

January: Heavenly Father Prepared a Way for Me to Return to His Presence

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JANUARY WEEK 1

I am a child of God and can be like Him someday.

Who are you? Do you know? You know your name, and you know you belong to a family here on earth. Your parents and family love you. You are special to them. You are also special to Heavenly Father. He is the father of your spirit. You lived with Him in heaven before you came to earth. Everyone born on the earth is a child of Heavenly Father.

You do not remember living with Heavenly Father, but you are His child. The scriptures teach us that "all of [us] are children of the most High". "The most High" means Heavenly Father.

Do you have the same color eyes as your mother? Is the color of your hair like your father's? Children often are very much like their parents. The Bible teaches us that "God created man in his own image". To be created in His image means that you look like your Heavenly Father. It also means you can become like Him.

Prophets testify that we are children of God and that He knows and loves each one of us. Each time we sing "I Am a Child of God", we are testifying that we know who we are. Heavenly Father loves us. He will answer our prayers and help us to become like Him. We are His children, and He wants us to return to live with Him again someday.



JANUARY WEEK 2

Heavenly Father provided a Savior and makes it possible for me to return to His presence.

Our Father in Heaven knew that while we were on earth we would not remember our life with Him. We would not know the things we needed to do to return to Him. He also knew we would sin. Because of our sins, we would be punished by being separated from Him forever. And when we died, we would not have our bodies of flesh and bones anymore.

We would need someone to help us with these problems. This person would teach us what we would have to do to return to our Father in Heaven. He would help us overcome the wrong things we would do. He would also make a way for us to have our bodies of flesh and bones again after we die. This person would be called our Savior. Only He could save us from the punishment for the things we would do wrong. Only He could help us learn to be obedient to our Father in Heaven. Only He could make it possible for us to have our bodies of flesh and bones again after death.

Because our Father in Heaven loves us, He chose Jesus to be our Savior. For this reason, Jesus is often called Jesus Christ. Christ means chosen by our Father in Heaven to be the Savior. Our Father in Heaven chose Jesus rather than Satan because our Father in Heaven did not want us to lose our right to choose for ourselves. He knew we must do good things because we want to, not because someone forces us to. Our Father in Heaven wants us to follow and obey Jesus. He knows that Jesus will always teach us our Father's way of doing things so we can return and live with Him again.



JANUARY WEEK 3

Jesus Christ is the perfect example for me to follow.

Have you played follow-the-leader? Have you sung "Do As I'm Doing"? Have you set the table with your mom and placed the plates, utensils and glasses just the way she did? If you've done any of these things, you know how to be a good follower and you are learning something. You are learning by following the example of the leader.

When Jesus Christ lived on the earth, He set a perfect example for us to follow in treating other people. He said, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you". He showed us at least three things that each of us can do:

He was kind - Jesus taught that we can share what we have with others. We can visit people who are sick. We can make someone who is new feel welcome. Jesus did these things, and we can, too.

He loved everyone - People will know that we are followers of Jesus Christ when they see that we are trying to love everyone.

He served others - Jesus spent His whole life serving others. He even gave His life for others—for us. He is the perfect example for us to follow.





Because our Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to be our Savior, Satan became angry and rebelled. There was war in heaven. Satan and his followers fought against Jesus Christ and His followers.

In this great war, Satan and all the spirits who followed him were sent away from God and cast down from heaven. Those that followed Satan were not able to get bodies.

Because we are here on earth and have mortal bodies, we know that we chose to follow Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. Satan and his followers are also on the earth, but as spirits. They have not forgotten who we are, and they are around us daily, tempting us to do things that are not pleasing to our Heavenly Father. In our premortal life, we chose to follow Jesus Christ and accept God's plan. We must continue to follow Jesus Christ here on earth. Only by following Him can we return to our heavenly home.



February: Heavenly Father Has a Plan for His Children

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FEBRUARY WEEK 1

Heavenly Father has a plan for His children.

Carlos was a 10-year-old who liked to run, jump, and play. He also liked to ask lots of questions. His Primary teacher loved him. She would often say to him, "It is very important for you to learn the things we are teaching in Primary. Someday you will grow up to be a priesthood holder, a father, and a leader in the Church, and you will need to know these things." Carlos thought that his teacher was telling him that just so he would be reverent. However, he began to listen and learn. When Carlos grew up, he did receive the priesthood, he became a father, and he was called to be a leader in the Church. He remembered what his Primary teacher had said to him, and he was glad that he had listened and learned.

Heavenly Father has a plan for us. He told us about His plan when we lived with Him before we came to earth. When we learned of His plan, we were so happy we shouted for joy! His plan includes being part of a family. He also planned that we would be able to choose between right and wrong. He planned for Jesus to come to earth and show us how to choose the right. If we have faith in Jesus and follow Him, Heavenly Father has promised us that we will be happy and live with our families, Heavenly Father, and Jesus eternally.



FEBRUARY WEEK 2

Heavenly Father commanded Jesus Christ to create the earth as a home for His children.

"Let there be light!" Suddenly, bright light burst into the darkness of space. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ saw that the light was good. They called the light day and the darkness night. A new world had begun.

Each new baby who is born receives a physical body from his or her earthly parents and is a spirit child of Heavenly Father. And each child who comes to the earth is blessed by the beautiful world Heavenly Father and Jehovah created.

Heavenly Father directed Jesus in creating the earth for us to enjoy. Together, They planned carefully so there would be food, water, animals, and everything we would need in our earthly home. Each child who comes to earth is blessed by the beautiful world Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ created.



FEBRUARY WEEK 3

My body is created in the image of God.

When a baby bird hatches, it looks like its parents. When a giraffe is born, it looks like its parents. So it is with us. Our bodies are patterned after our Heavenly Father.

In 1995, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shared an important message about the family. It is called, "The Family: A Proclamation to the World". "What is a proclamation?" To proclaim something means to declare officially and formally that it is true.

In this proclamation it says, "All human beings – male and female – are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny."

