



**Scale of the earth and the sun [Please note: you don't have to share most of this, this is for you information]**

- Speed of a jetliner/bullet, it would take 40 hours to circumnavigate the earth
- It takes light, under a second.
- The earth is 150 million kilometers from the sun, or 1 astronomical unit (AU)
- It takes 8.5 minutes for light to get from the sun to the earth.
- It would take us 17 years to get to the sun at the speed of a jetliner/bullet

**Scale of our solar system**

- Voyager 1 is right now traveling at 61,000 kilometers per hour. That's about 17 kilometers per second. The size of a city every second. (Or 38,000 miles per hour.)
- It's been going since 1977.
- It's traveled about 153 Aus. A light year is about 63,000 astronomical unit
- The closest star, Proxima Centauri, is 4.2 light-years away.
- It would take Voyager 1 80,000 years to reach it.

**Scale of the Universe**

- The visible universe is 93 billion light years (1 LY is 5.88 trillion miles)
- If we scaled the visible universe to the size of a football stadium, our galaxy would be the size of a grain of sand.
- If we scaled the galaxy to the size of a football stadium, the solar system would be the size of a rice grain
- If we scaled the solar system to the size of football stadium, the earth would be the size of a grain of sand. The sun would be a gumball

**We can't even begin to understand the size of this universe,**

- And yet God made this just for us



**God created this universe for you?**

- Do you know what it takes to create an environment where we can have a body?
- Where we can make choices and move and do according to our own will?
- It takes a universe.

**If God created this universe for us, what can we possibly give back to Him?**

- Does God need your money?
- Does He need your house?
- God has only ever desired one thing from us... our heart

**God doesn't need anything, but He wants...**

- Your heart
- That's what this life is all about.

**Who will you give your heart to?**

- Only you can make that decision
- God wants to help you in that decision, by inviting you on a journey





God's promises in exchange for your heart to:

- Give you eternal life
- Make you new
- Give you His Kingdom



In the class, as we prepare for baptism, we're going to talk about:

- Eternal life
- Kingdom of God
- Great and Marvelous Work
- And we'll conclude with Extras

			
<b>Eternal Life</b>	<b>Kingdom of God</b>	<b>Great Work</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Who is God?</li><li>2. What has He done?</li><li>3. What is His Promise?</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is Required?</li><li>2. The Covenant</li><li>3. The Way</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Church</li><li>2. Great Commission</li><li>3. Zion</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Life after Death</li><li>2. Conclusion</li></ol>

In this class, we are going to look at each of these topics, and close with a brief discussion on:

1. Life after death
2. A soldier of Christ

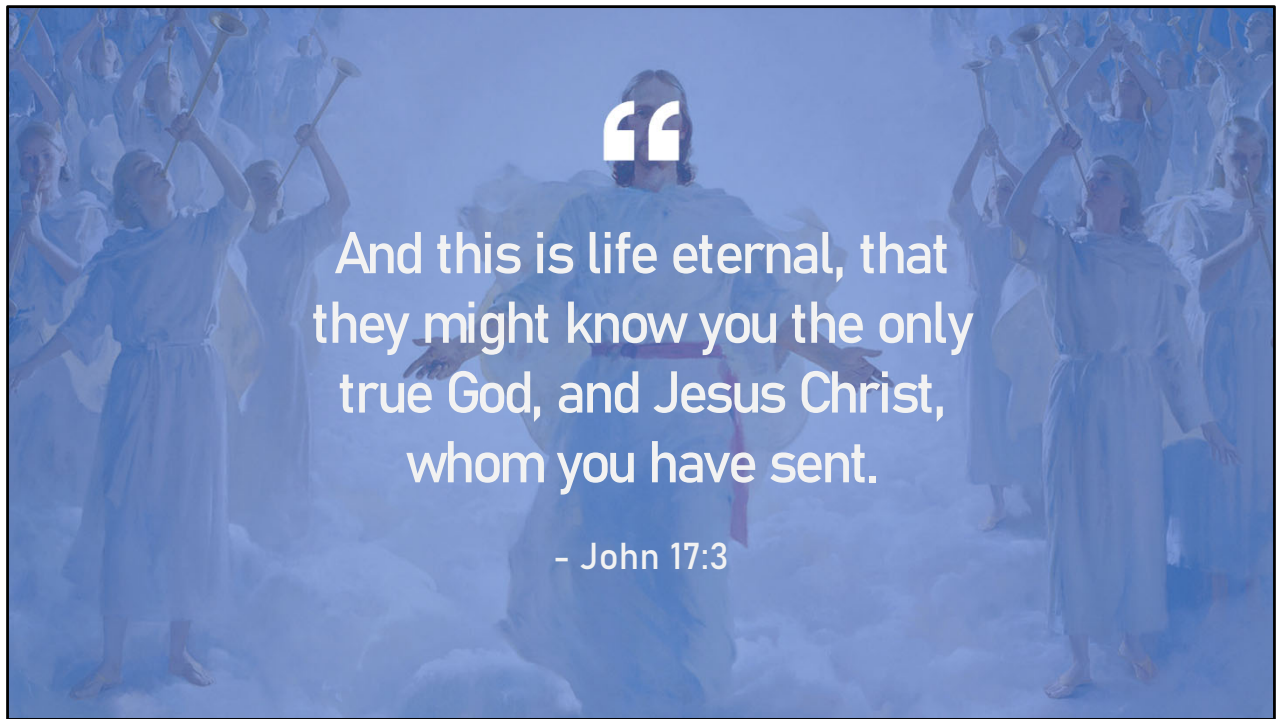
**Presenter, please note** that you can click on each number, or even the pictures, to jump to other sections

- For example, if you click on “Who is God?” you will jump to that section.
- The goal for the class is to cover each section with one meeting for a total of four meetings.
- Now, you may have to get creative in your breaking spot as some sections have more info than others.



Let's start with Eternal Life





And this is life eternal, that  
they might know you the only  
true God, and Jesus Christ,  
whom you have sent.

- John 17:3

Jesus defined what eternal life is to His disciples:

- Eternal life is to KNOW
- Not just to believe, but to KNOW God and Jesus

**Have you ever been to Australia?** Probably not

- How do you know it's there?
- You've probably seen it on a map, and heard people talk about it
- There's lots of evidence for Australia, to believe in it,
- but it's not the same as being there in person.

**This is like God**

- there's lots of evidence for God,
- but believing isn't the same as knowing



# Who is God?

**That brings us to the all important question:**

- Who is God?
- Even most adults would struggle with this, but give it a try
- There's no wrong answer.

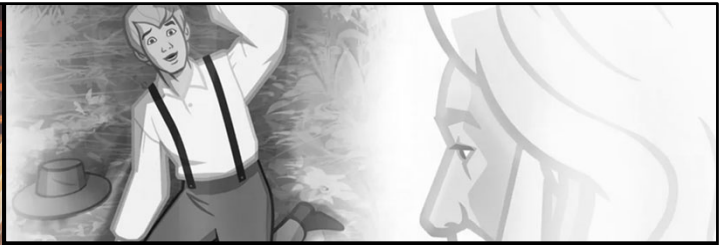
**Perhaps the best way** to know who God is by listing things that He has done.

- Can you list some things that God has done?
- What are your favorite stories from scripture?
- Can you tell me things God has done in your life?

**What do these things tell us about Him?**

- I'm going to list some stories from the scriptures in the next few slides.
- Pay attention to what each story tells us about God.

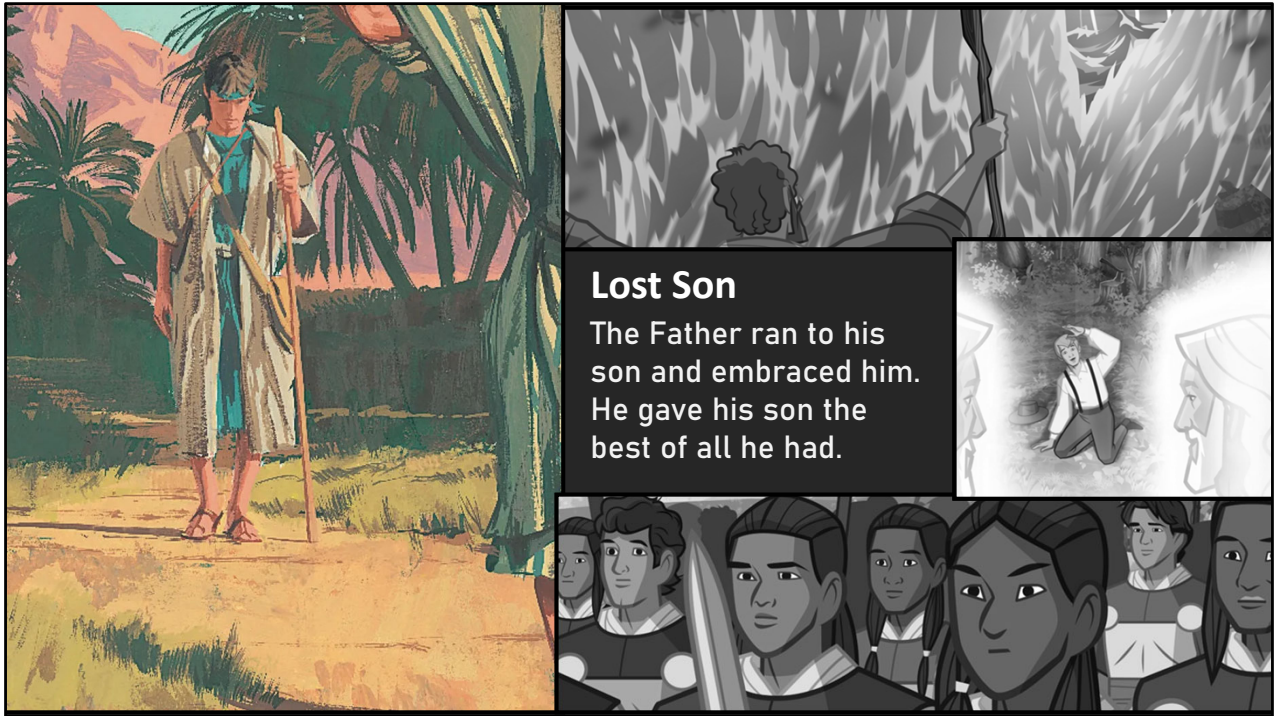
God used Moses to part the waters and make a way for the salvation of Israel



## Moses

God used Moses to part the waters and make a way for salvation





### Lost Son

The Father ran to his son and embraced him. He gave his son the best of all he had.





### Helaman's 2,000

God used the young soldiers to defeat the Lamanites, and not one was lost. He protected them.





### Joseph Smith

The Father and the Son appeared unto a young boy and answered his questions.

These four stories from the four standard books tell us that:

- God saves
- God forgives
- God protects
- God answers



These stories in the scriptures give us glimpses into who God is. He is:

- Creator
- Gracious
- Light
- Salvation
- Merciful
- Faithful
- All knowing
- Unchangable
- Holy
- Long-suffering
- Our Refuge
- Our Rock
- Almighty
- True
- Defender
- High Tower
- Etc.

**Can you make a list with your parents of who God is?**



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not, knows not God; *for God is love*. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the atonement for our sins.

- 1 John 4:7-10

This scripture testifies to us that God is love!

- Do you think you could ever change God? No, of course, not
- Then do you think you can make God stop loving you?
- Of course, not
- God will always love you; you can never change that!
- However, that doesn't mean we don't have consequences if we choose a different path.





For God *so loved the world*, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

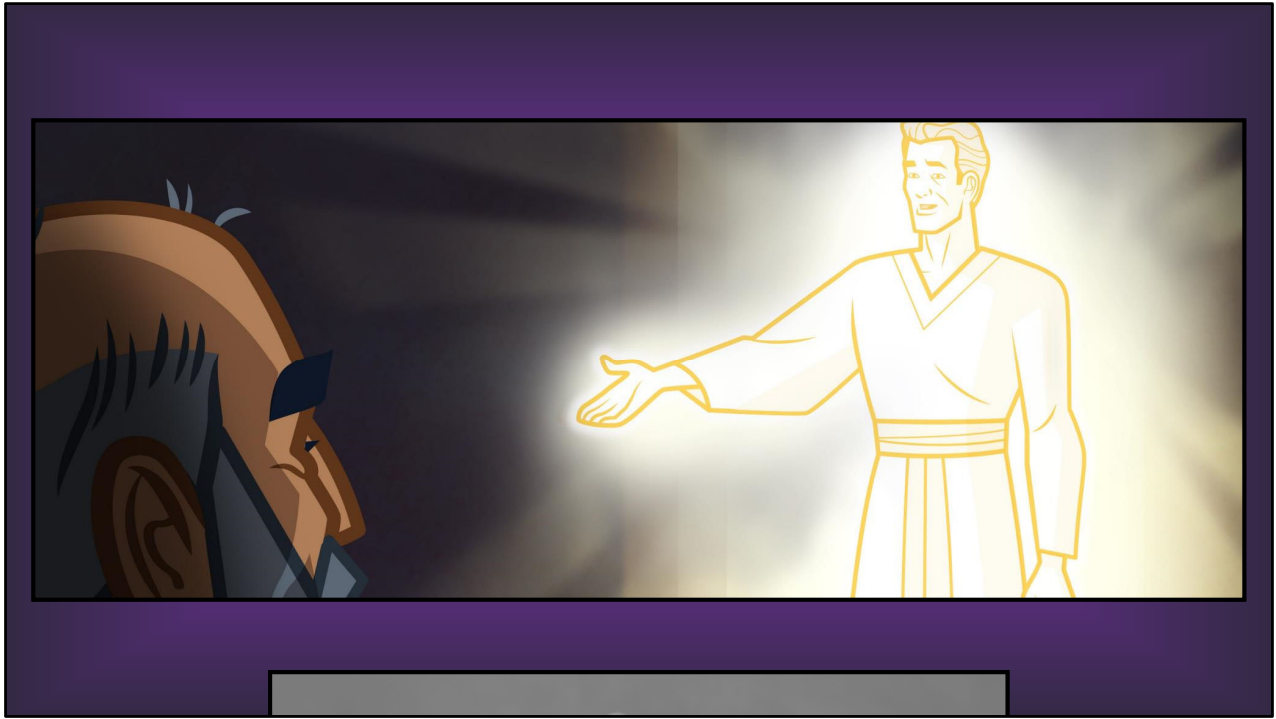
- John 3:16-17

These two scriptures help us to see that God is Love, and that His ultimate desire for us is to have eternal life with Him.

- How does God prove His love?
- How do we know He loves us and that He does all of this for us?
- Jesus!



The greatest story of all is Jesus Christ and His love for us...



**Tell the story of Lehi's vision [1 Ne 2:41-85]**

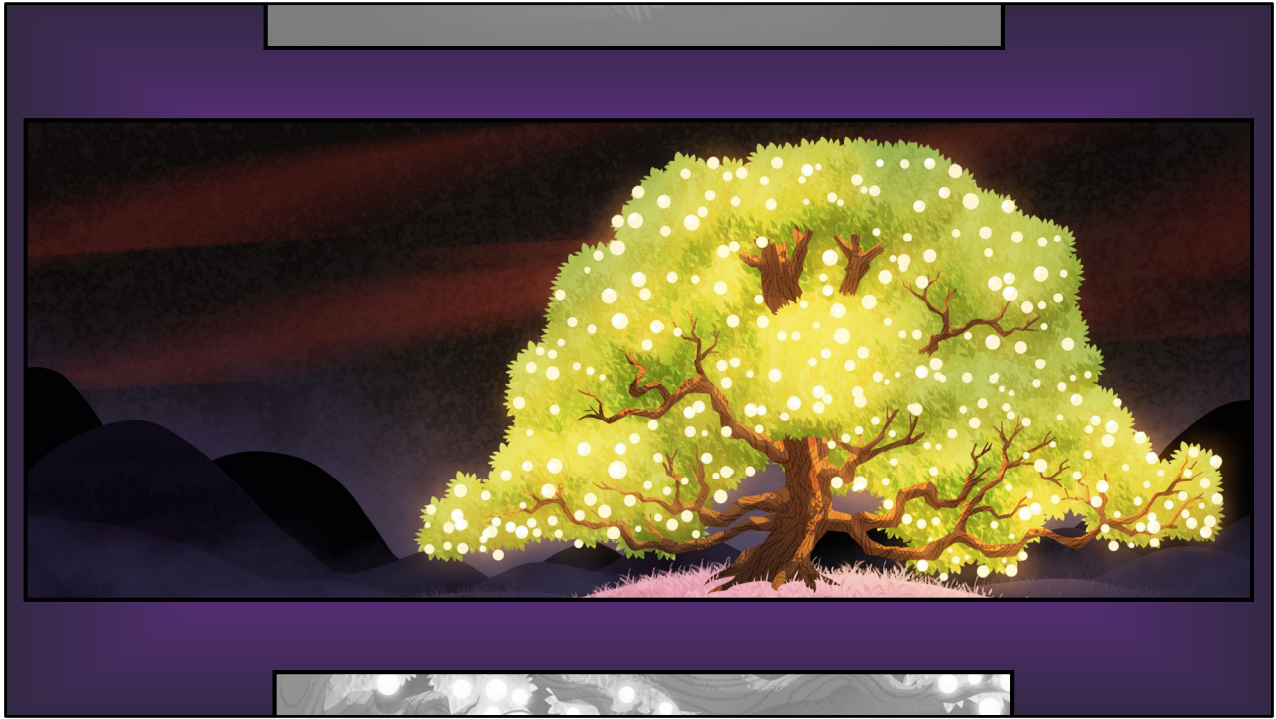
- Lehi receives heavenly messenger, a man dressed in a white robe
- The messenger asks Lehi to follow him, and Lehi agrees



After many hours of traveling in a dark and dreary waste, Lehi stops and prays

- He asks God to have mercy on him
- Then God shows Lehi a tree.
- The light of the tree lit up everything around so Lehi could see





Lehi sees a tree whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.

