEK #1

FIRST VISION AND JOSEPH SMITH

May Week 1 First Vision and Joseph Smith

Opening Song: Children's Songbook #74 - *I Feel My Savior's Love*

Lesson: A Prophet of God

When Joseph Smith was 14 years old, he wanted to know which church he should join, so he asked God in sincere prayer. In response to this prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph and told him the true Church of Jesus Christ was not on the earth and They had chosen Joseph to restore it.

From that day, Joseph labored in God's service, working to establish The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and to build up God's kingdom on earth in the latter days. Faithful members of the Church witness that Jesus Christ is the Savior and Redeemer of the world. Jesus directs His Church today through revelation to a prophet on the earth. Joseph Smith was such a prophet. Although Joseph accomplished many things during his life, most important was his commitment to being a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ.

Scripture:

Read D&C 76:22, JSH 1:10-20

Discussion Question:

- What did Joseph do to seek his answer about the true church?

"At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is, ask of God. I at length came to the determination to "ask of God," concluding that if he gave wisdom to them that lacked wisdom, and would give liberally, and not upbraid, I might venture."

- What was the answer he received?

"I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong"

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #136 - *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Article of Faith #1 (Memorize or recite)

Young Women: Faith Value 2

Young Men: Pray & Study Scriptures section

WEEK #2

THE RESTORED GOSPEL

Opening Song: Hymn #2 - *The Spirit of God*

Lesson: “Through Joseph Smith was restored the doctrine of the gospel being preached to the dead in the spirit world to those who did not have a fair chance on earth to hear it. This was not the invention of a creative mind; it was the restoration of a biblical truth. Peter had long ago taught, “For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit” ([1 Peter 4:6](#))

Through Joseph Smith have been restored all the powers, keys, teachings, and ordinances necessary for salvation and exaltation. You cannot go anywhere else in the world and get that. It is not to be found in any other church. It is not to be found in any philosophy of man or scientific digest or individual pilgrimage, however intellectual it may seem. Salvation is to be found in one place alone, as so designated by the Lord Himself when He said that this is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth” ([D&C 1:30](#))” Elder Tad R. Callister General Conference Nov 2009

Scriptures: Watch the video: Joseph Smith The Prophet of the Restoration (1 hour movie)

Found here - <https://goo.gl/Z2J8o3>

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

WEEKLY GOALS::

Primary Children: Read Article of Faith 13 and recite or memorize the first few lines

Young Women: Integrity Value Goal: 3 or work on your 10 hour Integrity project

Young Men: Pray and Study the Scriptures: Read Joshua 1:8 & Alma 17: 2-3 (Write down what blessings will as you study the Prophets.

WEEK #3

PERSECUTION AND OPPOSITION

Opening Song: Hymn #19 - *We Thank Thee, O God, For a Prophet*

Lesson: Joseph said that when he was 17, an angel told him that his “name [would] be had for good and evil among all nations, ... among all people.”⁴ This amazing prophecy is continuing to be fulfilled today as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has spread throughout the world.

Opposition, criticism, and antagonism are companions to the truth. Whenever the truth with regard to the purpose and destiny of man is revealed, there will always be a force to oppose it. Beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, down to the ministry of Christ, and on down to our day, there has always been and will ever be an effort to deceive, derail, oppose, and frustrate the plan of life.

Look for the biggest dust cloud billowing above the most dirt that is kicked at One who was most opposed, challenged, and rejected, beaten, abandoned, and crucified, One who descended below all things, and there you will find the truth, the Son of God, the Savior of all mankind.

Discussion Question:

- Why did they not leave Him alone?
 - » Because He is the truth, and the truth will always be opposed. And then look for one who brought forth another testament of Jesus Christ and other scripture, look for one who was the instrument by which the fullness of the gospel and the Church of Jesus Christ were restored to the earth, look for him and expect to find the dirt flying.
 - » Joseph Smith is a perfect example of enduring to end

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

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Closing Song: Hymn #27 - *Praise to the Man*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Do a secret act of kindness for someone

Young Women: Good Works #3 or work on your 10 hour project

Young Men: Work on your Personal Priesthood Plan

WEEK #4

THE PROPHETIC CALLING OF JOSEPH SMITH

Opening Song: Hymn # 85 - *How Firm A Foundation*

Lesson: The Book of Mormon is God's compelling witness of the divinity of Jesus Christ, the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith, and the absolute truth of this Church.

Scripture: Read or Watch Conference Talk: God's Compelling Witness: The Book of Mormon. Elder Tad Callister, October 2017 <https://goo.gl/HufZBx>

Read D&C 76:22

Discussion Question:

- How can reading the Book of Mormon strengthen our testimony of the Prophet Joseph?
- What sacrifices did Joseph Smith make that has helped you in your daily life?

Bear Testimony: Any family member can bare powerful record of this topic. Let the spirit guide you to do so.

Closing Song: Hymn #308 - *Love One Another*

WEEKLY GOALS:

Primary Children: Memorize Article of Faith #4

Young Women: Individual Worth #1 or 10 hour project

Young Men: Understand Doctrine. Read: D&C 11:21 and record your thoughts

FAMILY HOME EVENING STUDY GUIDE

2017 – 2018