This means that we have physical bodies and can become like Heavenly Father. We are God's family. We are His sons and daughters, created in the image of heavenly parents. He has given us eyes so we can see, ears so we can hear, mind so we can think and a heart so we can love. Heavenly Father gave us our bodies because He has an important mission for us to do while they we are on the earth and we need to take good care of them.





"Happy birthday, Juliana!" Dad said. He handed Juliana a box wrapped in shiny paper and tied with a bow.

Juliana grinned. She was excited to receive a gift from her father and couldn't wait to open the box. Do you get excited like Juliana when you get a gift? Heavenly Father has given each of us a valuable gift. It is called agency. Agency is the ability to make our own choices.

Before we came to earth, Satan didn't want anyone to have a choice. He wanted to force us to come to earth and do what he wanted us to do. But Heavenly Father knew it was important for us to make our own choices. With each right choice we make, we grow closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. They want us to make good choices so we can return to live with Them again. As we choose to obey truth and use our agency to keep His commandments, we will be blessed.



March: Jesus Christ is our Savior.

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MARCH WEEK 1

I can gain a testimony of Jesus Christ.

A little child asked his mother what the word believe meant. The mother explained it the best she could. Finally the child looked up with understanding on his face and said, "Oh, I see—to believe is to hear in my heart!" The feeling in your heart that Heavenly Father lives and that Jesus is the Christ is called a testimony. You can have a testimony that the gospel is true and that Heavenly Father and Jesus love you and want you to be happy.

What is a testimony? It is the knowledge given to those who seek it that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are real, that the prophets speak in Their name, that the scriptures are the word of God, that the Church is true, and that the Lord restored it through Joseph Smith in our day.

Our testimonies are often strengthened by our experiences. Our testimonies are also strengthened when we share them with others. The Holy Ghost testifies of truth and will help us know for ourselves that Jesus Christ is real and that He loves us.



MARCH WEEK 2

Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ I can repent and be forgiven of my sins.

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

After suffering in Gethsemane, Jesus was arrested, bound, mocked, spit upon, scourged, and put to death on a cross. He suffered hours of intense physical pain, then gave up His life. Because He was a God and had power over death, He did not have to die. He chose to do it for our sakes. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ we can be saved from our sins if we repent. Because of Jesus Christ, we will be resurrected and can return to live with Heavenly Father again. Jesus Christ loved us and gave His life for us. It was the greatest gift that has ever been given to us.



MARCH WEEK 3

Jesus Christ was resurrected, and I will be too.

Sister Nielson was teaching the Sunbeam class. She held a picture of Jesus showing His wounds after He had been resurrected.

"You mean He lived again after He was dead?" Heather asked.

Jake exclaimed, "Yes, He did! We will live again too!"

How did three-year-old Jake know that Jesus lived again? How did he know that he too would live again?

Each week Jake listened to Sister Nielson's lessons. She taught about Jesus and bore her testimony. Jake listened to his parents during family home evening and at other times. They taught about Jesus and bore testimony of Him. The feeling in Jake's heart told him to believe the words of his teacher and parents.

After Jesus was resurrected, He showed Himself to His disciples. Thomas was not with them. The other disciples told Thomas they had seen Jesus. But Thomas said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe".

Eight days later Jesus did show Himself to Thomas. Jesus let Thomas feel the nail prints in His hands and touch His side. Then Jesus said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed".

Like Jake, we can believe in Jesus even though we do not see Him. Our faith will grow when we know, without seeing, that Jesus is our Savior.



A long ago there lived a man named Moses. One day while he was taking a flock of sheep to a mountain to graze, he saw a bush that was on fire. To his surprise, the bush did not burn up. When Moses walked over to see this great sight, a voice called to him from the bush, saying, "Moses, Moses. ... put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." When Moses had done this, Jesus Christ, whose voice Moses had heard, told him that He wanted Moses to go to Egypt and lead the children of Israel out of captivity and into the promised land. Moses was promised that as he did this difficult thing, the Lord would be there to help him.

Moses must have felt great reverence knowing that he was in the presence of and was receiving instruction from Jesus Christ. When the Lord told Moses to take off his shoes, He was teaching Moses that when we are in holy places we must show reverence.

Our meetinghouses belong to Heavenly Father, and they, too, are holy places. We are not asked to take off our shoes to show reverence when we go into a meetinghouse, but we should dress carefully to show our respect. We should also sing and pray reverently, think of Jesus Christ when we take the sacrament, and listen quietly to our teachers and the speakers. If we behave irreverently—running, talking loudly, littering, or distracting others—we cannot hear and feel what Jesus Christ wants the Holy Ghost to tell us. We also keep others from feeling His Spirit.

When we are reverent at church, the Holy Ghost will help us know and feel the things that the Savior wants to teach us. Jesus Christ has told us that we should "be still, and know that I am God"



April: The Family Is Central to God's Plan

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APRIL WEEK 1
The family is central to God's plan.

The Book of Mormon tells about a wicked man named Amalickiah. He wanted to destroy the Church and rule over the Nephites as their king.

Captain Moroni was a strong and righteous leader of the Nephite armies. Captain Moroni wanted to remind the people how important it was to defend their families and their faith. He tore his coat and made it into a flag, or banner. On it he wrote these words:

"In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children."

He called his banner "the title of liberty," and he fastened it on the end of a pole. Then he knelt and prayed that the people could stay free so they could still worship God and receive His blessings. Today we have something to remind us how important our families and our faith are. It is "The Family: A Proclamation to the World." Here are some of its words: "The family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children. ... The family is ordained of God."*

Because He loves us, He has given us families so that we can love and learn from one another. By following Heavenly Father's plan, families can return to Him and live with Him forever.



APRIL WEEK 2
Parents have important responsibilities in families.

When President Ezra Taft Benson was a young boy, his father was called on a mission. Ezra, the oldest child in his family, had six younger brothers and a sister. He knew that his mother needed his help to make their home a cheerful and comfortable place. He woke up early each morning to milk the cows before he went to school. His younger brothers and sister laughed as he squirted milk into their mouths when they came into the barn to watch him. Ezra comforted them when they missed their father. He even dug vegetables from a storage pit under the snow so they would have enough to eat. Ezra tried in every way to make his home a happy one.