- Lehi partakes of the fruit and it is exceeding sweet.
- It's the greatest thing he has ever experienced.

What does the tree represent?

- It represents the love of God
- It also represents Jesus and Eternal life



Lehi is so full of joy, that his first thought is to share this with his family

- Sariah, Sam, and Nephi all respond and come to partake of the fruit

[Side question: have you ever experienced something so good, perhaps a food, a game, a movie, and you just had to share it with someone? That is what Lehi felt like, except magnify it by 100]



Lehi's oldest sons, Laman and Lemuel, choose not to come and partake of the fruit.



**God is inviting you on a journey just like He did with Lehi**

- In God's Eternal Kingdom, He has a table, with a chair just for you...
- Do you want to take your place at His table?
- But His promise requires us to follow "the Way", which we'll discuss more later, just like your parents have a way for you.

**Your parents love you**, they have proven that to you over the years by the way they care for you.

- But do they have rules?
- You might not always appreciate those rules, but ultimately, the rules are for your good.
- What are some rules your parents have for you? Why do you think that is?

**God's Way** is the same for us.

- Ultimately, they are for our good...



**We have all fallen off the path.** We have all made mistakes... Think of...

- Pilgrim's progress (or even The Hobbit, Mirkwood Forest, The Lord of the Rings, the Marches, etc.)
- There are times when we lose sight of the end goal
- There are times when we step off the path
- However, God gives us an opportunity to come back through Jesus Christ.
- He guides us to the path, and helps us stay on it, through the Spirit.

**Satan tries to trip us up** and to use pride, shame, fear, accusations, lies, etc.

- But always remember that God has provided us a way to come back to the path.
- God wants you.
- God is inviting you to be with Him. Do you want to take His hand?
- That is eternal life.





Who is God?



What has  
He done?



What is His  
promise to  
you?

- God is Love.
- God has shown us His love through Jesus Christ. He's saved us from sin and death.
- God promises you eternal life with Him.

## Take Your Seat at His Table

# The Kingdom of God

**Jesus asks us to seek** for His Kingdom first.

- This can be difficult, we have so many worries and concerns.
- But Jesus tells us not to fear, because God has a wonderful promise for us!
- He wants to give us His kingdom.

**Luke 12:34-35 (KJV 31-32)**

- 34 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- 35 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**Do you want this Kingdom?**

- Do you want to take your place at the table?
- I certainly hope so
- If so, there are some things He asks of us to do.
- **But first**, let's define what His Kingdom is



For the Kingdom of God is not  
meat and drink; but  
righteousness, peace, and joy in  
the Holy Ghost

- Romans 14:17

**What is God's Kingdom?**

- It's not something physical per se that you can see or touch or taste
- It's righteousness, which means living rightly with God;
- It's peace, which passes all understanding
- It's joy, which is more than just happiness,

**This is a process:**

- A right relation with God, brings peace
- Peace with God, brings joy
- All these things occur through the Spirit



**God wants to make you King.**

- He wants to make you a ruler in His house, just like He did with David.
- Are you familiar with King David?
- God took the least in Jesse's house and transformed Him into a king of Israel.
- God wants to transform you into a king, into a son or daughter of the Most High God.



And unto him [Jesus] who loved us, be glory,  
who washed us from our sins in his own  
blood, and has made us *kings and priests*  
unto God, his Father. To him be glory and  
dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

- Revelation 1:6

**God wants to make you King.**

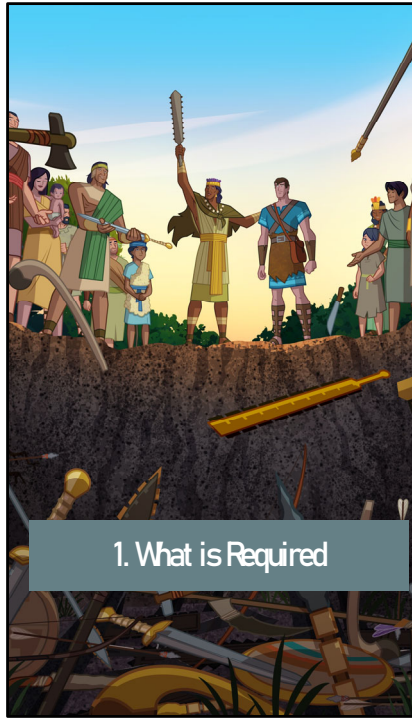
- Rev 1:6 tells us that Jesus washed us from our sins through His sacrifice and made us kings and priests to God.
- God wants to give you a crown, a promise of eternal life
- Don't let anyone, or any thing, take your crown [Rev 3:11].

**This is what God wants to give you.**

- He wants make you new in Christ
- He wants this to be your identity
- He wants to covenant with you.
- This covenant gives us security, protection, promise, etc.

**But first,** how does He do that? What is He asking of us?

- That's what we're going to cover next



1. What is Required



2. The Covenant



3. The Way

**In this section,** we will discuss:

1. What is required?
2. The Covenant
3. The Way



# What is Required?

3 Nephi 5:66 And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall *believe in me*, and that ye shall *repent of your sins*, and *come unto me* with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

**Let's break these three things down from this verse:**

1. Believe
2. Repent
3. Come to Christ with a broken heart and contrite spirit.



Ehohyh

“...you shall believe  
in me”



Uhs hqw

“...you shall repent  
of your sins”



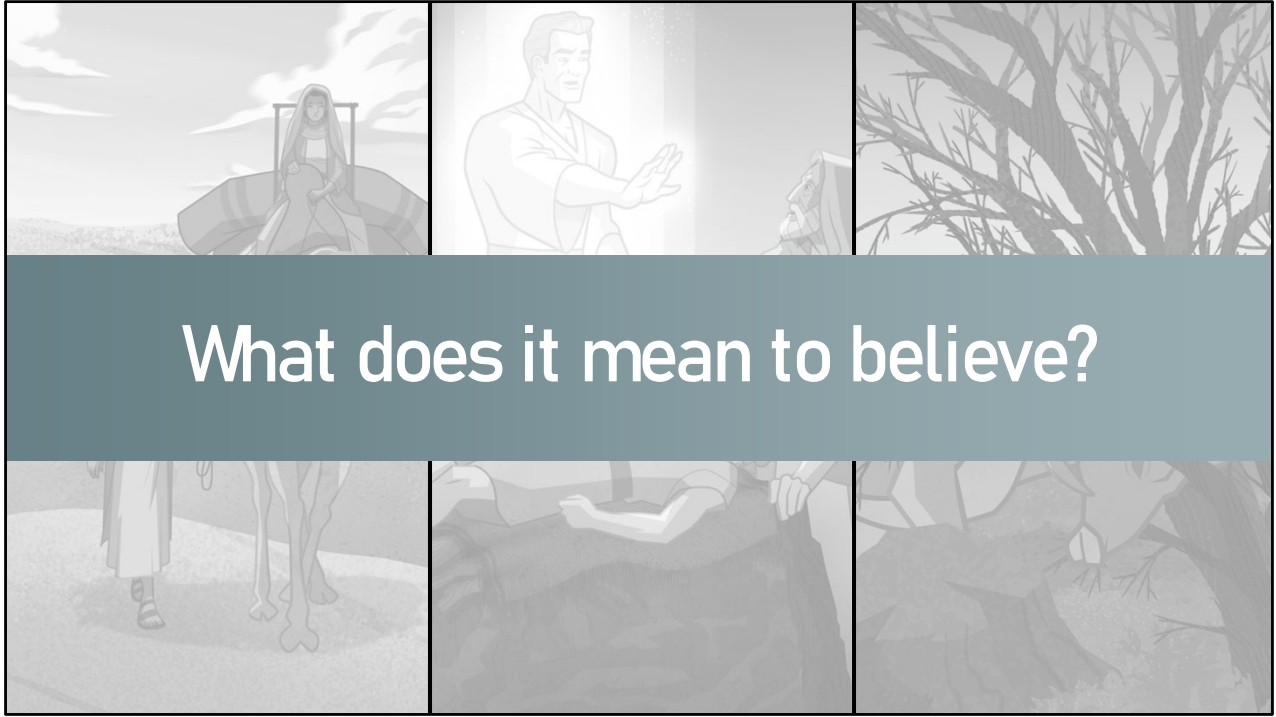
Frp h#r #Fkulw

“...with a broken heart  
and contrite spirit”

**Let's break these three things down from this verse:**

1. Believe
2. Repent
3. Come to Christ with a broken heart and contrite spirit.

**What does it mean to believe?** (this question leads into the next slide)



**When I think about believing,**

- I think about Abraham
- And how God accounted his faith/belief as righteousness.

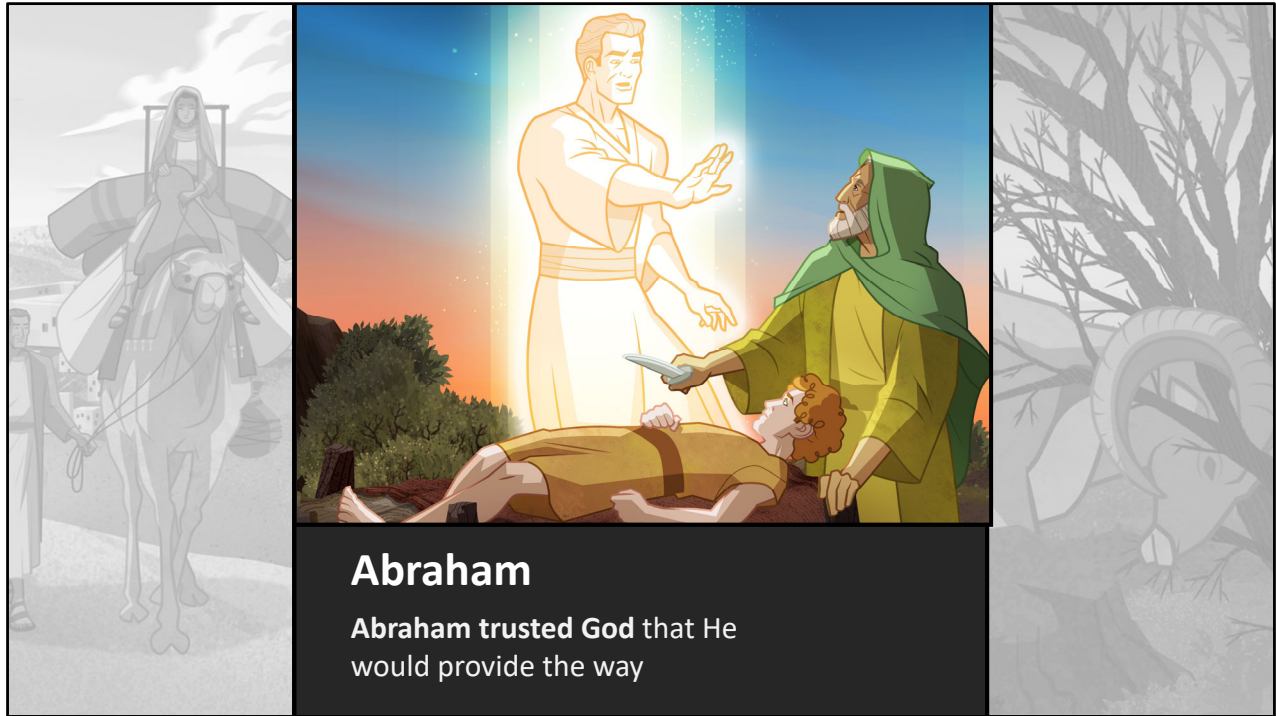


## Abraham

God called Abram to leave everything behind in Haran and travel to the promised land

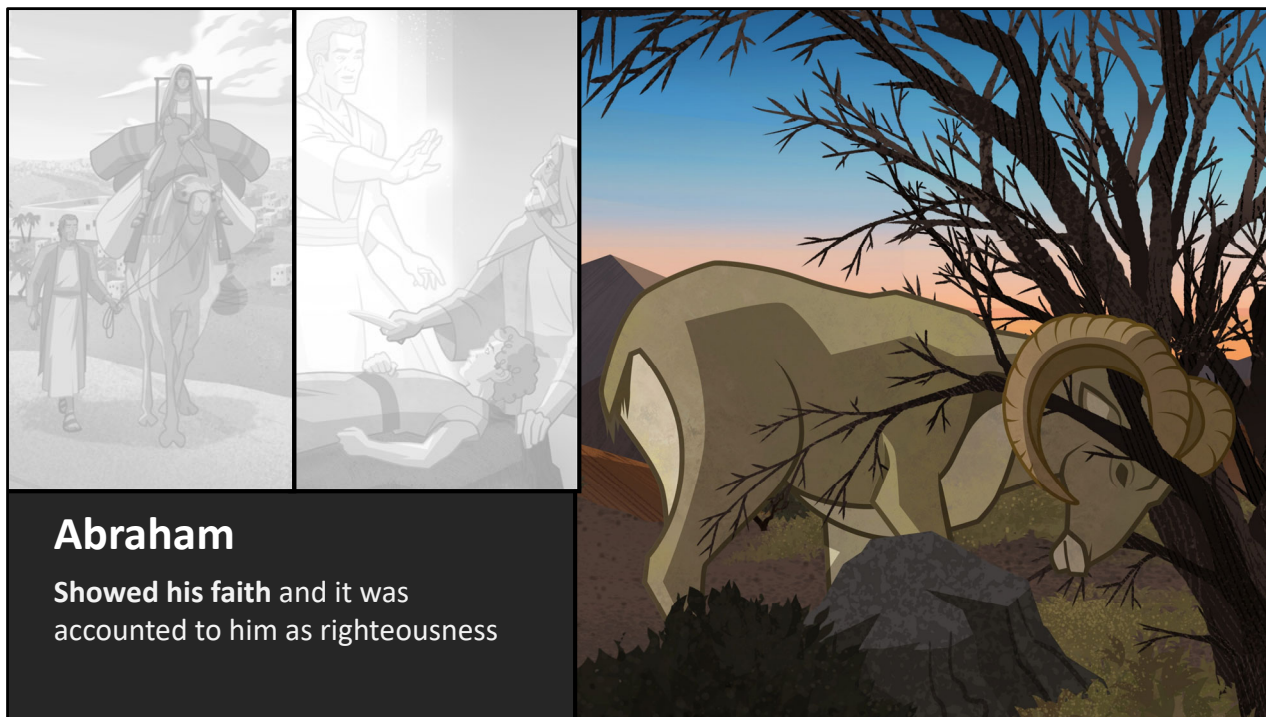
**God called Abram to leave** everything behind in Haran and travel to the promised land

- Abram was 75 years old at the time.
- Gen 12:1-2



God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, whom he loved.

- Abraham trusted God, that He would provide a way
- Isaac too, trusted in God, for he allowed his father to put him on the altar
- God sends an angel in the very moment of the sacrifice, and blesses Abraham
- Abraham believed so much in God that he withheld nothing from the Lord



Abraham showed his faith in the Lord.

- Abraham knew he would always follow the Lord.
- He looked up and saw a ram caught in the bushes.
- The Lord provided the ram for the sacrifice.

Abraham and Isaac learned how God would offer His Son Jesus Christ as a sacrifice.

