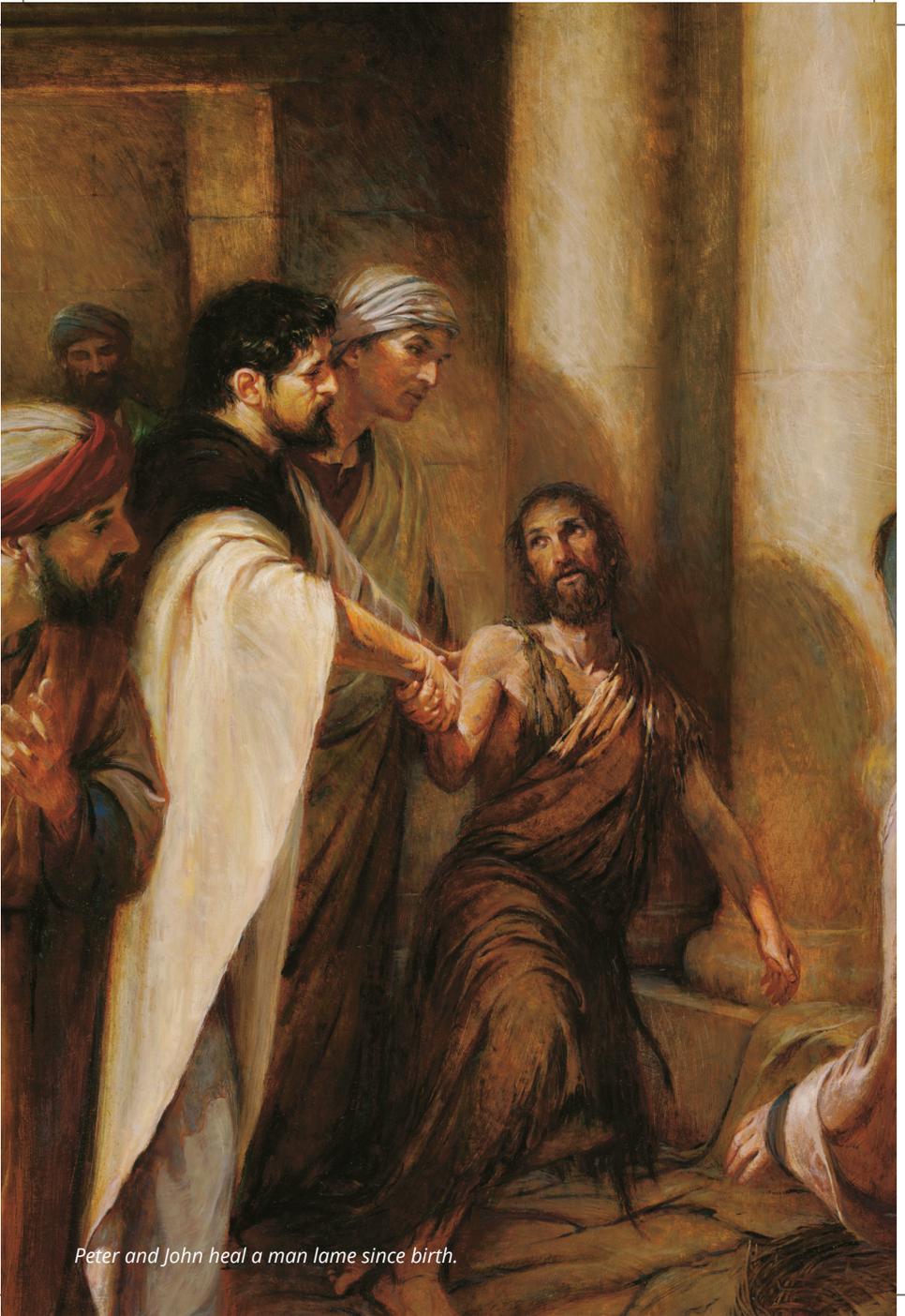


Learning and Serving in the Church





Peter and John heal a man lame since birth.

The Savior has said, “Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me” (D&C 19:23). As you continue to learn about Jesus Christ and His gospel, your faith in Him will increase, and you will find greater peace, understanding, and direction in this life. Your love for God and His Son, Jesus Christ, will grow. You will “[begin] to feel a desire for the welfare of [others]” (Enos 1:9), and you will want to further serve God and those around you.