As prophet of the Church, President Benson taught us that "our Heavenly Father loves all of His children of all nations everywhere. Because He loves us so much, He has given us loving parents who care for us and teach us. Our mothers and fathers are our first and best teachers, and what they teach us can help us to grow up to be good and useful men and women".

Our Father in Heaven has given responsibilities to each person in the family. He gave parents the responsibility to teach and care for their children. We can do our part to help our parents make our homes a happy place just as President Benson did.



After a family home evening lesson on obedience, four-year-old Brandon was anxious to try harder to obey his mom and dad. He and his mom decided that a reminder might help him. Brandon would repeat, "If I choose to obey, I'll be happy all day!"

One day Brandon wanted to play at his friend's house. He raced across the yard when suddenly the words "If I choose to obey, I'll be happy all day!" came to his mind. Remembering that he should ask his mom first, Brandon headed back to his house.

APRIL WEEK 3
Children have the responsibility to obey their parents.

When he turned eight, Brandon was baptized and received the gift of the Holy Ghost. He read in his scriptures that the Holy Ghost would show him all things he should do (see 2 Ne. 32:5). Brandon knew the Holy Ghost would remind him to follow Jesus Christ.

Our Father in Heaven has given responsibilities to each person in the family. He gave parents the responsibility to teach and care for their children. As a member of a family, you also have important responsibilities. Heavenly Father has commanded us to obey our parents. He has asked us to love and serve one another. Each family member should be helpful, cheerful, and kind to other family members. When we help family members, we are showing our love for them and for Heavenly Father.

Jesus Christ set the perfect example for us. The scriptures teach us that "blessed is every one that ... walketh in [the Lord's] ways. ... Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee". When we follow Jesus Christ, we will be happy not only all day but throughout all eternity!



"I will not take the garbage out for you....do it yourself!," Caylee said to her brother Trevin, who was two years younger than she.

"No, you won't help me, but you'd jump at a chance to help Tim Cruthers," Trevin said as he ran outside.

"It worries me, Caylee," mother said, "to see you and Trevin treat each other the way you do."

"Oh, he makes me so mad that I can't stand him!"

"Would you be willing to try an experiment—just you—without his knowing anything about it?"

"Tell me what it is first."

Mother challenged her, "No matter what Trevin does or says, you do and say only those things that show your love for him. See what happens. I'll be an interested observer."

"Oh, that would be hard. I'm not sure I could do it. Do you think he'd change? It would be good to have a brother who was a friend. You know, Addie and her brother have the best relationship with each other. Maybe she can help me. I'll think about it."

On her way to school next morning, Caylee stopped at Addie's house so they could walk together as usual. Addie was carrying a heavy load of posters. As they came out, Trevin passed by. Caylee called out to him, "Oh, Trevin, please carry my books so I can help Addie with these posters."

"Yes, I will, just like you helped me take out the garbage."

"I'm sorry about that. I'll do it tonight."

But Trevin showed no signs of having heard her.

Having missed lunch that day to prepare for a test, Caylee was very hungry when she got home. She made herself a sandwich. Just as she was about to take a bite, Trevin came in and said, "Hey there, make one of those for me."

She opened her mouth to say, "Yes, just like you carried my books," but instead she said, "Here take this one. I'll make myself another."

Trevin looked shocked. He grabbed the sandwich and ran.

A few days later, mother said to Caylee, "I think it's beginning to work, though Trevin is still suspicious of your motives."

She shook her head, "I think I feel a little better toward him. But it's even harder than I thought it would be. Once I slipped back into the old way and really let him have it."

"It will take a while for him to feel that you are sincere. But, in the meantime, I must say it is more peaceful around here."

About a week later, Caylee excitedly said to mother, "It works! You know I was doing the dishes alone. It was Emalee's turn, but she was feeling sick so dad sent her to bed. And, would you believe it, Trevin came out and said he'd help dry them. We had the best talk. I really do love him. I've learned that I am happiest when I am helping my family."

May: Families Are Blessed When They Follow the Prophet

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How do we know what Heavenly Father would say to us if He were here? God speaks through a prophet today just as He has done in the past. Our prophet—President Thomas S. Monson—teaches us what Heavenly Father wants us to know and do and become. We are blessed when we listen to and follow the prophet. President Monson’s directions help us become more like Jesus Christ. Here are some things you can know from what President Monson has said.

You can know that Heavenly Father loves you. President Monson said: “I assure you that our Heavenly Father is mindful of the challenges we face in the world today. He loves each of us and will bless us as we strive to keep His commandments and seek Him through prayer.”

You can know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. President Monson said: “God does live. Jesus is His Son. ... He is our Redeemer. ... He loves us. ... He gave His life for us.”

You can know how to help your family. President Monson said: “May we ... demonstrate kindness and love within our own families.”

You can know how to help the world you live in. President Monson said: “May we be good citizens of the nations in which we live and good neighbors in our communities, reaching out to those of other faiths, as well as to our own.”



In the Book of Mormon, Lehi tells his family about his dream of the tree of life. In the dream, Lehi wanted his family to eat the fruit of the tree, which was “desirable above all other fruit”. He saw many people walking along the path that led to the tree of life, but some got lost in mists of darkness and wandered away from the path. Others held onto the iron rod that led along the path toward the tree. They walked forward, holding tightly to the rod until they reached the tree and ate the fruit, which brought them joy.

Lehi’s son Nephi prayed to know the meaning of the things his father had seen. Nephi was shown the same dream as his father. The Spirit taught Nephi that the tree of life represents the love of God. Nephi was shown Jesus Christ, the Son of God, teaching and blessing people on the earth. Nephi was also taught that the rod of iron represents the word of God.

The scriptures are the word of God. The prophets in the scriptures help us to hold to the iron rod. We will know what Jesus wants us to do and say. We will have power to resist temptation and to feel of the love of Heavenly Father.



MAY WEEK 1

God speaks to us through prophets.