- Think of it this way for those who might not understand:
- Have you ever broken a rule in your house or at school?
- Did you pay the consequence or did someone pay it for you?
- You did of course. When we break a rule, we are the one's responsible
- But Jesus said, "It's okay, I will take responsibility for that."
- He just asks that we believe in Him.





He that believes on the son of God has the witness in himself...He that has the Son has life...I written unto you...that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may continue to believe on the name of the Son of God.

- 1 John 5:10-13

Those that believe in Jesus are able to witness their belief by the way that they live.

- It should be evident to all that you have Jesus in your life.
- If you have Him in your life, then you have the promise of eternal life
- John wrote this so people in the church would know they have eternal life
- You don't have to doubt whether you have it or not.

**If we have the Son,** it will show in the way that we live.

- So how do we have the Son?
- Answer: Repent

**What does it mean to repent?** (this question leads into the next slide)

# What does it mean to repent?

**Repentance is a gift** [Alma 14:29-32].

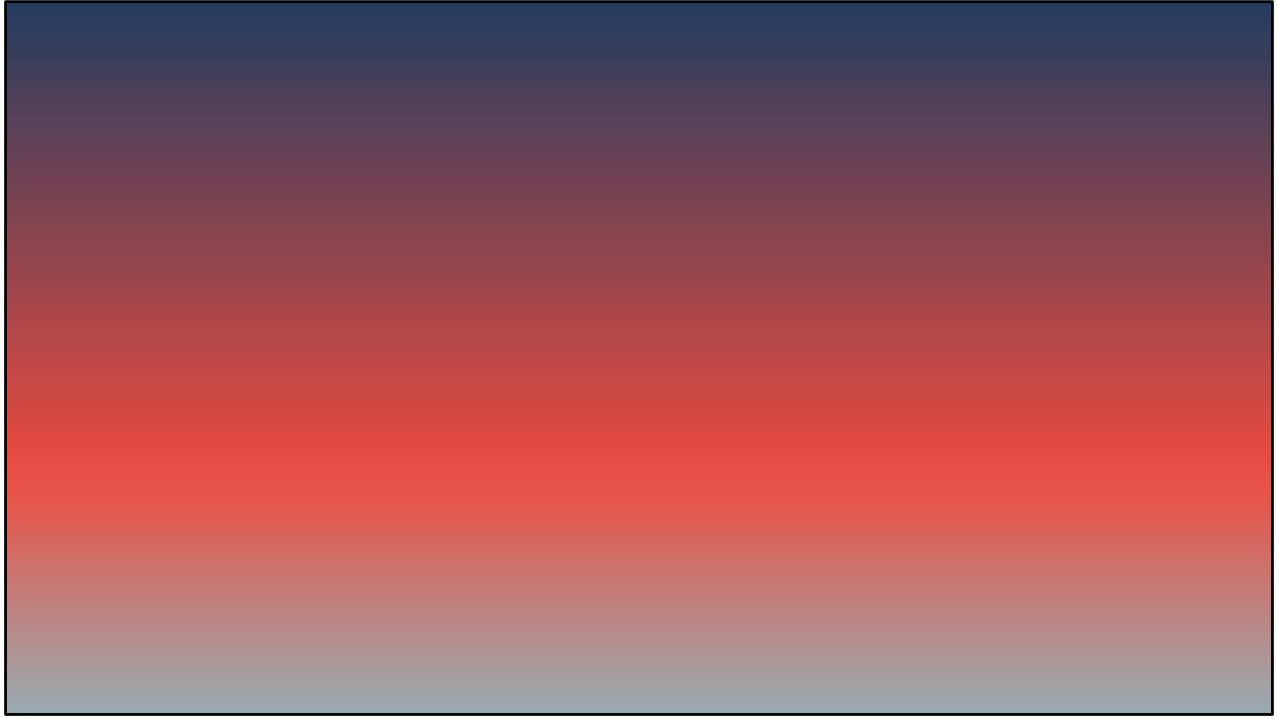
- To repent means to literally turn around...

**Repentance requires three things**

1. Confession
2. Forsake
3. Forgive others

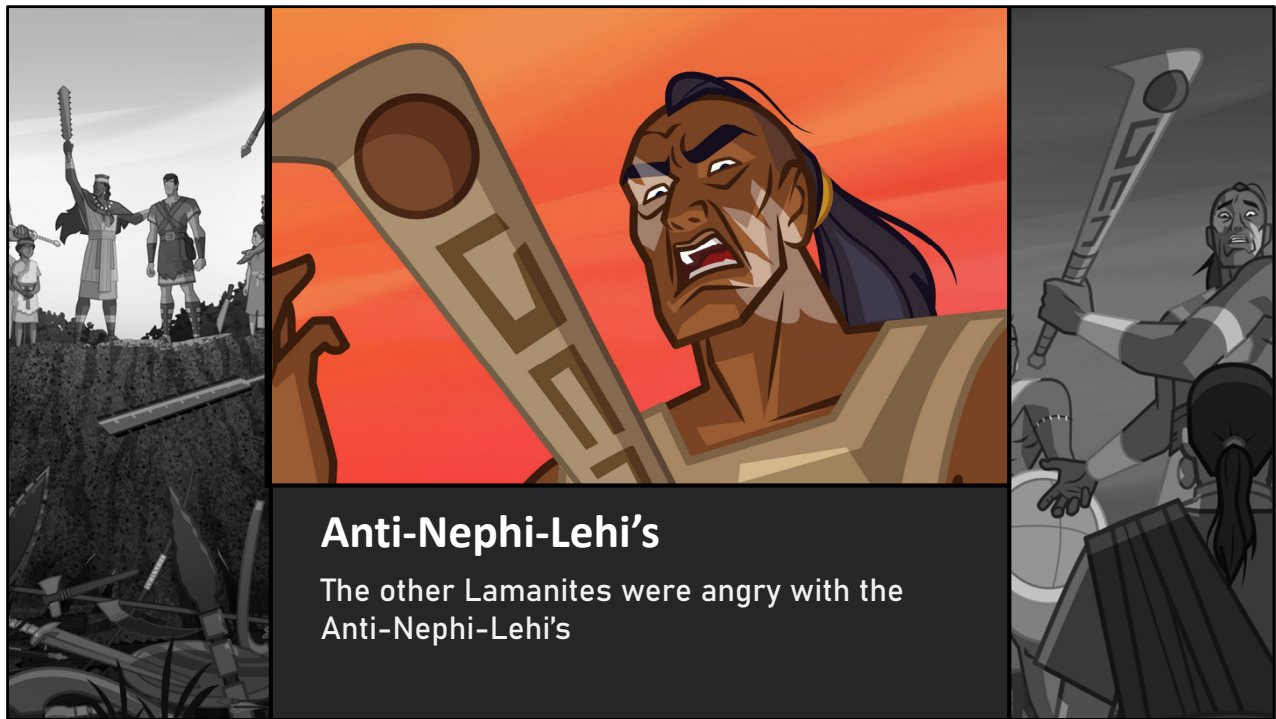
**Example of the Anti-Nephi-Lehi**

- The Anti-Nephi-Lehi's were warriors, murderers
- They considered themselves the most lost of all men
- But when the Sons of Mosiah came to share the gospel of Jesus Christ,
- They believed and their lives were changed!
- Their guilt was swept away, they were made new.



**Repentance is a gift** [Alma 14:29-32].

- They were so convinced of the message of Jesus Christ that they wanted to make a covenant
- They decided to bury their weapons in the earth.
- They would never pick them up again.



## Anti-Nephi-Lehi's

The other Lamanites were angry with the Anti-Nephi-Lehi's

**Repentance is a gift** [Alma 14:29-32].

- The other Lamanites were angry with the Anti-Nephi-Lehi's
- They were stirred up to go to war with those who had converted to Christ



**Repentance is a gift** [Alma 14:29-32].

- The Anti-Nephi-Lehi's knew that they could not be free of their sin if they killed again.
- They decided to make a covenant with the Lord to bury their weapons in the earth.
- When their enemies came, they knelt down and prayed. They allowed themselves to be killed
- However, more people were converted that day, than those who lost their lives



Repentance requires us to:

- confess and forsake [Pro 28:13, Sec 58:9c],
- as well as to forgive others [Mat 5:25-26; Sec 64:2b-e]

**Tell the story of slapping someone in the face at church**

- What if I came to the door, you greeted me, and then I slapped you in the face?
- I would immediately apologize, and you, of course, would forgive me.
- What if I did this same thing again next week? You would forgive me again, right?
- But what if I kept doing it?
- Would you believe that I was really sorry? Probably not, because if I did, I would actually change.
- Repentance works the same way.

**For older, more advanced students,**

- move into the next slides about forgiveness
- Otherwise, hide this slides in PowerPoint and move on



# Forgiveness is not...



Trust



Reconciliation

## Parable of the accounting king [Matthew 18:21-34]

- Forgiveness is giving mercy to someone who doesn't deserve it.
- Basically, we're saying I am willing to forgive the debt you owe me.

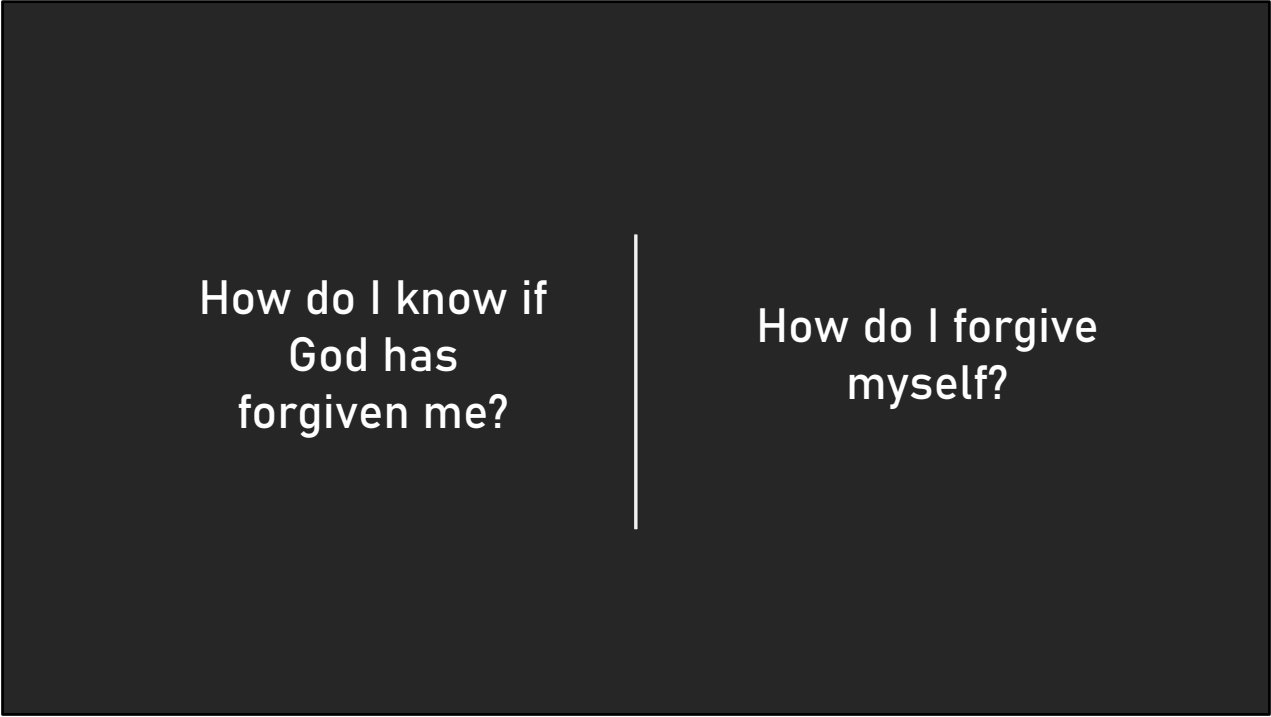
“

I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive,  
but of you it is required to forgive all men, and  
ye ought to say in your hearts, Let God judge  
between me and you, and reward you  
according to your deeds.

- Section 64:2e

**Why do we need to forgive? [Matthew 6:16; DC 64:2e]**

- For us to also be forgiven
- Etc.



How do I know if  
God has  
forgiven me?

How do I forgive  
myself?

For some of us, it's easier to forgive others than it is to forgive ourselves, which brings up two interesting questions.

- How do I know if God has forgiven me?
- When I repent and am forgiven, how do I forgive myself?

”  
“

...where the Spirit of  
the Lord is, there is  
liberty...

- 2 Cor 3:17

...filled with joy and  
peace...

- Mos 2:1-6

...my guilt was  
swept away...

- Enos 1:1-8

...remission of sins  
brings meekness  
and lowliness of  
heart...

- Moro 8:29

**How do we know if we have been forgiven?**

“

The mark of a saint is not perfection,  
but consecration. A saint is not a man  
without faults, but a man who has given  
himself without reserve to God.

- Arthur Oakman

**How do we forgive ourselves?**

- Perfect means “whole” not “without mistake.”
- Only Christ lived a sinless life.
- God has made provision for our sins/mistakes because He thinks we are worth it [John 3:16-17]
- We must find our identity in Christ, not in our struggle.



## How do we forgive those who've hurt us?

- Arthur Oakman

### How do we forgive ourselves?

- Perfect means “whole” not “without mistake.”
- Only Christ lived a sinless life.
- God has made provision for our sins/mistakes because He thinks we are worth it [John 3:16-17]
- We must find our identity in Christ, not in our struggle.





**Two great examples:**

- Joseph of Egypt [Gen 45:1-8]
- Jesus Christ [Luke 23:35]



**So how do we forgive those who have hurt us?**

- Prayer [Mat 5:46-47]. Prayer softens our heart
- Humility. If Jesus would forgive them if they repented, then why wouldn't you? The offense is not against you, it's against Jesus. He paid the price, not you.
- Imagine the judgment bar...

“

Holding a grudge is like  
drinking poison and expecting  
the other person to die.

- St. Augustine

**I lived with a lot of anger growing up.**

- All I did was hurt myself because I wasn't free to forgive.
- Jesus on the other hand was the freest person who ever lived.

**Love is stronger than hate...**

- Jesus did not retaliate (car ride home)
- I had to let go of those who abused me, which set me free

**Conclusion**

- When you don't forgive, you give power to that person to rule in your life.
- Forgiveness, breaks that chain

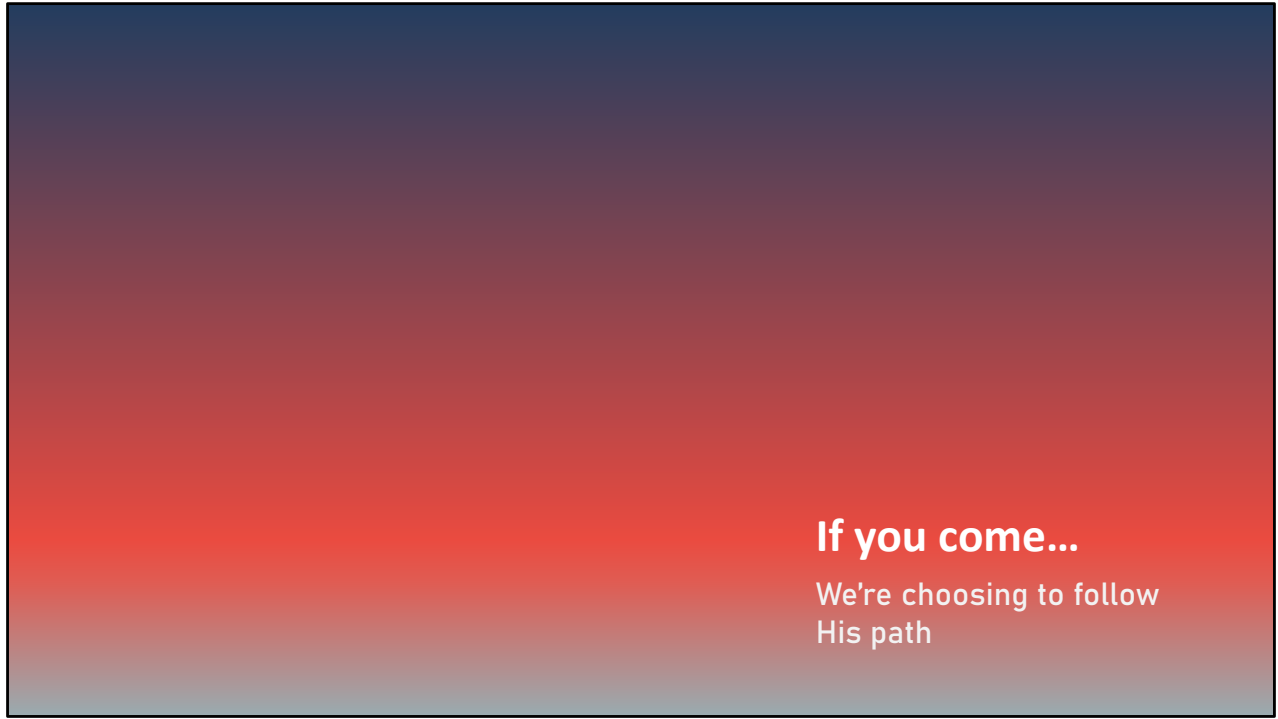
# What does it mean to come to Christ?