During His ministry on the earth, Jesus Christ formed His Church to make His power and **priesthood ordinances*** available to all of God’s children and to help each of us be strong, unified followers of Christ (see Ephesians 4:11–15). This same Church was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith in our time. Membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a great blessing that provides you the opportunity to help build God’s kingdom. Continually learning and serving in Jesus Christ’s Church helps you strengthen your relationship with God and remain on the path back to Him.

HOW CAN I CONTINUE LEARNING IN THE CHURCH?

Learning and living the gospel of Jesus Christ are lifelong pursuits. You don’t need to feel that you must know everything about the gospel before being baptized or even after you are baptized. Your knowledge and understanding of the gospel will grow with time and effort as you rely on the Savior, repent of your sins, and strive to keep learning and serving. Members of the Church are continually learning and growing together.

*Words in red are defined on pages 22–25.

You will learn more about the gospel and God’s will for you when you worship Him through prayer, gospel study, and Sabbath day observance.

Personal and Family Gospel Study

You are encouraged to study the scriptures daily, both individually and with your family. Daily prayer and scripture study bring you closer to God and strengthen your **testimony**. A testimony is a spiritual witness given to an individual by the Holy Ghost. Praying and reading the scriptures invite the Holy Ghost into your life. Guidance from the Holy Ghost is important to your learning in the Church, because “by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of

“Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:3).

all things” (Moroni 10:5). Prayer and scripture study allow you to gain further understanding about the gospel through **personal revelation**, or communication from God, which comes by the Holy Ghost.

The Church assists you in learning the gospel by providing online resources such as the scriptures, messages from living prophets, and other uplifting materials (see LDS.org for more study resources). You can also purchase inexpensive physical copies of the scriptures, Church magazines, and other Church resources.

While the Church provides many opportunities to learn the gospel, the home is the most important place for gospel learning. Family members have a responsibility to strengthen and support one another spiritually. The Holy Ghost can help you know how to serve



Daily prayer and scripture study bring hope.



Family home evening helps families grow in the gospel.

your family. Parents have a special duty to raise their children in love and righteousness. They should “teach [their children] to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 129).

Family Home Evening

The Church encourages families to reserve Monday night as a family night. This is known as **family home evening**. Family home evening allows family members to learn the gospel and enjoy uplifting activities together. It is also a time for praying, singing songs, reading scriptures, and discussing topics related to your family’s needs. For resources to help you and your family prepare your family home evenings, visit [lds.org/topics/family-home-evening](https://www.lds.org/topics/family-home-evening).

“Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World”).

Many congregations also offer home evening activities for single adults who do not have family nearby.

Sabbath Day Worship

The Sabbath is a day set aside to honor the Lord. Your attitude and behavior on this day show God your feelings toward Him. You will delight in the Lord as you make the Sabbath different from other days of the week in your home. Participate in activities that strengthen family ties, such as teaching the gospel to each other

and finding out more about your ancestors. Church magazines and websites such as LDS.org have many resources that can help you worship the Lord in your home on His day. Rest from your regular weekday activities and seek to give service to those who are not feeling well or who are lonely or otherwise in need. An attitude of reverence and worship in your home on the Sabbath shows love and respect for God.

“If thou turn away . . . from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, . . . then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord” (Isaiah 58:13–14).

You also honor the Sabbath by attending Church services each Sunday. The most important part of church is the **sacrament**. During sacrament meeting the bread and water are blessed and passed to the congregation as a reminder of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The bread represents His body, and the water represents His blood. During this ordinance

you are reminded of the covenants you have made with God and can recommit to keep them. After baptism and confirmation, the sacrament provides you with a chance to repent, become clean from sin, and maintain the companionship of the Holy Ghost. As you thoughtfully take the sacrament each week and listen carefully to the sacrament prayers, you will better understand Jesus Christ’s Atonement and your covenants.

God will speak to you through the Holy Ghost as you attend Church services. An attitude of reverence prepares you to recognize thoughts



Partaking of the sacrament each Sunday brings spiritual strength.



A Young Women class studies the gospel.

and feelings that come to you from the Holy Ghost. Some ways that you can show respect for God include arriving early to church, sitting quietly, and paying attention during Church services. As you focus on listening to the messages and testimonies of others and to the Holy Ghost, your knowledge and testimony will grow. The Lord loves you and will bless you as you continue to attend church weekly, even when you are struggling or feel you have made mistakes.

Other Church services include adult and youth **Sunday School** as well as other classes in smaller groups. In these meetings, Church members learn the gospel together, ask questions, and support one another. You can find answers to questions and solutions to your challenges as you participate in church each week. You will also find strength as you associate with members of the Church.

