

Heads up!

Yes, the gum is yours. Open it up and pop it into your mouth. Which will come first? Will the gum lose its flavor or will you finish reading this letter?

This month, our Sunday lessons will focus on the Apostasy and Restoration (see *). As we study together, remember that the pattern of apostasy and restoration has been repeated many times throughout history, with the gospel being restored through Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, and others.



Elder M Russell Ballard taught: “One of the great lessons of this historical pattern is that our choices, both individually and collectively, do result in spiritual consequences for ourselves and for our posterity. ... Each one of you has to decide for yourself if you are going to ignore the past and suffer the painful mistakes and tragic pitfalls that have befallen previous generations” (*Ensign*, May 2009, 32–33).

Be wise enough to learn the lessons of the past. You don't have to spend time as a Laman or a Lemuel in order to know that it's much better to be a Nephi or a Jacob.

Each week you will be given a small poster copied from the New Era to help you remember what we are learning in Sunday School. May I suggest that you tape it to your bathroom mirror or use it as a bookmark in your scriptures or keep it beside your computer or place it in some other location which will help you remember our focus.

*Apostasy - When individuals or groups of people turn away from the principles of the gospel, they are in a state of apostasy. One example is the Great Apostasy, which occurred after the Savior established His Church. After the deaths of the Savior and His Apostles, men corrupted the principles of the gospel and made unauthorized changes in Church organization and priesthood ordinances. Because of this widespread apostasy, the Lord withdrew the authority of the priesthood from the earth. This apostasy lasted until Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son appeared to Joseph Smith in 1820 and initiated the restoration of the fulness of the gospel.

*Restoration (of the gospel) - When Jesus Christ was on the earth, He established His Church among His followers. After His Crucifixion and the deaths of His Apostles, the fulness of the gospel was taken from the earth because of widespread apostasy. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, our Father in Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ restored the fulness of the gospel. The true Church of Jesus Christ is on the earth again. Because of the Restoration, the teachings and ordinances necessary for salvation are available to all people

Your Sunday School Teacher