**Question:** Have you ever been playing outside with your friends, or with your toys, and your parents call you?

- What does it mean if you choose not to listen or to come?
- [Answer: Rebellion]

**For example,** say your parents were at the tree of life and they asked you to come.

- Would you choose to come?
- Or would you choose to go a different direction?
- Laman and Lemuel chose to go a different way.



**If you are to come**, that means you are going to abide by their rules

- To come to Christ means that we are going to follow His example.



### Or you can...

Choose a different path.  
Just remember that you  
have opportunity to return

**Or are you going** to choose a different direction?

- Laman and Lemuel chose to go a different way.
- However, thankfully, even if we chose not to come,
- we always have an opportunity to return while we still have today

|



**Every day**, we get the opportunity to decide what sort of person we want to be

- Do we want to choose the Tree
- Or not...?

**If we want to choose the Tree of Life**, then how does God ask us to come to Him?

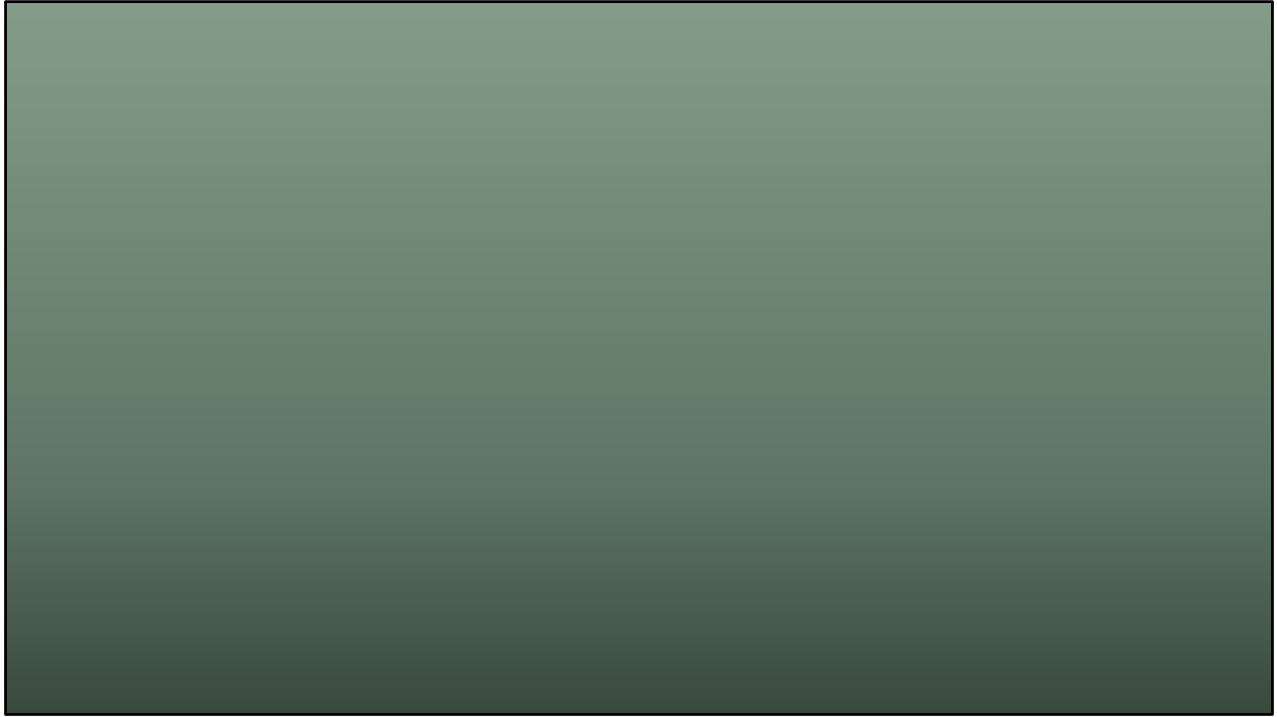
- Answer: Baptism.





**The way to come to Christ is simple.**

- We come unto Him in baptism, which causes us to be born again [John 3:1-8].
- Baptism is a witness of our submission to God, just as it was for Christ [2 Ne 13:7-12].
- He showed us the way to come unto Him.
- Jesus said “unto the children of men, Follow thou me.” [2 Ne 13:12]



**The way to come to Christ is simple.**

- It is through baptism of the water and the Spirit that we make a covenant with God [Alma 5:24-28].
- In this way, we take upon us His name [2 Ne 13:16, Mos 3:8-12].
- We are baptized into Christ.
- This name protects us.



What does  
it mean to  
believe?



What does  
it mean to  
repent?



What does it  
mean to come  
to Christ?

**Believing** requires us to: (Think of Abraham)

- Have witness in ourselves that we have Jesus
- To act, to respond
- To change our heart

**Repentance** is to turn around. It requires us to:

- confess and forsake [Pro 28:13, Sec 58:9c],
- as well as to forgive others [Mat 5:25-26; Sec 64:2b-e]

**Coming to Christ** requires us to:

- Follow Him [2 Ne 13:7-12]
- To make a covenant with Him in baptism [Al 5:24-28]

# The Covenant

Exodus 19:5-6: Now therefore, if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine; And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation...

**A covenant** is a promise that binds us to something.

- Both parties agree to do and/or to forbear, or exclude, some act or thing
- For example, when a husband and wife make a covenant to be married.
- They make promises to be each other's companion till death
- What's the sign, or symbol, of their covenant? A ring!
- What sign does God give us of His covenant? The Holy Ghost!
- This is exactly what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:1-8
- The Holy Ghost is like the wind, we can't see it directly, but we see the effect it has.

**What does God promise to do for us in the Covenant?**

- God promises us eternal life.
- He promises to redeem us, protect us, save us, etc.
- We promise Him that we will believe in Jesus
- We promise Him that we are willing to follow His Son
- To seal it, God gives us His Spirit and exchanges names with us

**Let's take this a little further...** [This question leads into the next slide]

- What is God often called in the Old Testament?
- God of...
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- Why is that...

# The Covenant



**In the Old Testament,** God is frequently called the God of what?

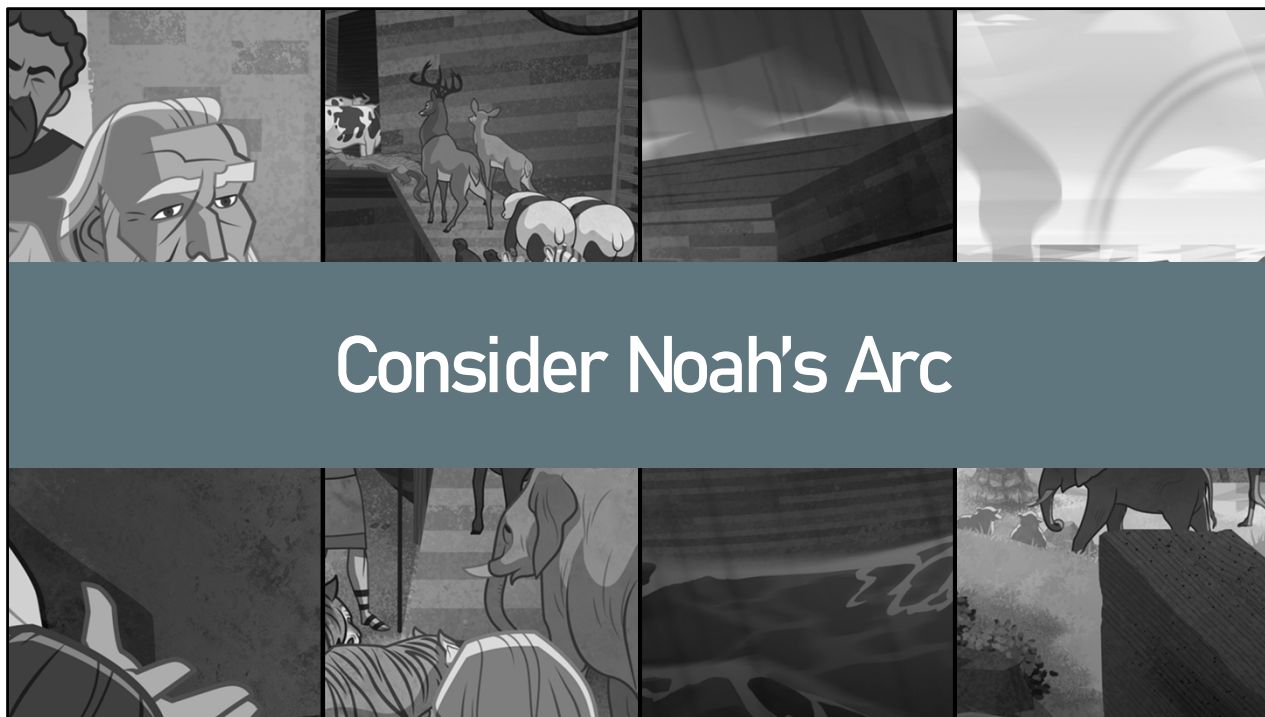
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- God exchanged names with them just like He does with us

**God promised them:**

- that through them all the families of the earth would be blest
- That they would be a great nation
- A promised land

**God wants to make a covenant with you.**

- This covenant gives us security, protection, promise, etc.
- It also allows us to take on His name.
- Did you know that God takes upon Himself our name?
- Think of a marriage covenant, they exchange names to help demonstrate the commitment they've made with each other.
- Do you know your mom's maiden name?



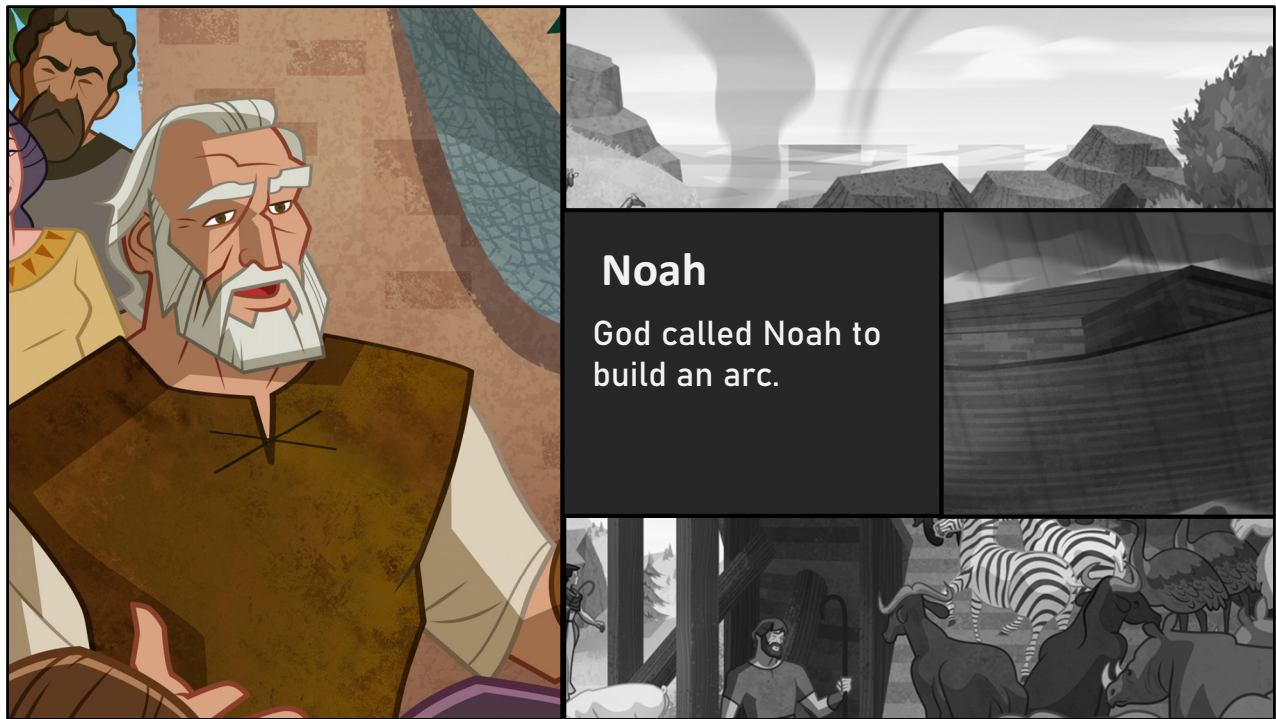
## Consider Noah's Arc

**Think about it this way.** Think of Noah's Arc.

- God called Noah to build an arc.
- The arc is an example of God's Kingdom
- Everyone in the arc was saved. They had God's protection.
- The same is true for us if we abide in His covenant.

**So how do we abide in His covenant?**

- We know that baptism is not the end [2 Ne 13:27-28].
- God has provided a way through Jesus Christ.



## Noah

God called Noah to build an arc.

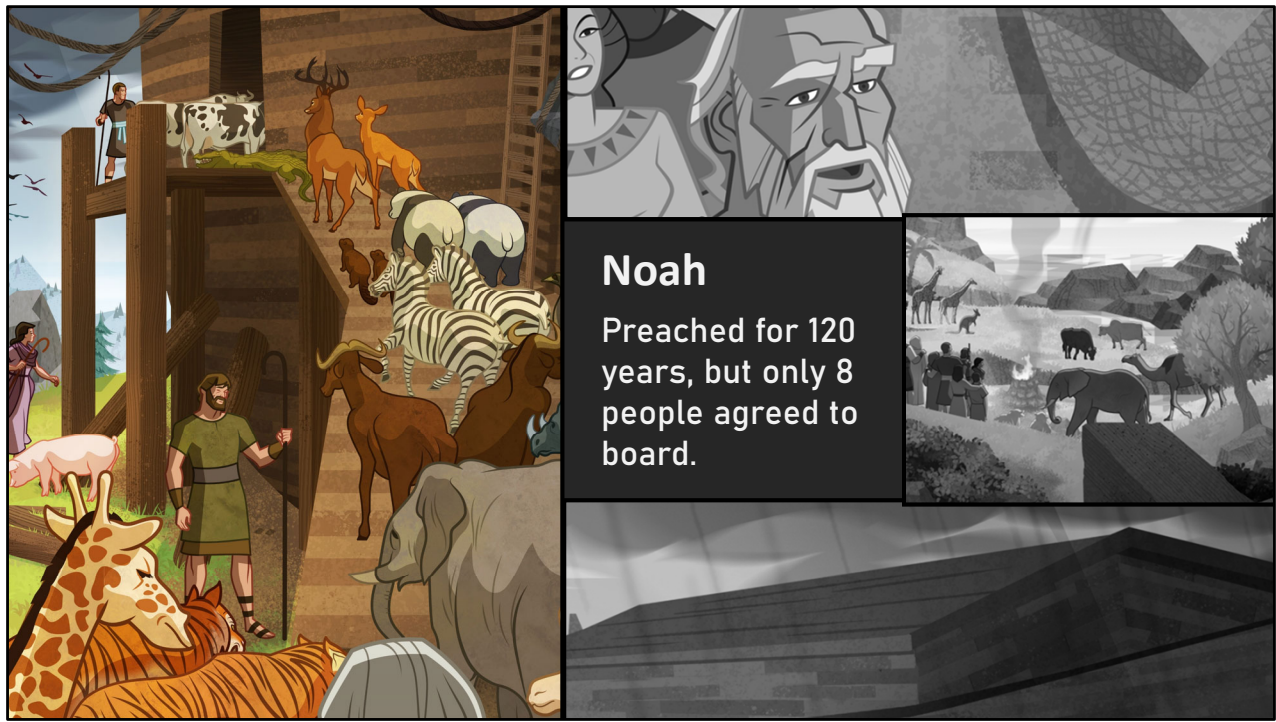
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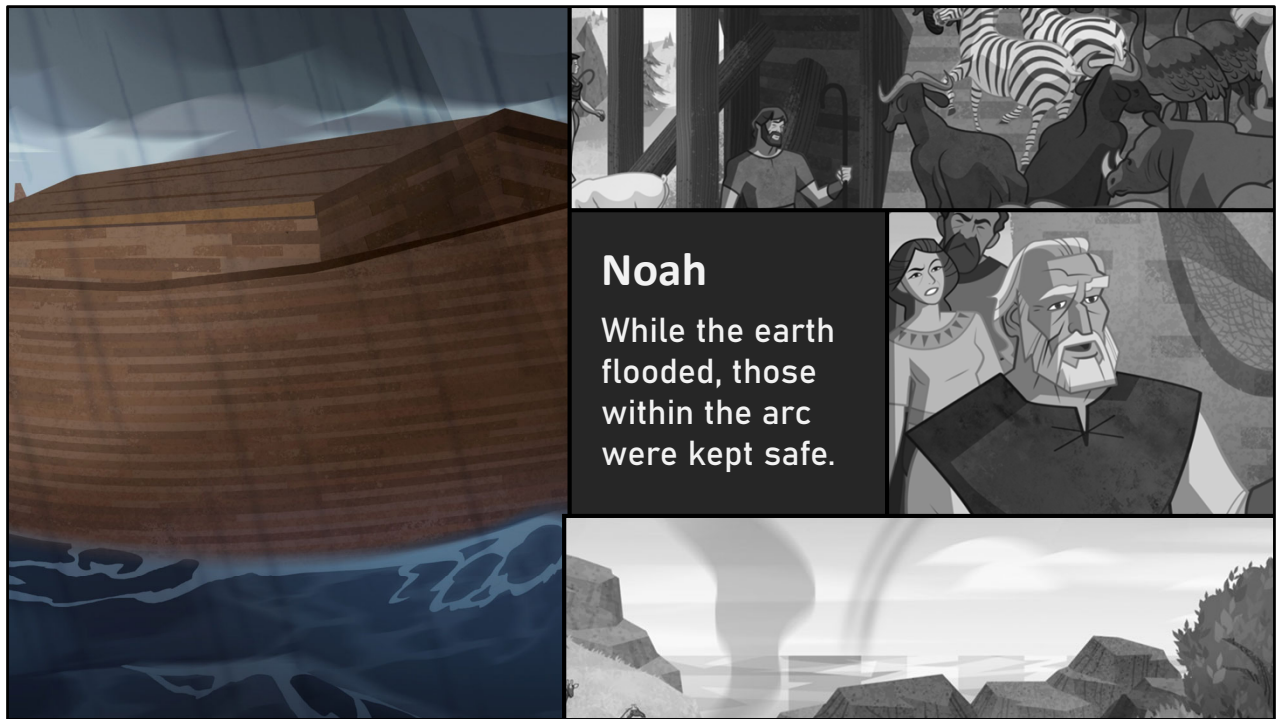