HOW CAN I SERVE IN THE CHURCH?

God has given you special talents and gifts that you can use to support your local congregation, help your community, and serve God's children everywhere. You follow the example of Jesus Christ as you seek to meet individual needs one person at a time.

Some of the most important service you will give will be informal, simple acts of kindness and love toward individuals without being asked or assigned to do so. You can help others feel God's love and reach their potential as you

"And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God"
(Mosiah 2:17).

share your time, talents, and means to help meet their needs. Part of your personal growth and learning will come as you serve in the Church and help others learn and grow as well. As you get to know others in your local congregation, you will realize that you have much to offer them.

Callings in the Church

After baptism, you may receive a **calling**, or formal assignment to serve in the Church. God knows your strengths and weaknesses. He has a personal plan to help you develop into the person He knows you can become. As part of that plan, God inspires Church leaders to assign you to callings that He knows will bless you and allow you to bless others. Serving in callings can help you gain new knowledge, skills, and friendships. Church leaders will give you guidelines, direction, and support to help you enjoy your calling and fulfill it successfully. As you pray for help, the Holy Ghost will give you inspiration, direction, and comfort.

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God”
(Ephesians 2:19).

The Lord has promised, “If they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them” (Ether 12:27). The Lord will strengthen you in your efforts to serve.

The Process of Receiving Callings

The Church is a community of love and support. You will not be alone as you strive to serve in your calling. After you accept a calling, members of your congregation will indicate in sacrament meeting



Members are sustained to callings during sacrament meeting.



A member is set apart for a new calling.

that they agree to **sustain**, or support, you in your calling. Members indicate this support by raising their right hands when invited to do so by a member of the bishopric or branch presidency.

As a member of the Church, you can also sustain others in their callings in various ways. For example, you can participate in classes and activities prepared by others, pray for them, volunteer when they ask for help with their callings, or strengthen those who might be struggling. You can also sustain your Church leaders by following the counsel they provide. Sustaining others is one way to serve.

After receiving a calling, you will also be **set apart** by a priesthood leader. When you are set apart, you receive a special **priesthood blessing**. This blessing gives you the authority from God to receive inspiration and carry out the assignments of your calling.

All callings are equally important and help build God's Church. Service in the Church is voluntary and unpaid. Aside from the calling of a full-time missionary, most callings do not require a full-time commitment. Members continue working in their careers or jobs while serving in the Church. Callings do not involve promotion or demotion, and members should not aspire to particular callings.

Changes in callings allow many people to serve in different capacities. Church leaders may receive inspiration to call you to a different calling

“Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant” (Matthew 20:26–27).**”**

and to **release** you from a current one. Once you are released, you no longer have responsibility for the duties of your previous calling and are available to take on the responsibilities of a new calling. Your congregation may also acknowledge your release and thank you for your service in a way similar to how you were sustained.

Areas of Service in the Church

The Church is organized to help meet the specific needs and interests of men, women, youth, and children. All adults are members of either priesthood **quorums** (groups for men) or the **Relief Society** (the organization for women). Priesthood quorums and the Relief Society meet regularly, including on Sunday, to study the gospel, encourage one another, and plan ways to serve and help others. You might receive a calling to lead, teach, help with music, or provide service in a priesthood quorum or in the Relief Society.

A major responsibility of the Church is to assist parents in teaching and caring for the children and youth of the Church. You might receive a calling to help teach or organize activities for children under age 12 in the **Primary** organization, or for youth ages 12–18 in the **Young Men (Aaronic Priesthood)** or **Young Women** organizations. Youth and children may also receive either callings or short-term assignments to lead, speak, teach, or serve. In addition, the Sunday School organizes gospel study classes for all youth and adults, and you might be called to help teach or organize these classes.

The Relief Society, Primary, Young Men, Young Women, and Sunday School organizations are referred to as **auxiliaries**. The auxiliary organizations work with the priesthood organization in carrying out the work of the Church.



A Primary teacher meets with her class.



Home teachers share a spiritual message with a family.

Home and Visiting Teaching

Members also serve others through home and visiting teaching. **Home teaching** and **visiting teaching** are programs that help ensure that everyone in the Church is cared for. Men who hold the priesthood serve as home teachers to individuals and families. Women in Relief Society serve as visiting teachers to other women. Home and visiting teachers serve in **companionships**.