MAY WEEK 2

The prophets in the scriptures are examples to my family.

MAY WEEK 3

My family will be blessed as we follow the prophet.



Families are ordained of God. Before we were born, we lived as spirit sons and daughters of Heavenly Father. When it was time for us to come to earth, Heavenly Father planned for us to come to a family. He knew that families were the best way to help us prepare to return to live with Him.

Heavenly Father calls prophets to testify of Jesus Christ and teach His gospel. Prophets help families know what they need to do to be happy and to return to live with Him.

We can read about the teachings of the prophets in the scriptures. We can listen to the prophet in general conference. If we listen carefully, we can learn what Heavenly Father wants us to do. When we obey the prophet's counsel, our faith will grow. We will be able to help strengthen our family.



MAY WEEK 4

The prophet speaks to us at general conference.

Twice a year in the Conference Center, President Thomas S. Monson and others speak to us. If we listen closely during the sustaining of the General Authorities of the Church, we will hear that the members of the First Presidency and the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are called as "prophets, seers, and revelators."

A revelator reveals, or makes known to us, what the Lord wants us to know and do. A prophet prophesies, or explains to us and makes sure that we understand what has been revealed. (Sometimes he also tells us of future happenings, like when Lehi warned the Jews that they would be destroyed and scattered if they did not repent of their wickedness, and when Samuel the Lamanite told of the birth and death of Jesus Christ.) "A seer is greater than a prophet. ... A seer is a revelator and a prophet also; ... by them ... things shall be made known which otherwise could not be known."

We need to listen closely to what our leaders have to say. When we truly listen to them, sincerely wanting to grow closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, we will feel the Holy Ghost testifying to us that the words of these prophets, seers, and revelators are true!



June: Priesthood Ordinances and Temple Work Bless My Family

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JUNE WEEK 1
Priesthood ordinances bless and strengthen my family.



How much light does a light bulb give when it is not screwed in? How much work does a windmill do when there is no wind? How much energy does a waterwheel produce when there is no water to make it move? These man-made inventions need a source of power in order to function. Jesus knew that men could not direct His church on earth without power from God. He said that this power would be given by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority.

Our Heavenly Father gave his authority to certain men so that his work could be done. It is called the priesthood. Priesthood means the power and authority to act for our Heavenly Father. The priesthood can bless my family in many ways. I can request a blessing when I am sick or need comfort. However, some of the greatest blessings come from ordinances such as baptism, confirmation, temple marriage and even the sacrament. All of these ordinances require the priesthood and allow us to progress and grow in the gospel. The priesthood helps to strengthen and bless all families.

JUNE WEEK 2
Temples make it possible for families to be together forever.



When Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, they became the parents of the first family on earth. Adam and Eve had sons and daughters and taught them the gospel (see Moses 5:12). They experienced the challenges and also the great joy of family life (see 2 Ne. 2:23).

Since then, through Heavenly Father's plan, each of us has come to earth as part of a family. Each family is different—there may be two parents or one parent, lots of children or few children; sometimes there are cousins or grandparents also living in the home. It is important for family members to love each other and do their part to have a happy home.

Learning and living gospel standards can help you do your part to build a happy home and have an eternal family. As you choose the right—by being baptized, paying tithing, repenting, keeping the Sabbath day holy, helping Mom and Dad, taking the sacrament, praying, reading the scriptures, and living worthy to go to the temple—you are learning righteous family traditions.

As we do our part to build an eternal family by learning and living the gospel of Jesus Christ, we will rejoice in Heavenly Father's plan for us. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for us to return to the presence of God and for families to be together forever.

JUNE WEEK 3
I can prepare now to be worthy to enter the temple.



Imagine that you have been invited to the home of someone you have always liked and looked up to. They live in a magnificent home and you have been invited to a special dinner with them. What things would you do to prepare? Maybe you would dress nicely, groom yourself or be prepared for conversation. You wouldn't want to go there unprepared. It would be uncomfortable. This is also the same for the Lord's temples. It is His special house and we need to prepare now.

Sometimes here in Primary we sing "I Love to See the Temple". It teaches that a temple is "a house of God, a place of love and beauty." It also teaches that a temple is "a holy place where we are sealed together." When we sing the words "I'm going there someday," this is a promise we are making to ourselves and to

Heavenly Father that we will be worthy to enter His holy house. We can read about the teachings of the prophets in the scriptures. We can listen to the prophet in general conference. If we listen carefully, we can learn what Heavenly Father wants us to do now. When we obey the prophet's counsel, our faith will grow.

A person is never too young or too old to become acquainted with the Lord. . . . Although your first trip to the temple may seem far away, you should begin preparing now.



The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that our "greatest responsibility in this world . . . is to seek after our dead." Family history is an important part of the work of salvation and exaltation.

Why do we do temple work? Our answer is simple: "Because we love them. Because they deserve the same blessings that we enjoy. Heavenly Father loves our ancestors as much as He loves us. He needs us to help them by finding their names, learning about their lives, and making sure their temple work gets done.

We can learn how to do family history work and piece together the stories of some of our ancestors. President Monson has also said, "I admonish all families: search out your heritage. It is important to know . . . those who came before us. We discover something about ourselves when we learn about our ancestors."

Someday we will meet them and be an eternal family.



July: We Become Members of the Church through Baptism and Confirmation

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When Jesus Christ was on the earth He taught His gospel. He taught faith, repentance, baptism by immersion, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. He gave His Apostles His authority, which is the priesthood of God. The Church of Jesus Christ was on the earth.

After Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, His Apostles went forth to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, but many people rejected them. The Church of Jesus Christ and the priesthood were taken from the earth for hundreds of years.

In 1820, young Joseph Smith was reading in James in the New Testament. He read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God".

Joseph wanted to know which church to join. He decided to do what the scripture said. Joseph went to a grove of trees one spring morning and knelt in prayer to ask of God. As he was praying, a bright light descended. In that light stood two glorious heavenly beings: Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Joseph asked Them which church he should join. Jesus Christ told Joseph to join none of the churches.