## Noah

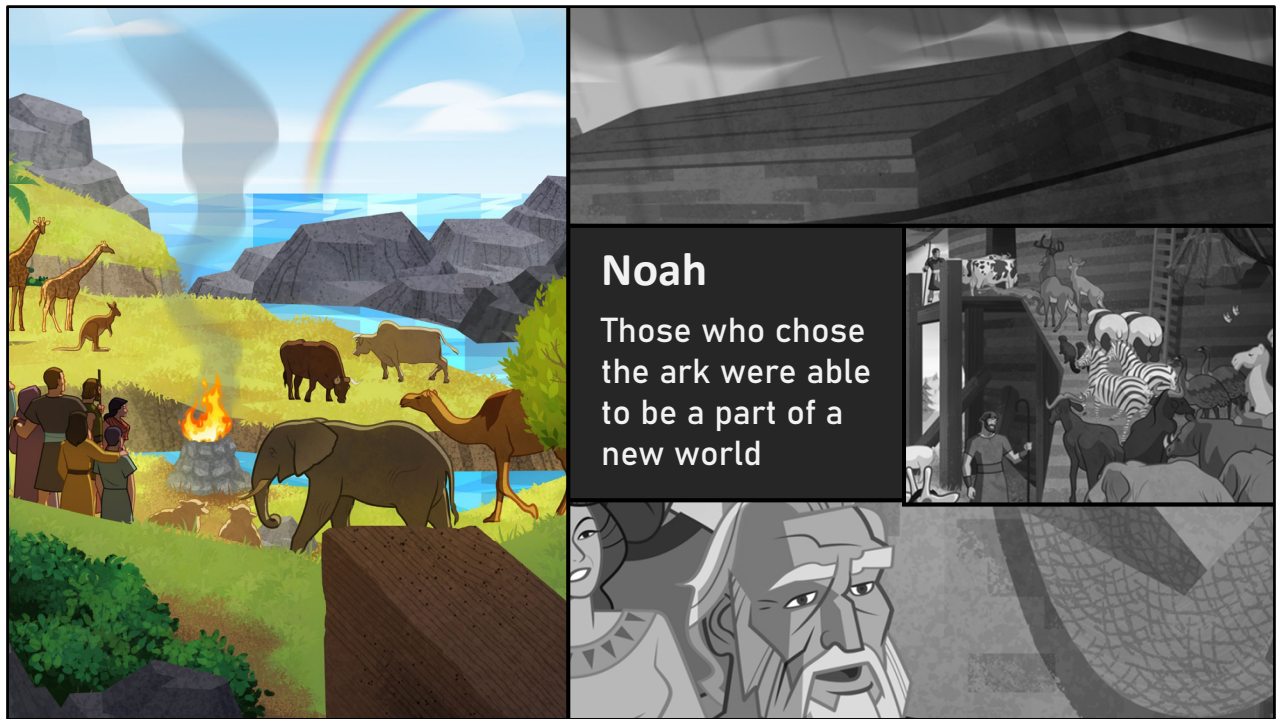
Preached for 120 years, but only 8 people agreed to board.

**Noah preached for 120 years, but only 8 people agreed to board the ark.**



**While the earth was flooded with water from both above and below**

- Those within the arc were kept safe.



**Those who chose to board the ark** were able to be a part of a new world.

- Again, that's God's promise to you.
- But we have to chose to get on board
- Thankfully, the Lord has give us a guide/tool to help us make that choice and stay on the path
- The Holy Ghost

**When we make a covenant with God...**

- We entered into His Kingdom (i.e., the arc)
- This covenant/Kingdom protects us just as the arc did
- We too will get to be part of a new world (i.e., Eternal life)

**What's the sign that we've received this covenant?**

- In marriage, we symbolize the covenant with a ring.
- God's covenant is symbolized by His Holy Spirit
- This is exactly what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:1-8
- The Holy Ghost is like the wind, we can't see it directly, but we see the effect it has.



Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

- Acts 2:37-39

**Following Peter's sermon in Acts 2**, the Holy Spirit convicted those present of the truth of Peter's words.

- The people are pricked in their heart.
- They come forward and ask Peter, "What shall we do?"
- Peter responds, saying, "Repent and be baptized for a remission of your sins"
- **"and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."**

**This promise was made 2,000 years ago**, but it's still accessible to us today.

- <sup>64</sup>)Therefore it is given to abide in you, the record of heaven, the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory, the truth of all things, that which quickens all things which makes alive all things, that which knows all things, and has all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice and judgment.



And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him; but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.

- John 14:16-18

The Holy Ghost is a constant companion which does many things.

- The Spirit leads us into all truth [John 16:13]
- It makes intercession for us when we don't know what to pray for [Rom 8:26]
- It is God's voice and will in action [Sec 85:17]

**Power:** We receive gifts through the Spirit

- (love, wisdom, knowledge, faith)
- which empower us to do things that we could never do without it
- The Spirit changes our heart and character

**Presence:** The Spirit is called a comforter for a reason.

- We will experience hardship, loss, stress, etc.
- Jesus promises to send us the Holy Spirit in these times to comfort us.
- It's this same Spirit that seals us to eternal life:
- Sec 85:1c-2a

**The Spirit teaches us the peaceable things of God**

- Gen 6:64 Therefore it is given to abide in you, the record of heaven, the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory, the truth of all things, that which quickens all things which makes alive all things, that which knows all things, and has all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice and judgment.



What is a covenant?



What does a covenant do for us?



What does God ask us to do in return?

**A covenant** is a promise that binds us to something.

- Both parties agree to do and/or to forbear, or exclude, some act or thing
- God promises us eternal life
- He exchanges names with us

**In this covenant**, God promises to redeem us, protect us, save us, etc. and

- We promise Him that we will believe in Jesus and follow Him

**In return**, God gives us His Spirit [Gen 6:64]

- His Spirit is the Comforter,
- It leads us into truth [John 16:13]
- It makes all things alive [John 6:63, Rom 8:13-16]
- The fruit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance

# The Way

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

## **There's a way that God wants you to live/love**

- You've been given the testimony of Jesus Christ
- You have His name, His covenant
- You will have His Spirit
- Now what will you do with it?

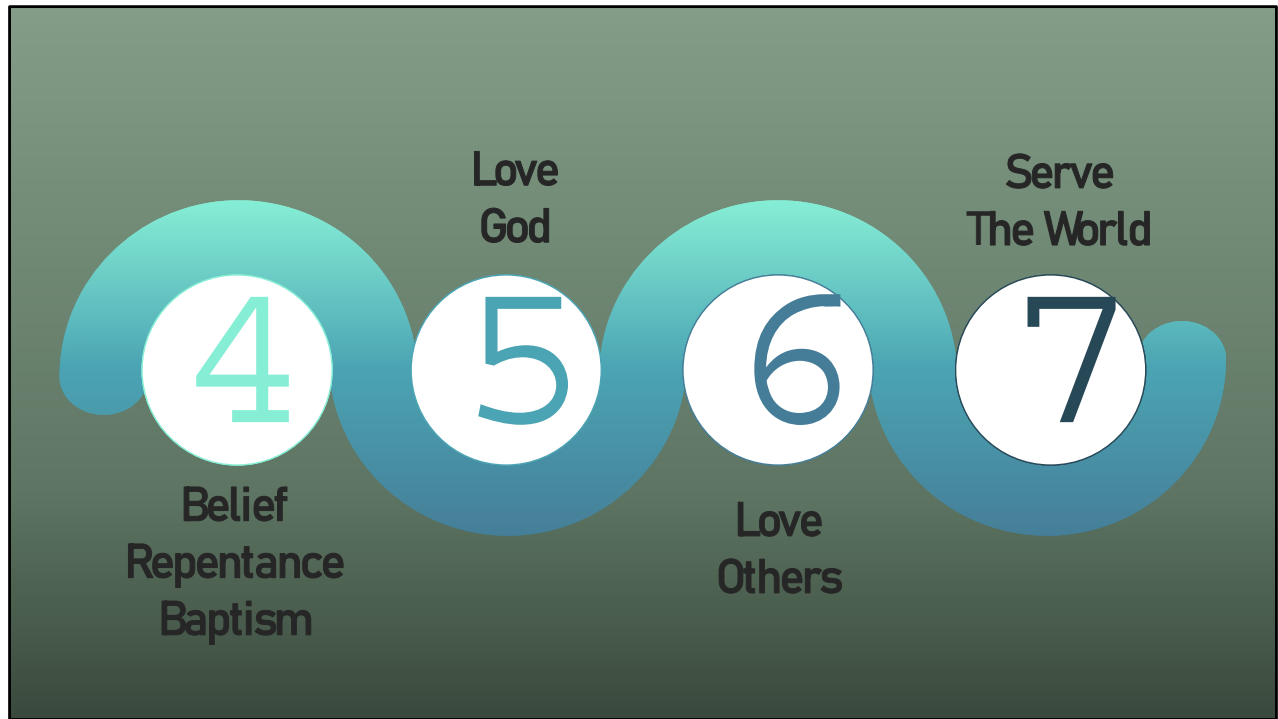
## **Think of it like a board game**

- What's your favorite game?
- Does that game have rules?
- What happens when you try to act outside those rules?
- The same is true with God

God calls us to steward this gift of eternal life by stewarding our

- Soul
- Time/labor
- Tithe/resources
- Gifts and talents

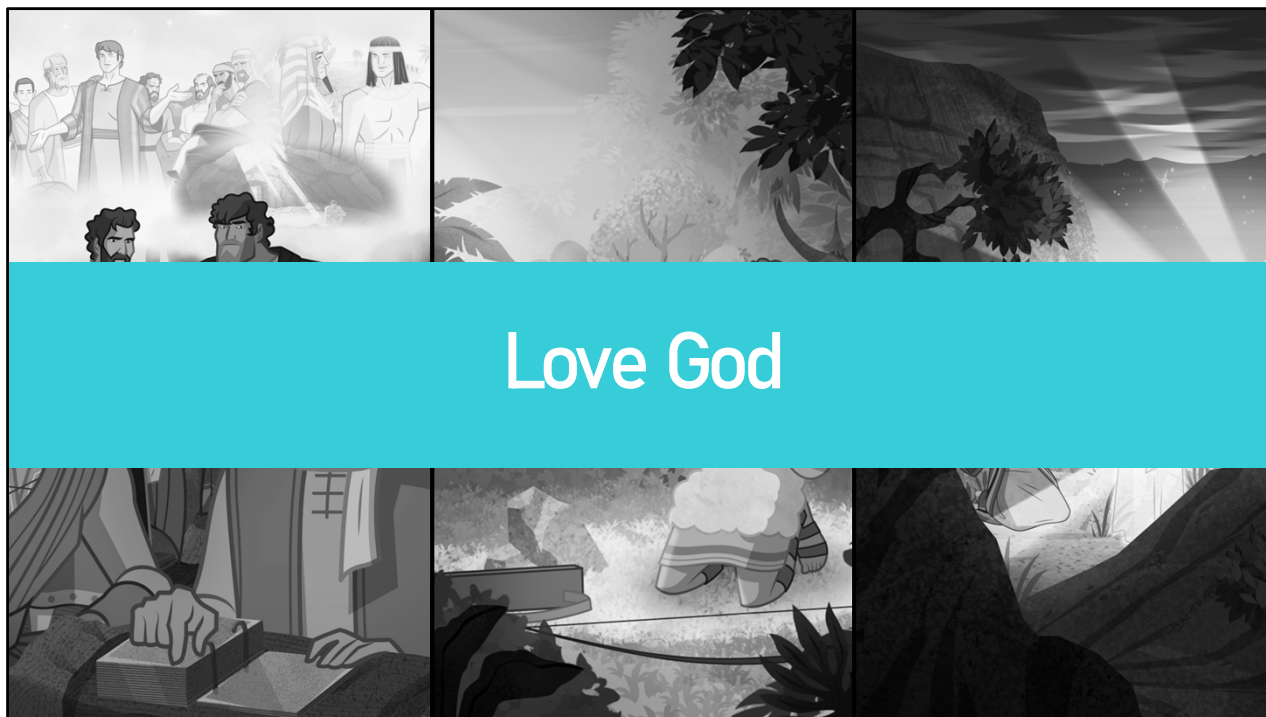




**Baptism is obviously the start of the path,** but how do we stay on the path?

- All of these things are meant to condition our heart to love God and others as Christ loves us.
- All of these things allow us to court the Spirit and endure unto the end
- Moreover, it's by the Holy Spirit that we're able to do these things.

**Remember,** it's not about trying harder, it's about allowing God to work in you.



## Love God

**How can you learn to love God** if you don't first spend time in:

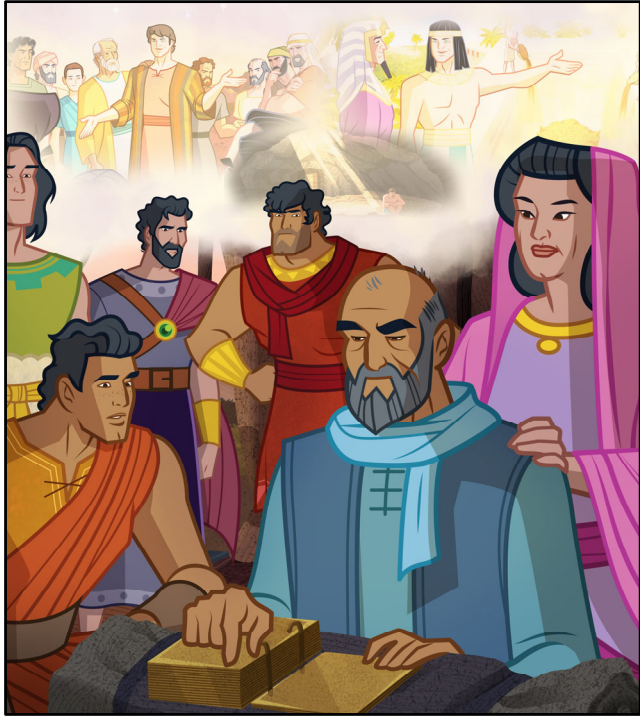
- Study
- Prayer
- Fasting

**Study, prayer, and fasting are essential** in our walk with Jesus Christ, as well as for our life in His Kingdom.

- Through study we learn about God,
- through prayer we commune with God, and
- through fasting we come to know God.

