## God the Father

"I bear personal witness this day of a personal, living God, who knows our names, hears and answers prayers, and cherishes us eternally as children of His spirit. I testify that amidst the wondrously complex tasks inherent in the universe, He seeks our individual happiness and safety above all other godly concerns. We are created in His very image and likeness, 16 and Jesus of Nazareth, His Only Begotten Son in the flesh, came to earth as the perfect mortal manifestation of His grandeur. In addition to the witness of the ancients we also have the modern miracle of Palmyra, the appearance of God the Father and His Beloved Son, the Savior of the world, to the boy prophet Joseph Smith. I testify of that appearance, and in the words of that prophet I, too, declare: "Our heavenly Father is more liberal in His views, and boundless in His mercies and blessings, than we are ready to believe or receive. ... God does not look on sin with [the least degree of] allowance, but ... the nearer we get to our Heavenly Father, the more we are disposed to look with compassion on perishing souls; we feel that we want to take them upon our shoulders, and cast their sins behind our backs."

Elder Geffrey R. Holland

The Grandeur of God, October 2003.

"IN ALL THAT JESUS CAME TO SAY AND DO,....HE WAS SHOWING US WHO AND WHAT GOD OUR ETERNAL FATHER IS LIKE, HOW COMPLETELY DEVOTED HE IS TO HIS CHILDREN IN EVERY AGE AND NATION. IN WORD AND IN DEED JESUS WAS TRYING TO REVEAL AND MAKE PERSONAL TO US THE TRUE NATURE OF HIS FATHER, OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."

ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE ADOSTLES, "THE GRANDEUR OF GOD," LIAHONA AND ENSIGN, NOV. 2003, 70.



President Smith testified: "We are the spirit children of God our Heavenly Father. ... We are members of his family". How has this truth influenced you?

Challenge....

What can you do this week to improve your relationship with your Heavenly Father?

Joseph Smith taught us much about the true nature of God because he saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and received many revelations.

What kind of being is He? "God Himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!"

What does He look like? "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's." "If you were to see Him today, you would see Him like a man in form—like yourselves."

What is our relationship to God? "If men do not comprehend the character of God, they do not comprehend themselves." "The Great Parent of the universe looks upon the whole of the human family ... as His offspring."

Why did He establish the plan of salvation for us? "God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, ... [instituted] laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself."

What is a key to drawing closer to God? "When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, He begins to unfold the heavens to us."

## When did you learn for yourself that God exists?

Look up the The Nature following scriptures to learn of the nature of God. After reading through the verse, write down what you learn about God, our Heavenly Father. MOSES 2:26 -ALMA 30:44 - \_\_\_\_\_ HEBREWS 12:9 -DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 130:22 -ALMA 34:9 - \_\_\_\_\_