Three years later, Joseph was visited by the angel Moroni, who taught him about the Book of Mormon and showed him where the golden plates were buried.

John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter, James, and John came to earth to ordain Joseph Smith to the priesthood of God. The priesthood was once again on the earth.

The true Church was restored—or brought back—to the earth. We are blessed to have the restored Church on the earth.



The Book of Mormon tells about a group of people who gathered together in a forest called Mormon. They wanted to hear Alma teach about the gospel of Jesus Christ. After Alma taught them for many days, he asked them if they wanted to make a covenant to serve God and keep His commandments. He told them that if they would be baptized, the Holy Ghost would always be with them.

When they heard this, the people were so happy that they "clapped their hands for joy". Alma baptized about 200 people in the Waters of Mormon. These people thought of the forest of Mormon as a beautiful place because that is where they learned about the Savior and were baptized.

Like Alma's people, we feel joyful as we look forward to or remember being baptized. Like those people, when we are baptized, we make a covenant with God. We promise to keep His commandments and serve Him. We take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and become members of His Church. When we are confirmed, we receive the same wonderful promise that Alma's people received: that the Holy Ghost can be with us always, if we keep God's commandments.



JULY WEEK 1

The Church of Jesus Christ has been restored.

JULY WEEK 2

I become a member of the Church through baptism and confirmation.

JULY WEEK 3

The Holy Ghost comforts and guides me.



The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. Unlike Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost does not have a body of flesh and bone. The Holy Ghost is a spirit personage who will speak to “you in your mind and in your heart” and will show you “what ye should do”.

The Holy Ghost will help you keep your baptismal covenant and guide you to choose the right. He bears witness of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost can give you comfort and guide you away from danger.

When you are baptized and when you take the sacrament, you promise to take the name of Jesus Christ upon you, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments. Then Heavenly Father promises you that the Holy Ghost may always be with you.

You will know the Holy Ghost is with you by the way you feel. President Ezra Taft Benson taught, “When you do good, you feel good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you”.

The Holy Ghost is a wonderful gift from a loving Heavenly Father.



In the Book of Mormon we read about Lehi and his family. Heavenly Father led them to a new home in a choice land. Lehi received a marvelous gift from God: a round ball with two spindles that “pointed the way whither [they] should go”. This gift was called the Liahona. Nephi said the Liahona “did work according to [our] faith and diligence and heed”. Lehi’s family learned to follow the directions of the Liahona.

We receive a gift when we are baptized and confirmed. This is the gift of the Holy Ghost. The gift of the Holy Ghost is like the Liahona. We can learn to follow the Holy Ghost. If we follow His promptings, we can return to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ again.

President Ezra Taft Benson gave this important counsel: “Pray to Heavenly Father to bless you with His Spirit at all times. ... The Holy Ghost is ... a gift from Heavenly Father. ... He whispers to you in a still, small voice to do right. When you do good, you feel good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you. The Holy Ghost is a wonderful companion. He is always there to help you.” (Ensign, May 1989, page 82.)



JULY WEEK 4

I can know the truth through the power of the Holy Ghost.

August: Participating in Wholesome Activities Will Strengthen My Family

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AUGUST WEEK 1 Pray in your families...

Sarah had just started first grade. At first, she appeared to love it. But within only a couple of weeks, she started to cry every morning and beg her parents to let her stay home. They asked what was wrong, but she wouldn't tell them. They talked to her teacher, who had no idea what the problem might be. Sarah was well liked, she had friends, and she was doing well in her schoolwork.

One day after Sarah returned from school particularly upset, her father asked if she thought it would help if they knelt in prayer as a family the next morning and asked for Heavenly Father's help. "Oh, yes, Dad," Sarah replied. "I think that would help."

The next morning, the family went through their regular routine, Sarah crying but eventually ending up in the car, ready to go to school. "Wait, Dad," Sarah said just before they left. "We forgot to pray."

Sarah and her father went back inside and knelt in prayer with her mother and little sister. They prayed specifically that Sarah would have a happy day and a good time at school. That afternoon, when her father picked her up, Sarah left the building with her arms raised in victory. "Prayer works, Dad!" she exclaimed. "Prayer works!"

Prayer does work. When Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers and will bless our families. He will give our families the guidance and help we need to live our lives righteously and return to live with Him.



AUGUST WEEK 2 Family Home Evening strengthens my family.

President Hinckley shared how family home evening's strengthened his testimony and family:

"In 1915 President Joseph F. Smith asked the people of the Church to have family home evening. My father said we would do so, that we would warm up the parlor where mother's grand piano stood and do what the President of the Church had asked.

"We were miserable performers as children. We could do all kinds of things together while playing, but for one of us to try to sing a solo before the others was like asking ice cream to stay hard on the kitchen stove. In the beginning, we would laugh and make cute remarks about one another's performance. But our parents persisted. We sang together. We prayed together. We listened quietly while mother read Bible and Book of Mormon stories. Father told us stories out of his memory. ...

"Out of those simple little meetings, held in the parlor of our old home, came something indescribable and wonderful. Our love for our parents was strengthened. Our love for brothers and sisters was enhanced. Our love for the Lord was increased. An appreciation for simple goodness grew in our hearts. These wonderful things came about because our parents followed the counsel of the President of the Church"

Our families, too, can be blessed and strengthened when we have family home evening.



AUGUST WEEK 3 Scripture study gives me and my family spiritual strength.

How many times do you eat each day? How long have you gone without eating anything at all? When you go without food and water, your stomach starts to growl with hunger and your body feels weak.

Just as your body needs to be fed every day to keep it strong and healthy, your spirit needs daily nourishment to be strong and to stay close to Heavenly Father. One way to do this is by reading the scriptures. Our prophet, President Ezra Taft Benson, has said: "Heavenly Father wants you to continue to learn from the Book of Mormon every day. It's Heavenly Father's special gift to you. By following its teachings, you will learn to do the will of our Father in Heaven.