These three principles are not merely good habits of behavior,

- but they are the keys to the Spirit of Revelation and the Spirit of Prophecy [Alma 12:1-5].



## Study

<sup>4</sup>Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you *all things what ye should do*

<sup>5</sup>Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye can not understand them it will be because ye ask not, *neither do ye knock*; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. [2 Ne 14:4-5]

**Imagine if your teacher gave you a test,** and this test decided your whole grade

- What if they never gave you lesson
- What if there wasn't even a book to review ahead time
- What's your likelihood of passing that test?
- Do you think God would do that to you?

**Have you ever played a hot and cold game?**

- What if no one ever told you if you were getting warmer or colder?
- How fair would that be?

### Notes on Studying

1. How are you going to study? (for example, Entirety vs. subject)
2. What are you going to study? (for example, which book, what subject)
3. When and where are you going to study? (Establish a routine)
  - a. You will lose the knowledge if you're not consistent [Alma 9:15-20, Matthew 13:8-14]
4. Study habits
  - a. Highlighting (create a plan first)
  - b. Summarize what you read
  - c. Take notes, write questions



## Prayer

Therefore, after this manner shall ye pray saying... [Mat 6:9-15]

- Begin with praise to God
- Pray for the Kingdom
- Pray for daily sustenance
- Pray for forgiveness
- Pray not to enter into temptation, but be delivered from evil
- Close with praise to God

### Who is your best friend?

- What if you never talked to that person?
- How good would your friendship be?

**Prayer is the medium**, or avenue, for our communion with God.

- In the old testament, the Lord promised to meet the children of Israel at the mercy seat, above the ark of the testimony,
- in order that He might commune with them [Exo 25:22].
- We have the same access to God today [Heb 9:24; 10:19-20].
- While we are commanded to pray [Gen 4:6, 8; 5:3; DC 18:4a], and there are many things to pray for, prayer often does more to us than it does for others.

### Prayer:

- softens our heart [1 Ne 1:47-48]
- brings the Spirit [DC 18:6a, DC 63:16a]
- brings peace [Phs 4:6-7]
- gives us strength to overcome [1 Ne 2:28, Mat 6:14, DC 3:1e, DC 61:6e]
- enlightens our understanding [1 Ne 4:8-13, Al 12:4-5, Al 14:103]
- brings a remission of sins [Mos 2:20-23]



## Fasting

[Isaiah 58:1-14]...

- loose the bands wickedness
- to undo the heavy burdens
- to let the oppressed go free
- to break every yoke

**Have you ever had to prepare for a test, or get ready for an event (like a birthday party or sleepover)?**

- What happens when you have absolutely no time to prepare?
- You're so busy doing this and doing that.
- What does that feel like? Hectic, anxious, rushed, nervous, etc.
- The same is true with God. There are times when He calls us up the mountain to be still with Him

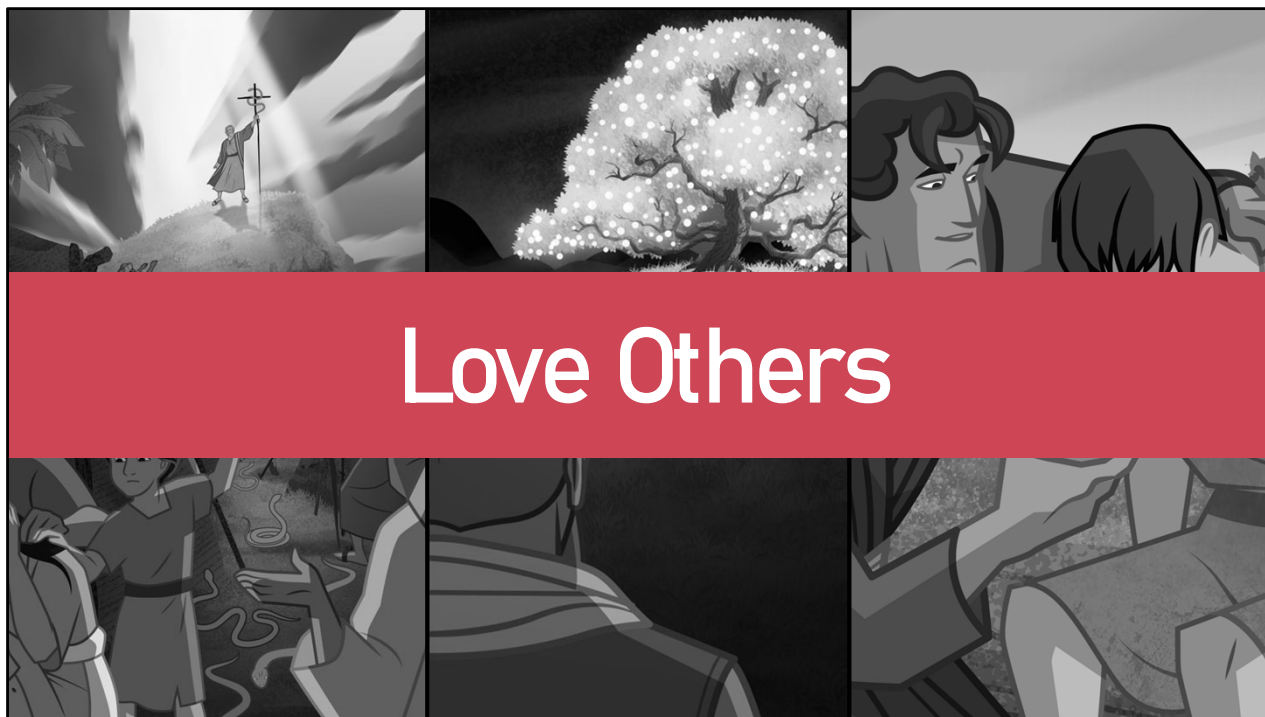
**The 1828 Webster's Dictionary** also defines fast as to "literally, set, stopped, fixed, or pressed close. Hence, close; tight; as, make fast the door; *take fast hold*; firm; immovable; close; strong; *firmly fixed*; *closely adhering*."

- **Fasting is not** about punishing ourselves by simply going without something, but instead it is about holding fast to God [Mat 4:1-2].
- We do not fast from something [Col 2:20-22] as much as we fast to something [2 Chr 20:1-4, 14-17; Al 16:112-120].
- Thus, while we refrain from food, it is critical to ask ourselves, "What am I fasting toward and for what reason?"

**The bottom line:** Fasting is not a trade or a bargain basement, that we can exchange an empty stomach for a blessing from God, or that God finds pleasure in human discomfort and suffering. Rather it is a way to humble and sanctify ourselves so that we can:

- loose the bands wickedness, [Are there sins in our lives that bind us?]
- to undo the heavy burdens, [Are there lies about yourself, or about God, that hold you down?]
- to let the oppressed go free, [Are there those whom you have struggled to forgive?]
- to break every yoke, [Do we yoke ourselves with the things and concerns of this world?]





# Love Others

**How can you love others** if you don't first have:

- Faith—that God is good, trustworthy, and loving
- Hope—that if Jesus rose from the dead, so will I
- Charity—that Jesus loves me, I ought to love others in the same way

**Fountain of all righteousness [Ether 5:29]**

- Behold, I will shew unto the Gentiles their weakness, and
- I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity,
- bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness.

**This is how we...**

- Create the qualities of Christ in us.
- court the Spirit and endure unto the end.



## Faith

<sup>47</sup>Yes, did he not bear record, that the Son of God should come? And as he lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, even so shall he be lifted up who should come.<sup>48</sup>And as many as should look upon that serpent should live, even so as many as should look upon the Son of God, with faith, having a contrite spirit, might live, even unto that life which is eternal. [Helaman 3:47-48]

### Everything we do is by faith.

- Why do you choose to try foods you've never eaten before?
- Why do you try games that you've never played before?
- Why do you go to places you've never been before?
- Answer: because you have faith that you'll enjoy them
- You get to choose who and what you place your faith in.

### Faith is not passive; it requires us to:

- Believe & Trust
- Act & obey

### Hebrews 11:1-2

<sup>1</sup>)Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

<sup>2</sup>)For by it the elders obtained a good report.



## Hope

<sup>46</sup>How is it that you can attain faith, save you shall have hope? *And what is it that you shall hope for?* <sup>47</sup>Behold I say unto you, that *you shall have hope through the atonement of Christ* and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal; and this because of your faith in him according to the promise; [Moroni 7:46–47]

**When I first entered college,** I thought I wanted to be a movie director

- But during my orientation I realized that it would take a lot of work.
- I had no hope that I would be able to do this.
- I didn't even try to follow the dream. I just quit right there on the spot.
- I change my major to history.

**Have you ever done something that was really hard?**

- Did you follow through, or did you stop short? Why?
- If you never had hope that you could reach it, would you try?
- God wants us to have hope in eternal life.

**Hebrews 11:6**

<sup>6</sup>But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.





## Charity

- suffers long
- is kind
- envies not
- not puffed up
- seeks not her own
- not easily provoked
- thinks no evil
- rejoices not in iniquity
- rejoices in truth
- bears all things
- believes all things
- hopes all things
- endures all things
- pure love of Christ

**If God is love,** what do you think He wants me to be?

- He wants me to love too.
- Not just any sort of love, but a love like His.
- The words you see here are the qualities of God's love
- These are pretty hard for me to do, because I'm not naturally like Him.

**What happens when your parent's ask you to do something?**

- Do you always answer, "YES! I would love to do that for you."
- Why not? It's because it goes against our nature.
- To love like God does [Mat 5:40-50] goes against our nature.
- That means we need to learn how to love
- It's like a muscle, we need to practice love
- Love is a choice, not a feeling.

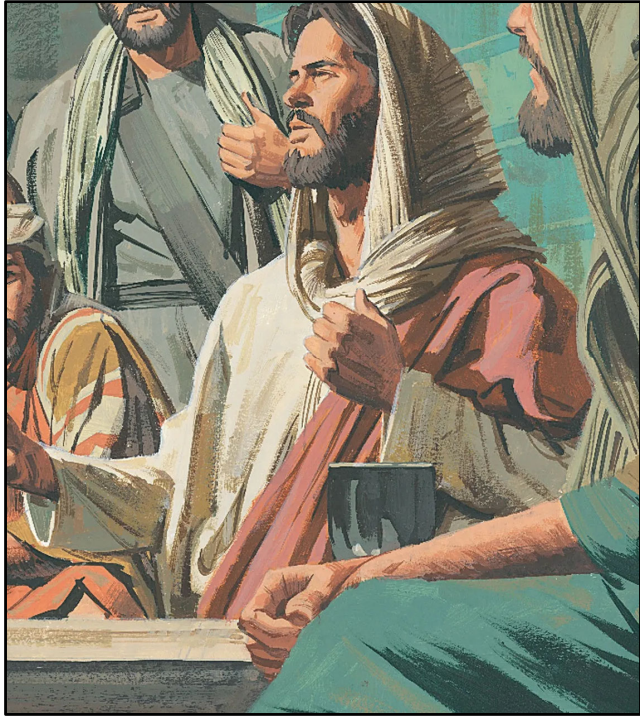
**This is where service plays a big role!**

- When we love God and others,
- We serve them in ways that please God
- Love others as Christ loved you.



Service, the Lord asks us to:

- Love God
- Love Others
- Serve the World



## A Servant

---

<sup>44</sup>)And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

<sup>45</sup>)For even the Son of Man came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

### Service: Mark 10:35-45

- Have you ever wanted to play king or queen?
- Why? Most do it because they love the idea of being that person everyone must obey
- But you know, Jesus was quite different.
- He helped create this universe. He was second to none, except the Father
- But he didn't come here for others to serve Him
- He came to serve them.
- There's a great example of this in the BoM
- King Benjamin



## We are all Beggars

<sup>49</sup>)And behold, I tell you these things that you may learn wisdom; that you may learn that when you are in the service of your fellow beings, you are only in the service of your God... <sup>32</sup>)For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have; for both food, and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind? [Mosiah 1:49 and 2:32]

### Service: Mosiah 1:59

- As king, Benjamin taught his people to obey God's commandments.
- He did not take their money or make them serve him.
- Instead, he worked to serve his people and God.
- told the people that when they served each other, they were also serving God.
- Then he told them that everything that they had came from God.
- We are all beggars before God, even our life does not belong to us.
- Remember that inasmuch as we serve the least of these my brethren, you've done it unto me.

**How are we to serve the world? That's the next section!**



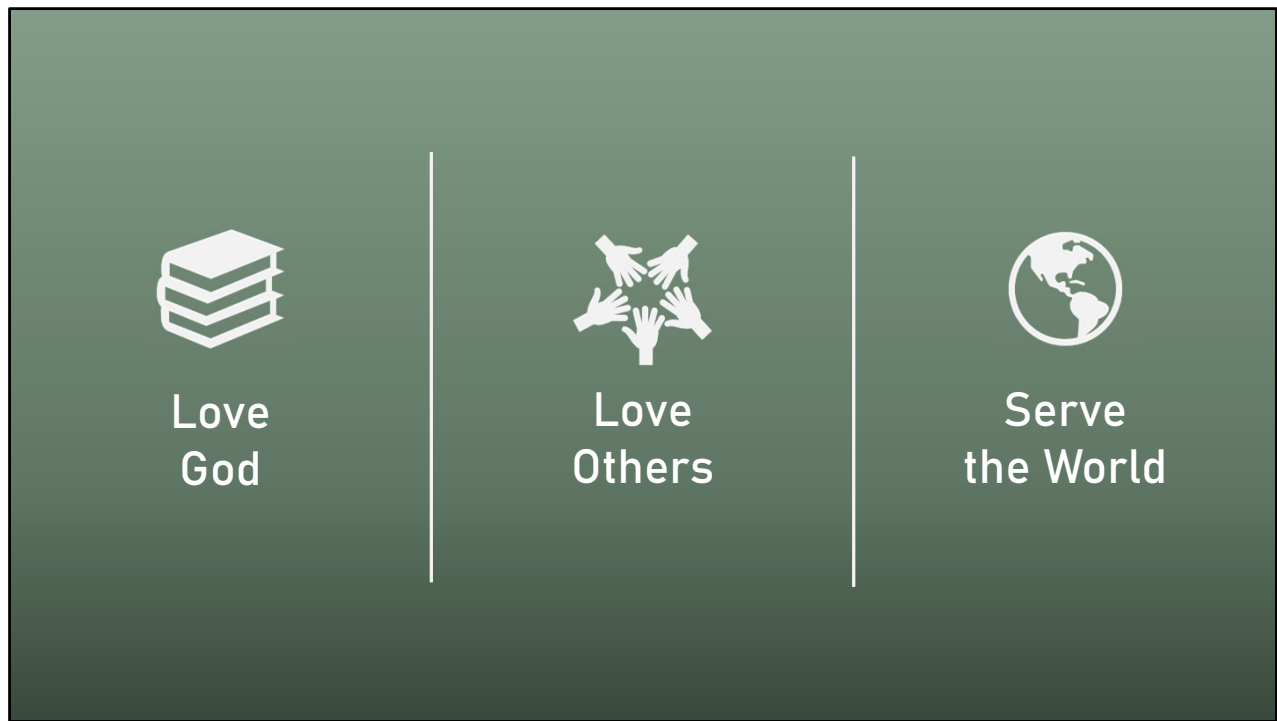
Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry, and fed you; or thirsty, and gave you drink? When did we see you a stranger, and took you in; or naked, and clothed you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and came unto you? And the king shall answer and say unto them, *Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.*

- Matthew 25:38-41

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**A covenant** is a sacred promise that binds us to together with God and with one another

- Both parties agree to do and/or to forbear, or exclude, some act or thing
- God promises us eternal life
- To seal it, God gives us His Spirit and exchanges names with us

**In this covenant**, God promises to redeem us, protect us, save us, etc. and

- We promise Him that we will believe in Jesus and follow Him
- All God asks of us to love Him, love others, and serve the world.

**Extra Notes:**

- The covenant is a helpmeet—a sacred promise binding us together with God and with one another.
- It's designed to help us in our journey, offering security, accountability, and intimacy.
- A covenant involves five key elements: **vows**, an **exchange**, a **seal**, **authority**, and **sacrifice**.