Through inspiration, companionships are assigned to individuals and families whom they visit at least once a month. When your home or visiting teachers visit you, they may pray with you and share a spiritual message. They may also look for other ways to serve and help you. Home teachers who hold the **Melchizedek Priesthood** can also provide priesthood blessings as necessary. You can turn to your home or visiting teachers when you have questions or need support.

After baptism, you may also serve as a home or visiting teacher. Your home or visiting teaching companion will help you know what to do. As you help and support those you are

assigned to home or visit teach, you can nurture friendships, help others come closer to God, and bless the lives of others.

“I give unto you a commandment, that . . . ye shall instruct and edify each other”
(Doctrine and Covenants 43:8).

Missionary Work

You can serve others and share the joy of the gospel by doing **missionary work**. Missionary work is driven by love of God and His children, and it involves helping others understand and receive the blessings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ (see 1 Nephi 8:12).

Jesus Christ wants everyone to have the opportunity to accept the gospel before He comes again. He commanded His followers to

“And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!
”
(Doctrine and Covenants 18:15).

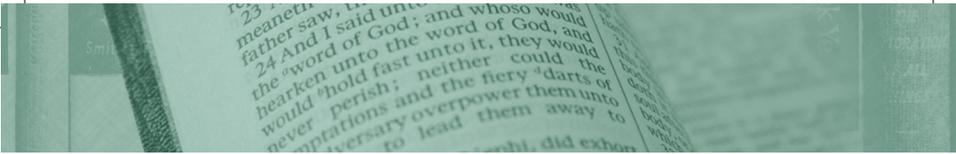
preach the gospel to all the world (see Matthew 28:19). As you share what you have learned about the restored gospel with your family and friends, you can assist the Lord in His work and help many people receive the blessings of the gospel. The Lord promises to help you know what to say and do as you share the gospel.

In addition to helping others find the gospel, your perspective and testimony will be a great blessing to other members of the Church. You can reach out to those whose faith has grown weak by befriending them, encouraging them, and inviting them to participate with you in the Church. In all of your interactions or Church assignments, seek to invite everyone to come closer to Christ.

Although it is important to share the gospel with others, not everyone will accept what you have to say. Show friendship, love, and respect to all people, regardless of how they respond to your testimony or invitations. As you live the gospel faithfully, you will set an example and show your family members and friends the great blessings that come from living the gospel and serving God.

Ideas for Doing Missionary Work:

- Share with others how the gospel has blessed your life.
- Study the gospel regularly and prepare to answer questions when they arise.
- Love and serve those around you.
- Invite those who are interested in the gospel to be taught by the full-time missionaries.
- Volunteer to go with the missionaries and help them teach.
- Invite others to attend your baptism, come to church, join you at a Church activity, or participate in a family home evening.
- Give others copies of the Book of Mormon or other Church materials.
- Share videos or other online content from [LDS.org](https://www.LDS.org) or [mormon.org](https://www.mormon.org) with someone directly or over social media.



ADDITIONAL STUDY

Why is it important to continue learning about Jesus Christ and His gospel?

2 Timothy 3:14–17

2 Nephi 32:3–5 (Book of Mormon, page 115)

How can I serve God and show love to Him?

Matthew 25:37–40

John 14:15

John 21:15–17

Mosiah 2:21–24 (Book of Mormon, page 149)

What blessings come from serving God and His children?

Luke 6:38

Alma 26:1–12 (Book of Mormon, pages 272–73)

Doctrine and Covenants 76:5–6 (Doctrine and Covenants, page 137. The missionaries or another member of the Church can help you obtain a copy of the Doctrine and Covenants if you do not have it. You can also go to LDS.org to find it online.)



How can I serve well in the callings I receive?

Mark 10:43–45

Alma 37:6–7 (Book of Mormon, page 300)

Doctrine and Covenants 4 (Doctrine and Covenants, page 7)

Doctrine and Covenants 64:33–34 (Doctrine and Covenants, page 121)

Doctrine and Covenants 81:5 (Doctrine and Covenants, page 150)

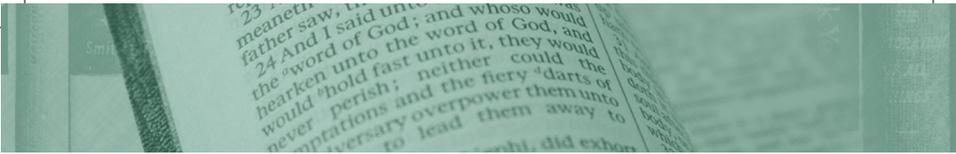
Why is missionary work important?