To be successful in reading the scriptures every day, you first need to promise yourself that you will do it. Then try to make it a habit of reading at the same time each day, perhaps right when you wake up in the morning, before or after a meal,

or just before you go to bed. You can read a verse, a chapter, a page, or for a certain amount of time. If you can't read, ask someone in your family to read to you. The important thing is to do it every day.

Jesus said, "And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost". When you read the scriptures daily with your family, you will be strengthened and blessed in many ways. You and your family will feel closer to Heavenly Father.



"I'm impressed with the five goals you scored in today's game." Collin turned around and realized the man was talking to him. "I'm starting a new soccer team and want to know if you would like to be on it."

"Would I ever!" Collin thought. Collin was nine, and he enjoyed playing soccer. When he and his parents attended the first planning meeting for the new team, the coach explained that they would be playing in many tournaments on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. "Not on Sunday," Collin thought.

After talking with his parents, Collin told the coach he wanted very much to be on the new team, but he would not play soccer on Sunday. He thought the coach would be mad and not let him be on the team. The coach paused for a moment and told Collin that he still wanted him to play. Collin felt peace in his heart and knew he had made the right decision. He was glad he had made the team. His parents reminded him that even if he had not been allowed to join the team, he had made the right decision.

Just as it is important not to do certain things on the Sabbath day so that we can keep it holy, it is also important to do some things. We should do those things that will help us feel close to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. They have taught us that Sunday is the day we worship Them. The Lord said, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy". We can keep the Sabbath day holy when we go to church, take the sacrament, and do other things that will help us feel the Spirit on the Lord's day.



AUGUST WEEK 4

The Sabbath is a day of rest and worship.

September: Living the Gospel Blesses My Family

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We can speak our thanks, we can write our thanks, we can sing about how thankful we are, we can feel thankful in our hearts. There are many ways to show our thanks to Heavenly Father. It is good for us to thank Him often. Heavenly Father asks us to be grateful—to express our thanks—because He knows that a grateful heart helps us feel happy.

The scriptures remind us of many things we can be grateful for. In the Book of Mormon, Jacob, the brother of Nephi, had a difficult time engraving his record on the plates. Even though it was hard, he was glad to do it because it would last for years and years. He hoped that whoever finally read those words in the Book of Mormon would receive them with a thankful heart.

In the Doctrine and Covenants, we learn that we should use and be grateful for all the wholesome herbs, fruits, and other food the Lord gave us.

There is a wonderful account in the scriptures about being grateful. One day when Jesus came to a certain village, ten men who were lepers stood far off and called to Him. Lepers had to stay far away from people so that no one else would catch their disease. They wanted Jesus to heal them of their leprosy. Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they went, a miracle happened—they were healed. There is a sad part to this story. Ten men were healed. Only one of them turned back to give thanks—only one out of ten! Let us be sure that we always remember to say thank you.



An old Jewish legend tells of two brothers, Abram and Zimri, who owned a field and worked it together. They agreed to divide both the labor and the harvest equally. One night as the harvest came to a close, Zimri could not sleep, for it didn't seem right that Abram, who had a wife and seven sons to feed, should receive only half of the harvest, while he, with only himself to support, had so much.

So Zimri dressed and quietly went into the field, where he took a third of his harvest and put it in his brother's pile. He then returned to his bed, satisfied that he had done the right thing.

Meanwhile, Abram could not sleep either. He thought of his poor brother, Zimri, who was all alone and had no sons to help him with the work. It did not seem right that Zimri, who worked so hard by himself, should get only half of the harvest. Surely this was not pleasing to God. And so Abram quietly went to the fields, where he took a third of his harvest and placed it in the pile of his beloved brother.

The next morning, the brothers went to the field and were both astonished that the piles still looked to be the same size. That night both brothers slipped out of their houses to repeat their efforts of the previous night. But this time they discovered each other, and when they did, they wept and embraced. Neither could speak, for their hearts were overcome with love and gratitude.

This is the spirit of compassion: that we love others as ourselves, seek their happiness, and do unto them as we hope they would do unto us. When we serve others we are only in the service of God.



SEPTEMBER WEEK 1

I show my gratitude by offering

thanks for all my blessings.

SEPTEMBER WEEK 2

By giving service to others, I

give service to God.

SEPTEMBER WEEK 3

We believe in being honest.



The Book of Mormon tells us about a special group of people who were honest and true to their faith. They were Lamanites who heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, had faith in him, repented of their sins, and were baptized members of his Church. They called themselves Anti-Nephi-Lehies. Because they learned that it was wrong to fight, they buried their weapons of war in the ground and made a covenant with Heavenly Father that they “never would use weapons again” (Alma 24:18). They kept this covenant and all the commandments so faithfully that they were known for being “perfectly honest and upright in all things”.

The Anti-Nephi-Lehies taught their children to be honest. They wanted their sons and daughters to be true to the gospel and righteous in their dealings with each other and with Heavenly Father. Because the example of their parents was so great, the children wanted to be just as honest and true to the gospel themselves.

The Book of Mormon describes the boys when they grew up: “And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all—they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted”.

These young Anti-Nephi-Lehies became famous as “Helaman’s stripling warriors.” Because of their honesty and their spiritual strength, they were a great help to their people.

You can be like the army of Helaman. You can follow the example of the righteous Lamanites and be honest and true.



SEPTEMBER WEEK 4

By living the gospel I set a good example for others to follow.

After Jesus died, a great Apostle named Paul wrote to members of the Church about how we can be an example of the believers, or a better follower of the Savior. When we do what the Apostle Paul taught, we honor the Savior and His name and we are an example for other people of the Savior’s teachings. Paul wrote, “Let no man despise [look down on] thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”.

Elder Henry B. Eyring’s friends call him “Hal.” He told a story in general conference about a friend he once worked with. His friend was a good person who loved his family. Elder Eyring never told his friend about the gospel and how families can be together forever. One day, he heard that his friend had died. Elder Eyring said that he sometimes wonders if he will meet his friend in heaven and his friend will say, “Hal, you knew—why didn’t you tell me?” Now Elder Eyring shares his testimony with people all over the world. We can be a good example like President Eyring. We can share our testimonies with others. We can be missionaries now and invite our friends to Primary and to Primary activities. Blessings will come to others and our faith in Jesus Christ will grow.