This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the World  
**The Great and Marvelous Work**

Matthew 24:14 (KJV) [Matthew 24:32 (IV)]





Once we enter into a covenant with God, into the family of God, we agree to take on two missions:

1. Great commission
2. Zion

God gave us the Church, to accomplish these two missions. In other words,

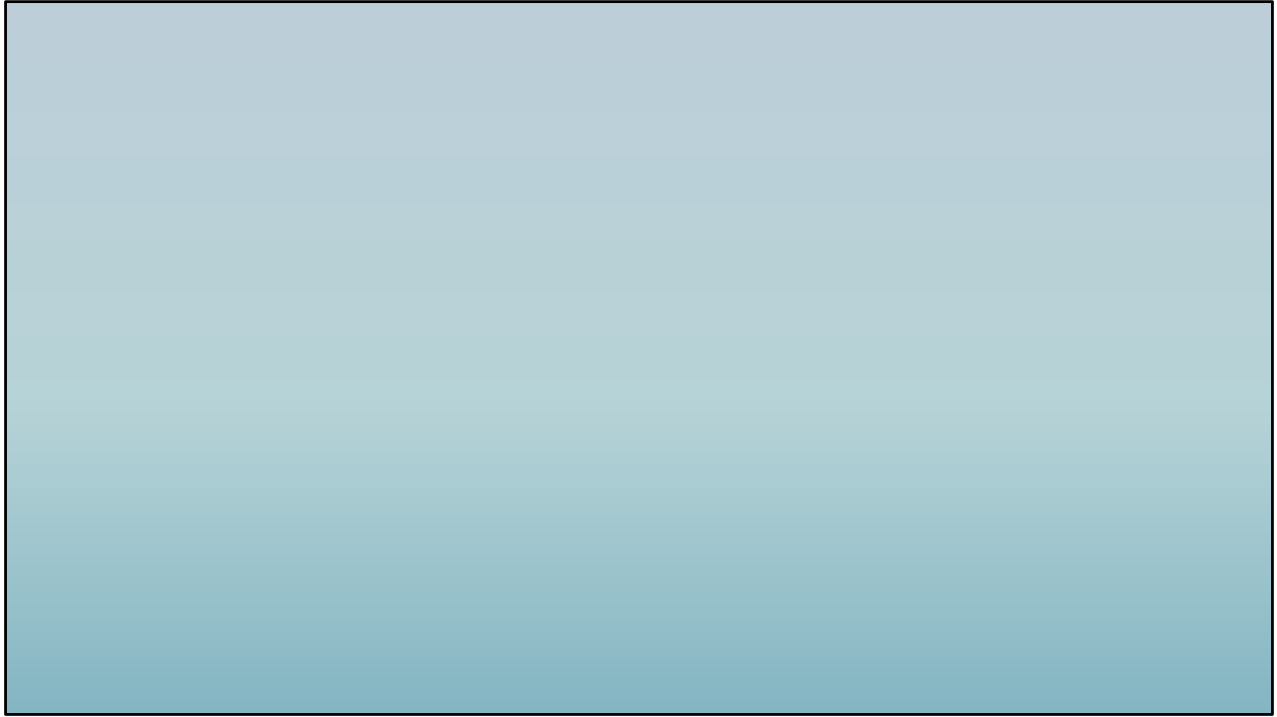
1. The church is the tool to do the work
2. The great commission is the message we are to share
3. Zion is the condition/place we are to seek





### **What is the Church?**

- The word Church, means a call to assemble.
- The church is not the building.
- It's not even the authority and the ordinances necessarily
- it's the people.
- The Church, the authority, and the ordinances are tools to share the Gospel
- A living body (Think of Timothy's talk on 5/18/25)

**Jesus started His Church**

- Jesus received authority from the Father to represent Him, He didn't just claim it
- Jesus didn't go around saying, "Hey, I'm God's Son."
- Only the Father had the authority to say, "This is mine Only Begotten Son. Hear ye Him."

“

And lo, he heard a voice from  
heaven, saying, This is my beloved  
Son, in whom I am well pleased.  
Hear ye him.

- Matthew 3:46

**What is authority?**

- The “Name Game” is a common icebreaker game where you share your name and something about yourself.
- For example, what’s your favorite color, or what’s one fun thing you like to do?
- (NOTE: go ahead and ask them this and use it in the illustration)

**What if I butted in and answered the questions for you?**

- Would I have authority to do that? Why not?

**What if, you allowed me to speak for you?**

- What if you were unable to speak and asked me to speak for you?
- What if, when it was your turn, you pointed to me so everyone could see?
- Would I have authority then?
- The answer is yes.

**The Father gave Jesus the authority to represent Him**

- Heb 5:5 “...So also Christ glorified not Himself...”
- The Father said, “Jesus can speak for Me”
- Jesus then passed that along to others.

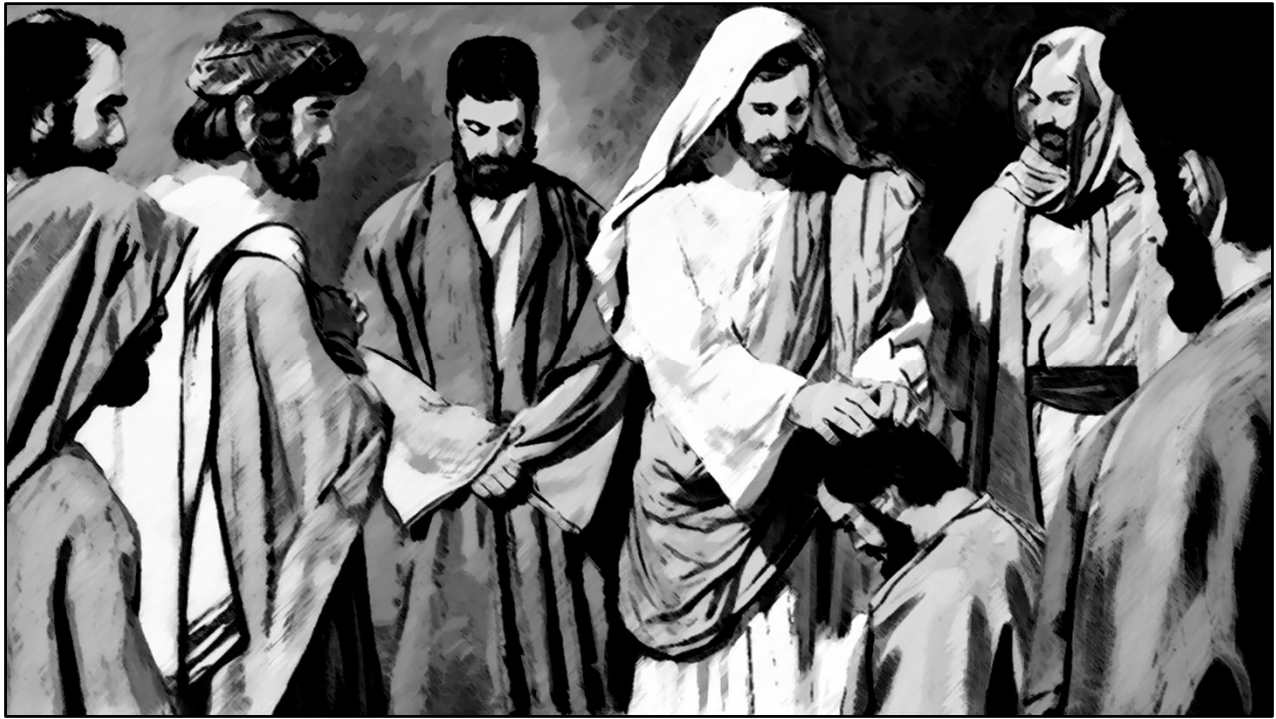


**Jesus, “As my Father sent me, so I send you.” [John 20:21]**

- Jesus chose and ordained the 12 [John 15:16]
- He gave them authority to represent Him and share His message and covenant
- The Church is born with authority and the Gospel [as shown in Acts]
- Again, it’s a tool to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Authority lost**

- The Church eventually changed and fell away,
- They changed the ordinances and teachings of Christ
- People waited for the day when God would restore it again on the earth.



### Remember the mixer game?

- What if, even after you gave me authority to represent you,
- I started telling everyone that your favorite color was... (give wrong answer here)
- What if I said your favorite thing to do was... (give wrong answer here)
- Would I still have authority to represent you? Why not?
- That's what the priesthood/Church did in that day.
- They started telling things about Jesus that weren't true
- So, they lost their right to represent Him.

### Hebrews 5:4-5

<sup>4</sup>)And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. <sup>5</sup>)So also Christ *glorified not himself* to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.

**NOTES (Don't have to teach)** Steps to authoritative priesthood: Exodus 4:14-16, 27-30; 40:1, 12

1. Called by Revelation
2. Public Ordination
3. Baptized
4. Clothed in Righteousness
5. Ordained by the Laying on of Hands

**The two aspects** of the Church that we must discuss:

1. Authority
2. Ordinances





### **Joseph wrote his testimony, first, in 1832**

He began studying the scriptures at a young age.

- “I discovered that they did not adorn their profession by a holy walk and Godly conversation agreeable to what I found contained in the sacred depository [i.e., scriptures].
- “This was a grief to my soul. Thus from age of 12 years to 15 years I pondered many things in my heart concerning the situation of the world.
- “The contentions and divisions, the wickedness and abominations and the darkness which pervaded the minds of mankind...

**James 1:5-7:** Joseph was pierced by this verse, and decided to ask God what Church to join

- Joseph was determined a time and a place
- Spring 1820

### **God restored the Church again by giving Joseph authority and the Gospel.**

- What is the Gospel? [Sec 76:4g-h]
  - <sup>4g</sup>)And this is the gospel, the glad tidings which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us, that he came into the world, even Jesus to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness;
  - <sup>4h</sup>)that through him all might be saved, whom the Father had put into his power, and made by him; who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition, who deny the Son after the Father has revealed him;



### Joseph Smith, Jr.[1805-1844]

- In his 15<sup>th</sup> year there was a great religious revival in western New York, [Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists]
- He and his family (11 in all) attended these services in **Manchester, NY**. Four joined the Presbyterian faith [Mother, Lucy, brothers, Hyrum and Samuel, sister Sophronia]
- But the good feeling that had prevailed among the denominations during the joint revival turned into a rivalry for members

The Presbyterians . . . Baptists and Methodists . . . **used all their powers of either reason or sophistry. . . to make the people think [others] were in error** . . . In the midst of this war of words and tumult of opinions, I often said to myself, What is to be done? Who of all these parties are right?"

And so, Joseph, after reading a scripture from James 1:5-7, set out to ask God, "Which Church should I join." God's answer surprised him, "I was answered that I must join none of them... For they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

### James 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup>)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.

<sup>6</sup>)But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

<sup>7</sup>)For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.



### **Moroni Appears [1820-1823]**

- For the next three years, Joseph went about his regular work, all the time suffering severe persecution because he continued to affirm that he had seen a vision.
- This was a very difficult time in his life
- He was scorned and rejected by those who should have been his friends
- It says he was led into divers temptations which he felt were displeasing to God
- Feeling condemned, feeling the need for forgiveness, and desiring to know of his standing before God, he says...





### The Book of Mormon [September 1827-August 1829]

- “. . . having went as usual at the end of another year to the place where [the plates] were deposited, the same heavenly messenger delivered them up to me . . .
- In Harmony, PA, **Martin Harris** served as scribe for the translation process from April to June of 1828, but the first 116 pages were lost. Translation ceased for ten months.
- On **April 7, 1829**, the work of translating resumed with **Oliver Cowdery** acting as Joseph’s scribe
- In early **June 1829**, David Whitmer brought Joseph, Oliver and Emma to his father’s home in Fayette, NY. They stayed with Peter Whitmer until the translation was completed in **August 1829**.
- The Book of Mormon covers a period of over **2,600 years**, and was finished in approximately **eighty days** (less than three months).



## 1. The Church

### **The Church [April 6, 1830]**

- They spent time in witnessing and feeling for themselves the power and blessings of the spirit which God so graciously bestowed on them
- Dismissed with knowledge that they were now members and acknowledged of God
- Organized in accordance with the commandments and revelations given by God, not by man, as well as according to the order of the Church as recorded in the New Testament

### **Once more the Church of Jesus Christ was complete,**

- founded on revelation,
- having the same ordinances,
- doctrines and officers, and
- once again lighted by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Through the authority of priesthood,**

- People once again had access to the ordinances
- These ordinances, which we'll talk about shortly,
- Have the power to help us be like Christ
- Each one is specifically given/designed by God for a purpose.
- They teach us how to love, to submit, to become one, etc.

Jesus *gave* the gift of priesthood...

1. For the perfecting of the saints,
2. for the work of the ministry,
3. for the edifying of the body of Christ;

**According to Ephesians 4:11-15**, God gave us the gift of priesthood so that:

- We wouldn't be taken advantage of
- We wouldn't be deceived
- We would receive the truth in love
- We would grow up to be a child of God
- He gave priesthood until we all come to a perfect knowledge of Christ
- We could be made whole through God's ordinances

**Priesthood is a gift from God [1 Cor 12:27-29; John 15:16]**

- Do you get gifts for your birthday? Did you earn that gift?
- No, instead your parents give you gifts because they love you.
- Do you have to earn their love? No, and the same is true of God

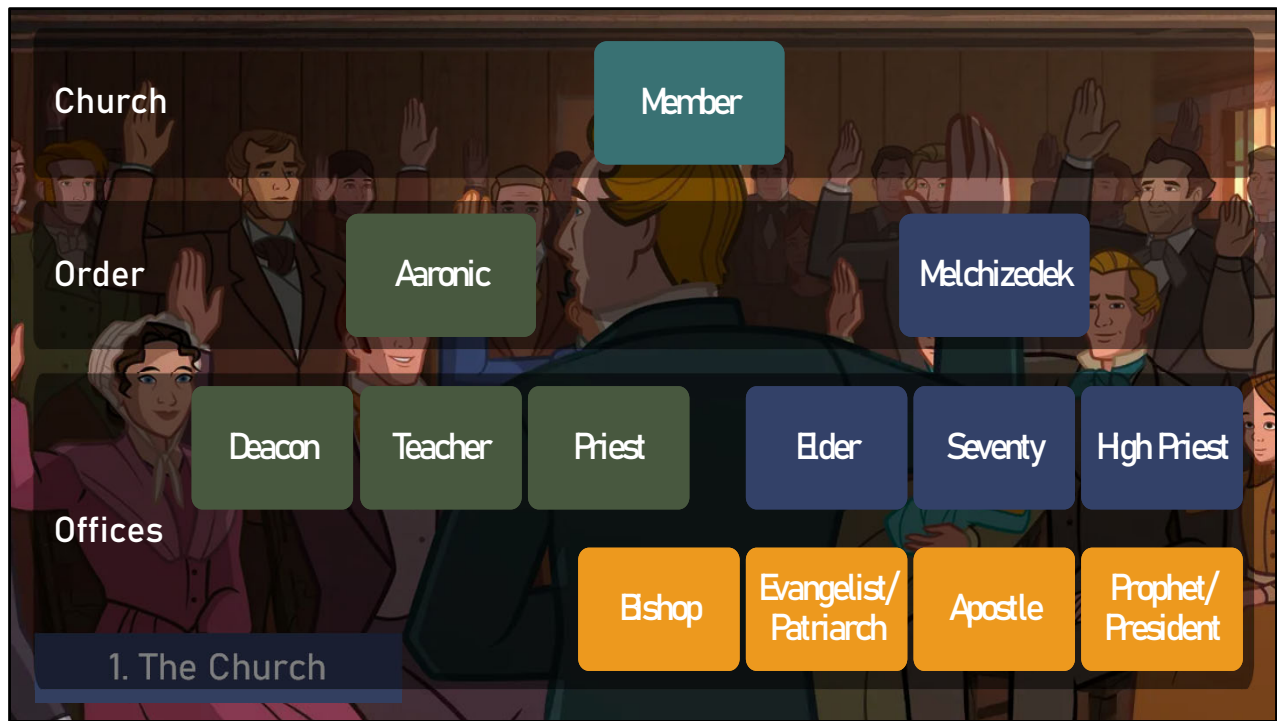
**When we talk about authority**, we must remember two things:

1. Authority is the right or power to act in the stead of Christ
2. Authority is a gift, we can't earn it by our own merits, just as Jesus didn't.