Luke 22:32

2 Nephi 2:6–8 (Book of Mormon, page 57)

Doctrine and Covenants 18:10–16 (Doctrine and Covenants, page 29)

Doctrine and Covenants 34:4–6 (Doctrine and Covenants, page 58)



LIST OF TERMS

Aaronic Priesthood: The lesser or preparatory priesthood. It is named after Aaron in the Old Testament. Aaron was the brother of Moses and was appointed by the Lord to be his spokesman.

Auxiliaries: Organizations in the Church that support the Melchizedek Priesthood and help minister to and teach the members of the Church. The auxiliary organizations are Relief Society, Young Men, Young Women, Primary, and Sunday School.

Calling: A formal assignment or responsibility to help serve in the Church.

Companionship: A team of two people (where possible) who regularly work together to fulfill a home teaching or visiting teaching assignment.

Family home evening: One night each week (usually Monday night) reserved for family members to learn the gospel and enjoy uplifting activities together.

Home and visiting teaching: Programs that help ensure that everyone in the Church is cared for. Priesthood holders serve as home teachers to individuals and families. Relief Society sisters serve as visiting teachers to other women. Home and visiting teachers serve in companionships and visit those they teach at least once a month to pray, share a spiritual message, and serve as needed.



Melchizedek Priesthood: The higher or greater priesthood. It is named after Melchizedek in the Old Testament, who was a righteous high priest and king.

Missionary work: Sharing the gospel with others, helping them build faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, and inviting them to experience the blessings of the gospel for themselves.

Personal revelation: Personal communication from God to an individual regarding that individual's own life or calling.

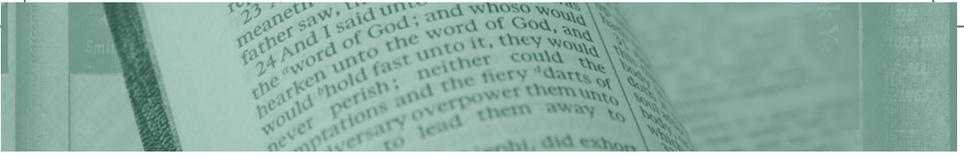
Priesthood blessing: A blessing in which a Melchizedek Priesthood holder places his hands gently on a person's head and says a special prayer. Such blessings are given through the power of the priesthood to provide counsel, comfort, or healing.

Priesthood ordinance: A sacred, religious act performed by the authority of the priesthood. Examples include baptism, receiving the gift of Holy Ghost (confirmation), and the sacrament. Ordinances are a means for entering into covenants with God.

Primary: The auxiliary organization for children in the Church between the ages of 18 months and 12 years.

Quorum: An organized group of men or young men who have the same office, or duties, in the priesthood.

Release: To relieve someone of the assignment, responsibilities, and duties of a calling, allowing him or her to serve in other capacities.



Relief Society: The auxiliary organization for women in the Church ages 18 and over.

Sacrament: An ordinance that reminds Church members of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. By partaking of the sacrament, we renew covenants we have made with God. Bread and water are blessed and then given to the congregation. The bread represents the body of Jesus Christ, and the water represents His blood. This ordinance occurs each week in a worship service called sacrament meeting.

Set apart: To give someone a blessing that gives him or her the authority from God to act in a calling and to receive inspiration related to it.



Sunday School: An auxiliary organization for youth and adult members of the Church where they are taught the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sustain: To support others in their callings. Members acknowledge that they will sustain others in their callings by raising their right hand when invited to do so in sacrament meeting.

Testimony: A spiritual witness given to an individual by the Holy Ghost.

Young Men and Young Women organizations: The auxiliary organizations for youth in the Church between ages 12 and 18.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

- Continue to read the Book of Mormon and the other scriptures. Suggested readings:

- Share the restored gospel with others. Pray for opportunities to invite your family and friends to attend your baptism, learn more about the restored gospel, and meet with the missionaries.
- Have daily personal and family prayer and daily personal and family scripture study.
- Prepare to serve in a calling, as a home or visiting teacher, and in your auxiliary organization.
- Attend church this Sunday.
- Continue to prepare for baptism. Date: _____
- Visit mormon.org to learn more about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Continue meeting with the missionaries to find out more about learning and serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Next appointment: _____

Missionary names: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