When we follow the Savior, choose the right, and avoid using bad language, we set a good example for other to follow.



October: "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" Came from God to Help My Family

www.sugardoodle.net



Amalickiah was a wicked man. He promised the Nephites many things if they would make him the king. Many people believed him and turned away from righteousness.

Moroni was the captain over the Nephite armies. He was righteous and believed in Jesus Christ. When Moroni heard that many people were being led away by Amalickiah, Moroni became angry with him. He knew the people were in danger of losing their freedom.

Moroni tore off a piece of his coat and wrote on it, "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children". He fastened the fabric to the end of a pole and called it the title of liberty. Then he prayed for the people and visited them, waving the title of liberty and calling on the Nephites to join him in protecting their freedom.

We live in a time when there are people like Amalickiah who want to lead us away from following Heavenly Father's plan. One of the most important parts of that plan is families. Heavenly Father wants members of the Church to understand His plan for families. The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wrote "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" to declare what we believe about families. Like the title of liberty, the proclamation can encourage us to remember and explain what we believe. This proclamation came from our Heavenly Father and can bless all families if we follow its counsel.

OCTOBER WEEK 1
"The Family: A Proclamation to the World"
came from God to help my family.



Marriage is approved of the Lord. The scriptures teach that "marriage is ordained of God" for His children, and also "whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever." His way of everlasting marriage is filled with hope and promise, and is designed to lead to happiness here and to be like Heavenly Father.

After the earth was prepared, God brought man and woman together in the Garden, and the first wedding occurred. They were not yet subject to mortal death, and no time limitations were placed upon their marriage. God declared, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

When Christ lived on the earth, He quoted this commandment and added, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." He gave His disciples power to bind in heaven that which is bound on earth. Paul declared that "neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord."

Through the Proclamation to the Family we learn that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to God's plan. Marriage is a commandment and an essential step in the process of creating a loving family relationship that can be forever because our Heavenly Father loves us so much.

OCTOBER WEEK 2
Marriage between a man and a
woman is essential to God's plan.



When you hear the word happiness, what do you think of? In a general conference address, Sister Coleen K. Menlove, quoted children explaining what they think happiness looks like. One child said, "Happiness looks like a smile that you can see in people's eyes so that you know they really are happy." Another child answered, "Happiness is a big word with flowers all around it." Another said, "Happiness looks peaceful like Jesus and Heavenly Father". Heavenly Father wants us to find happiness in being with our families now and for eternity. That's why He sent His Son to be an example for us. Sister Menlove said, "The Savior, Jesus Christ, showed us the way to happiness and told us everything we need to do to be happy". Those things we need to do include following the commandments found in the scriptures and given to us by modern prophets. President Gordon B. Hinckley said, "The way of happiness is found in ... obedience to the commandments of ... the Lord Jesus Christ". As we keep the commandments, remember our baptismal covenants, and are worthy to have the Holy Ghost with us, we can feel peace and bring happiness to our families.

OCTOBER WEEK 3
When family life is founded on the teachings
of Jesus Christ, we can be happy.





You can strengthen your family as you learn, play, serve, and work together. Sister Barbara B. Smith, a previous Relief Society general president said: "Remember that a family established in love ... is maintained through work and service. A home is strengthened by work when workers receive respect".

Working together in your home helps you to be responsible and to be grateful for the work others do for you. Serving your family members shows that you love them. Sharing talents or hobbies and participating in fun activities with your family teaches you more about your family members.

We can learn about working, serving, and playing together in family home evening. Prophets have promised us that our families will grow stronger when we use this time to study gospel principles and enjoy being together.

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) taught: "Families must spend more time together in work and recreation. Family home evenings should be scheduled once a week as a time for recreation, work projects, skits, songs around the piano, games, special refreshments, and family prayers. ... This practice will bind a family together, in love, pride, tradition, strength, and loyalty".



November: Living the Teachings of Jesus Christ Strengthens Me and My Family

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What does it mean to have faith? Alma says that "if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21). We have faith when we believe and trust in something that is real and true even though we have not seen it for ourselves.

Joseph Smith wanted to know which church he should join. One evening when he was reading the Bible, he read in James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Joseph believed this scripture and planted its truth in his heart. He trusted that the Lord would answer his prayer, even though he had never prayed out loud before. Joseph prayed in faith, and he received a wonderful answer.

When we believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we plant true words of God in our hearts. We nurture this kind of seed by praying, by listening to the prophets, by keeping the commandments, and by responding to the promptings of the Holy Ghost. As we do this, the seed of truth will grow within our hearts. Then we will know that Jesus Christ is happy with our efforts.

Alma says that if we continue to nourish the word of God by our faith, it will grow as large as a tree and bring forth fruit. This means that our faith in Jesus Christ will grow strong and bring blessings for us and for others. What joy that brings! We have faith in Jesus Christ when we believe Him, trust Him, obey Him, and follow Him.



In the scriptures, we read of men, women, and children who prayed to Heavenly Father when they had questions or needed help.

Joseph Smith was fourteen years old when he wanted to know which church to join. He prayed one morning in a grove of trees near his family farm.

Moses wondered about all of God's marvelous creations. He asked questions about them on "an exceedingly high mountain".

Enos had gone to the woods to hunt when he recognized that he needed forgiveness for his sins.

Daniel lived in a busy city near the king's palace. He prayed daily for guidance even though the law said that people who prayed would be thrown into a den of hungry lions.

Esther fasted and prayed because she was afraid to go to the king's court to plead for her people.

Each of these people prayed for help. They believed that no matter where you are or what time of day it is, Heavenly Father can hear your prayer. The scriptures show us that Heavenly Father did hear their prayers and that He answered them.

Prayer is the way we can communicate with our Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. Just as Heavenly Father heard the prayers of the people in the scriptures, Heavenly Father hears our prayers today, and He answers them in ways that will be for the best.



NOVEMBER WEEK 1

"If ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21)

NOVEMBER WEEK 2

Prayer is reverent communication with Heavenly Father.

NOVEMBER WEEK 3
Repentance is a change of mind and heart.



What is repentance? Repentance is turning from doing wrong to doing right. The Savior wants you to turn away from wrong and turn to Him. He gave His life to pay for your sins so that if you repent, you can be forgiven and be clean again.

When you disobey the commandments or hurt others, the Holy Ghost cannot be with you and you may feel sad, guilty, lonely, or afraid. To change these feelings, you need to turn from doing wrong to doing right. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ will help you change. This changing is called repentance.

Repentance begins inside of you—in your thoughts and in your heart. When you know you have done something wrong, think about it until a feeling of sorrow comes into your heart. Do not excuse yourself or blame someone else. Tell Heavenly Father what you have done and how you feel. Tell Him how much you love Him, and ask for His help. If you have hurt someone or something, try to make it better. Promise Heavenly Father that you will try, with all your heart, to do what is right from now on.

Repentance begins on the inside, but usually it shows on the outside as well. When you promise Heavenly Father that you will do what is right, you keep your promise by changing the way you act. You treat others with more love and kindness. You keep the commandments. These actions will help you feel good about yourself and others.

You will need to repent many times throughout your life. As you turn away from wrong and try to do what is right, you will grow closer and closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has promised that if you repent, He will bless you and remember your wrongs no more.



Have you ever had a difficult time forgiving someone who has been unkind to you? If the person comes to you and says that he is sorry, it is always good to say, "I forgive you." But if he is unkind again, what should you do then?

From the New Testament, we learn that Peter asked Jesus a similar question. Peter wanted to know how often he should forgive someone who had wronged him. He asked if forgiving someone seven times was enough.

Jesus answered, "I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven".

Those of you who can multiply know that $70 \times 7 = 490$! What a large number! Did Jesus really mean that Peter should forgive a person 490 times? Would Peter need to carry a book or a tablet to keep track of each time he forgave until he had forgiven that many times? Elder James E. Talmage, an Apostle in our time, tells us that Jesus meant that Peter—and all of us—should be willing to always forgive.

Why is forgiving others so important? When Jesus told Peter to forgive seventy times seven, was He thinking only of the person being forgiven, or was He thinking of Peter too? Would forgiving others help Peter feel peace?

Yes! Jesus knew that Peter would be blessed with a feeling of peace each time he truly forgave someone. Forgiving brings peace to those who forgive as well as to those who are forgiven. Jesus taught that we should forgive and be kind to one another, and He set the example for us.



NOVEMBER WEEK 4
Forgiveness brings peace.

December: We Remember and Worship Our Savior, Jesus Christ

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DECEMBER WEEK 1

The sacrament is a time to remember Jesus Christ.

When you want to remember something important, you might write yourself a note or tie a string on your finger. To remember someone who has been gone for a long time, you might look at his picture or read something he wrote. To remember a song or poem you've learned, you might sing or recite it often.

Jesus gave us the sacrament to help us remember the sacrifice He made for us in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross. He suffered for our sins so that we could be forgiven if we repent. He gave His life and took it up again so that we could be resurrected and live again. The sacrament bread represents Jesus' body, and the water represents His blood, which was shed for us.

When we take the sacrament, we renew the covenants made at baptism: We are willing to take His name upon us as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we will always remember Him, and we will keep His commandments.

There are many ways we can reverently remember Jesus, especially while the sacrament is being passed. We can remember how He suffered for our sins and how He died and was resurrected. We can remember His life and teachings and think about how we can become more like Him. We can remember the things we have done wrong, repent, and ask for forgiveness. We can remember the many blessings He has given us. Jesus said, "And if ye do always remember me ye shall have my Spirit to be with you". The sacrament is a great blessing in our lives.



DECEMBER WEEK 2

Remembering Jesus Christ helps

me choose the right.

Think about the choices you make every day. Do you choose what to wear, what to say, what to read and watch, and how to act? The ability to make choices is a gift from Heavenly Father. It is called agency. Using our agency is an important part of Heavenly Father's plan for us. What helps you choose the right?

Heavenly Father will help you choose the right. You are a child of God, and He wants you to return to live with Him again. Remember, you can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere, and He will bless you with courage to choose the right.

Jesus Christ will help you choose the right. He is "the way, the truth, and the life" and the perfect example for you to follow. You will choose the right when you ask yourself, "What would Jesus want me to do?" If we show our faith in Jesus Christ by choosing the right and by repenting when we do wrong, the Holy Ghost can guide us. As we take the sacrament each week, we can renew our baptismal covenants to remember the Savior and keep His commandments.



DECEMBER WEEK 3

The Son of God was born on earth.

Do you ever feel peaceful when you pray? Do you feel grateful when you think of your blessings? When you sing a reverent Primary song, do you feel close to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ? These spiritual feelings are the beginning of your testimony.

An important part of a testimony is to believe that Jesus Christ plays a central role in Heavenly Father's plan for us. He was born to Mary. He "increased in wisdom and stature". He was baptized as an example for us. He organized the Church, called twelve Apostles, and taught the gospel. He healed the sick and raised the dead. And He suffered for our sins, died, and was resurrected. Because of Jesus Christ, we will all be resurrected. Because of Him, we can repent and return to live with Him and Heavenly Father again.

Your own testimony of the Savior will be strengthened as you learn about Him and read the testimonies of the prophets. You can read some of these testimonies in the scriptures. President Gordon B. Hinckley shared his testimony with the children: "Jesus is my friend. He is my exemplar. He is my teacher. He is my healer. He is my leader. He is my Savior and my Redeemer. He is my God and my King. Gratefully, and with love, I bear witness of these things".





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

Because Jesus wanted us to know how important it is to be prepared, He told us a parable, or story. It is called the parable of the ten virgins. There were ten young women, or virgins, who were invited to a wedding supper. They had to wait for the bridegroom to let them in, but none of them knew when he would come to open the door.

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

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

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