**[John 15:16]** <sup>16</sup>Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit

**NOTES: (You don't have to teach this) Examples Calling and Ordaining**

- Jesus said... "I have chosen you, and ordained you..." [John 15:16; Luke 6:12-13]
- Seven men were set aside for daily ministration and sacrament [Acts 6:1-6]
- Paul and Barnabas set aside by the laying of hands [Acts 13:1-3; 14:14]
- To confirm souls and watch over the church [Acts 14:21-23, Acts 20:28]
- Paul set aside to minister of Jesus Christ and the Gospel [Romans 15:15-16]
- A number of men set aside for apostleship [Acts 1:25-26; 2:42-43; Rom 16:7; 1 Cor 4:6, 9; Gal 1:19, 1 Ths 1:1, 2:6]
- Alma ordained priests and elders by the laying on hands to preside and watch over the Church [Alma 4:1]
- Jesus ordained Nephites and taught them how to ordain others [Moroni 3:1-3]



**The highest office of the Church is a member,**

- Those listed below are to be their servants

**There are two main orders:**

- Aaronic is responsible for bringing the people to God
- Melchizedek is responsible for bringing God to the people

**Within each order there are set offices**

- The Aaronic contains three (deacon, teacher, priest)
- The Melchizedek contains three primary offices (elder, seventy, high priest)
- And four secondary offices (bishop, EP, apostle, prophet)

**Think of a team sport.**

- Do you need every player in order to win?
- Does every player have the same role?
- Do they have some roles that overlap?
- This is true for priesthood as well



## 1. The Church

**Priesthood is a gift so that we can be made whole through ordinances.**

- Ordinances are means for us to remember God and His sacrifice
- and to consecrate our life to Him
- Ordinances show us what kind of life we are to live,
- namely to become a living sacrifice
- They are our highest forms of worship
- They keep us on track so we don't lose the vision





## Ordinances help us:

- Remember God
- Consecrate our life
- Worship Him

## They involve:

1. Sacrifice
2. Authority
3. Symbols

### Leviticus 22:9

- They shall therefore keep mine ordinance,
- lest they bear sin for it, and die; therefore,
- ***if*** they profane not mine ordinances,
- I the Lord ***will*** sanctify them.
- *In other words, this is how God sets us apart as Holy.*

**Sec 83:3c:** <sup>3c)</sup>Therefore, in the ordinances thereof the power of godliness is manifest;

- and without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood,
- the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh;
- for without this, no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live.

**For example:** The sacrament is an invitation to:

- Come to the table (there's no condemnation in Christ)
- Serve (Jesus came to serve, not be served)
- Lay down our life (and so, like Christ, you will find it again)



**Jesus performed or sanctioned each of these**

**1. Baby blessing**

- *Sacrifice*: Parents dedicate their lives to raise their child to God
- *Symbol*: Elders hold the child in their arms

**2. Baptism**

- *Sacrifice*: Burying the old man of sin and rising a new man in Christ
- *Symbol*: Water

**3. Confirmation**

- *Sacrifice*: Pursuing holiness
- *Symbol*: Laying on of hands

**4. The Lord's Supper**

- *Sacrifice*: Laying down our life as Jesus did
- *Symbol*: Bread and Wine

**5. Ordination**

- *Sacrifice*: Setting apart as a servant of God
- *Symbol*: Laying on of hands

**6. Administration**

- *Sacrifice*: Walking in holiness and thanksgiving
- *Symbol*: Laying on of hands

**7. Patriarchal blessing**

- *Sacrifice*: Surrendering your life to God's divine will
- *Symbol*: laying on of hands

**8. Marriage**

- *Sacrifice*: Keeping yourselves wholly for each other and from all others
- *Symbol*: The marriage itself is also a symbol



### What is the Church?

- It's a living body
- Empowered through authority
- And ordinances





**When we talk about authority,** we must realize two things:

1. Authority is the right or power to act in the stead of Christ
2. Authority is a gift, we can't earn it by our own merits, just as Jesus didn't.

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### **What is the Church?**

- It's a living body
- Empowered through authority
- And ordinances

### **The Church is a tool to share the Gospel**

- Not a destination
- A living body (Think of Timothy's talk on 5/18/25)



Now that we've talked about the church. Now let's discuss our missions.

1. Great commission
2. Zion

God gave us the Church, to accomplish these two missions.

Matthew 24:32 And again, this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked.

Now that we've talked about the church. Now let's discuss our missions.

1. Great commission
2. Zion

God gave us the Church, to accomplish these two missions.



And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen.

- Matthew 28:17-19

**Mar 16:14-21**

<sup>14)</sup>And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

<sup>15)</sup>He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.

<sup>16)</sup>And these signs shall follow them that believe;

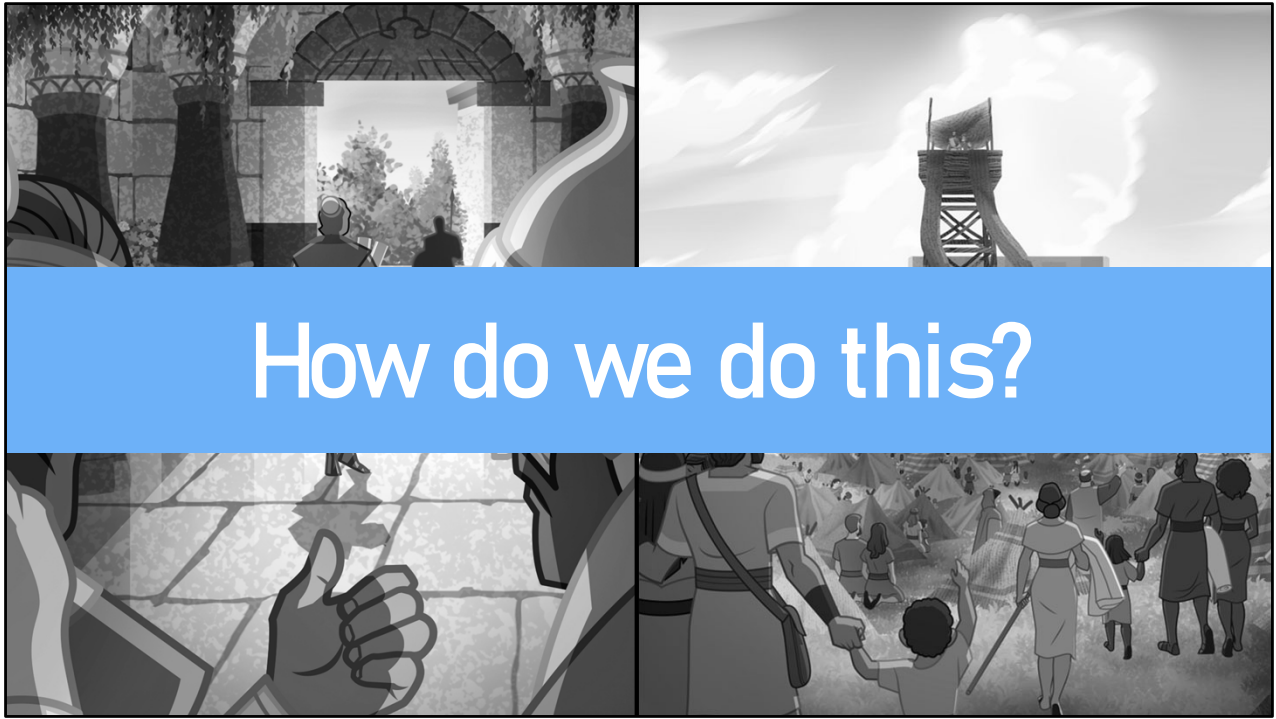
<sup>17)</sup>In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

<sup>18)</sup>They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;

<sup>19)</sup>They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

<sup>20)</sup>So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

<sup>21)</sup>And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.



# How do we do this?

## How do we do this?

1. By the way that we live [Daniel is without occasion or fault | Brother Carmichael's testimony and how he picked apples.]
2. By lifting up our voice [King Benjamin | Nancy's sister and the Book of Mormon].

## **Remember this life is all about relationships.**

- Start with people you know like friends and family.
- Find ways to share by building friendships with others.



## 1. By the way we live

### 1. By the way that we live

- Daniel is a perfect illustration of this.
- His enemies tried to find something by which they could accuse him.
- But he was without occasion or fault
- Even unbelievers could not deny his testimony
- [Brother Carmichael's testimony and how he picked apples.]





## 2. Lifting up our voice

### 2. By lifting up our voice

- King Benjamin is a great example.
- He gathered everyone together in order to share his testimony of Christ.
- He called the people to follow the Lord
- He did it in love.
- [Nancy's sister and the Book of Mormon].

### There are two primary ways to lift up your voice

- In a complete way or a coherent way.
  - The complete way is to explain every detail, from every possible angle.
  - The coherent way is to give enough information to be understandable.
  - Coherent is almost always best.

**For instance**, imagine trying to explain a car to someone who's never seen one.

- Would you explain every part of the car (e.g., transmission, braking systems, etc.)
- Or would you explain it simply (e.g., cars are used to transport people from place to place)
- You'll find that the simple or coherent way is more useful

### Remember this life is all about relationships.

- Start with people you know like friends and family.
- Find ways to share by building friendships with others.
- However, it's also important to grow your knowledge of God through diligent prayer, fasting, and study.





Now that we've talked about the church. Now let's discuss our missions.

1. Great commission
2. Zion

God gave us the Church, to accomplish these two missions.

Genesis 7:23 And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them.

Zion is a refuge from the storm.

- It is a place of gathering.
- It's a place of righteousness, peace, and joy.
- It's a place of holiness (Gen 7:25)



**Enoch was a young man**, and in his day, the world was growing dark with sin

- Their hearts waxed hard (unloving)
- Their ears were dull of hearing (proud)
- Their eyes couldn't see (selfish)

God appeared to Enoch and called Him to preach the gospel of Christ



**Enoch had a stuttering problem**, but after the Lord called Him,

- Enoch was able to speak in mighty power.
- People would come from all over just to hear him talk



**The people became righteous.**

- They started to live with one heart and one mind in Christ
- Not just collectively, but individually within themselves
- There wasn't any poor because they took care of each other



**The people decided to gather and build a city.** A city of holiness

- The Lord then called them Zion, because of their righteousness
- Jesus walked with them daily
- Finally, after 365 years, God took Zion from the earth to dwell with Him.
- This same city will return once more when we are finally ready for it.



**Isaiah and others prophesized** of it's return before Jesus returns. They said that before Zion is established:

- the world would be in great darkness [Isa 60:1-2, 14]
- that great tribulations would befall the earth [Gen 7:68-70]
- That the love of men would wax cold [Mat 24:31]
- That the hearts of men would fail them for fear [Luke 21:25-28]

**We're living in that time now.** Like Lehi, we are wondering in a dark and dreary waste

- We're sort of like Israel.
- God delivered us from the world,
- He has provided us the way to conquer death through Christ,
- Now He wants to make us a great nation.
- But will we allow Him to do so?





**The world is filled with sin, hatred, pain, and brokenness.**

- However, God promised us a physical Kingdom of God, a city called Zion [Isa 60:1-2, 14],
- which would be a place of refuge, safety, and healing [Isaiah 2:2-4, Isaiah 11:6-9].
- Share testimony of my experience at camp [Zion is a place of refuge]



And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which */ shall prepare*, an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be *looking forth* for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem. And the Lord said unto Enoch, Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there; and we will receive them into our bosom; and they shall see us, and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other, And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion...

- Genesis 7:70-72

**We stand at the crossroads.**

- God is inviting us to take part in this mission.
- He's asking us to come together under Christ.
- He's asking us to form a community where we live rightly with Him.
- It'll be the hardest thing we've ever done, but
- With Christ, all things are possible



**We're not that much different than Israel.**

- When God delivered Israel out of Egypt,
- He presented before them a glorious future
- He knew that they would always desire to turn backward to world they had just left.
- He promised them a land, a nation, and a blessing that through them, all the families of the earth be blessed.

**God has done the same for us today.**

- He has presented us with a glorious future.
- He has delivered us from sin and death, and promised us:
  1. eternal life with Him [a land],
  2. Zion [a nation], and
  3. that through the testimony of His people, all the earth will know of the life and immortality that God has for them through the Gospel [a blessing].

**In particular**, that the world might see that there is a better way to live, one that is centered upon the Lord Jesus Christ.



**We, like Israel, stand at the crossroads.**

- Will we choose to claim our promises and step through
- Or will we continue to look backward toward the world
- The choice is ours

**Jesus, Zion, the Kingdom of God, Eternal life...**

- Are waiting for us on the other side

**What is the Church?**

- It's a living body
- Empowered through authority
- And ordinances

**What are the two missions that God has given us?**

1. Great commission: share the message of Jesus Christ
2. Zion: living the message of Jesus Christ

# Conclusion

This life became a time to prepare to meet God

## **A time to prepare to meet God [Alma 9:40-41]**

<sup>40)</sup>And we see that death comes upon mankind...nevertheless there was a space granted unto man, in which he might repent;

<sup>41)</sup>Therefore this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state, which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead.





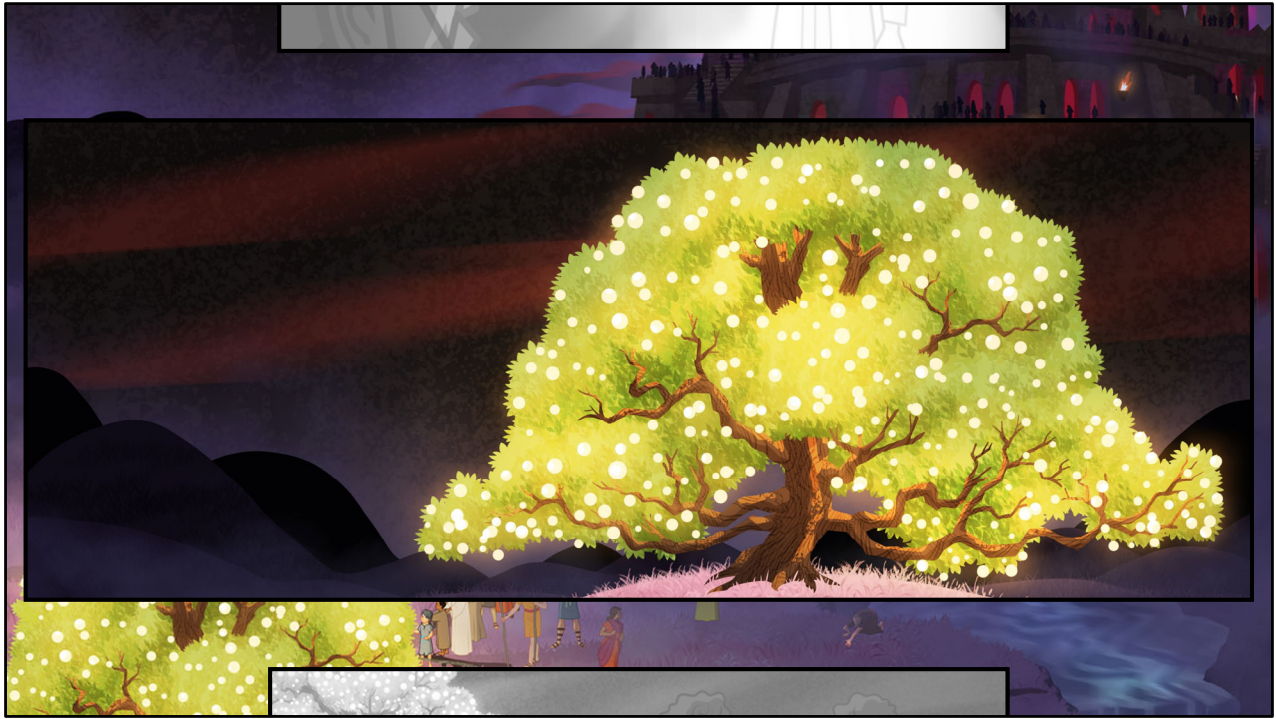
**Eternal life is both complex and simple.** This is the simple version.

- To tell the story of eternal life, I would like to revisit the tree of life





The Lord has invited you to on a journey, just as He did with Lehi.



The final destination, is the tree of life, or eternal life with Him.

- Now the choice is yours
- And there are four different ways that we can respond



#### The Wayside [Matthew 13:17-18]

17 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 18 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and ***understandeth not***, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart; this is he who ***received seed by the wayside***.

#### Revelation 20:10, 14-15

10 And ***the devil*** that deceived them was cast into ***the lake of fire and brimstone***, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever... 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the ***second death***. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

#### Rev 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.

#### Rev 19:20

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

#### DC 76:4



### **Stony Ground [Matthew 13:19]**

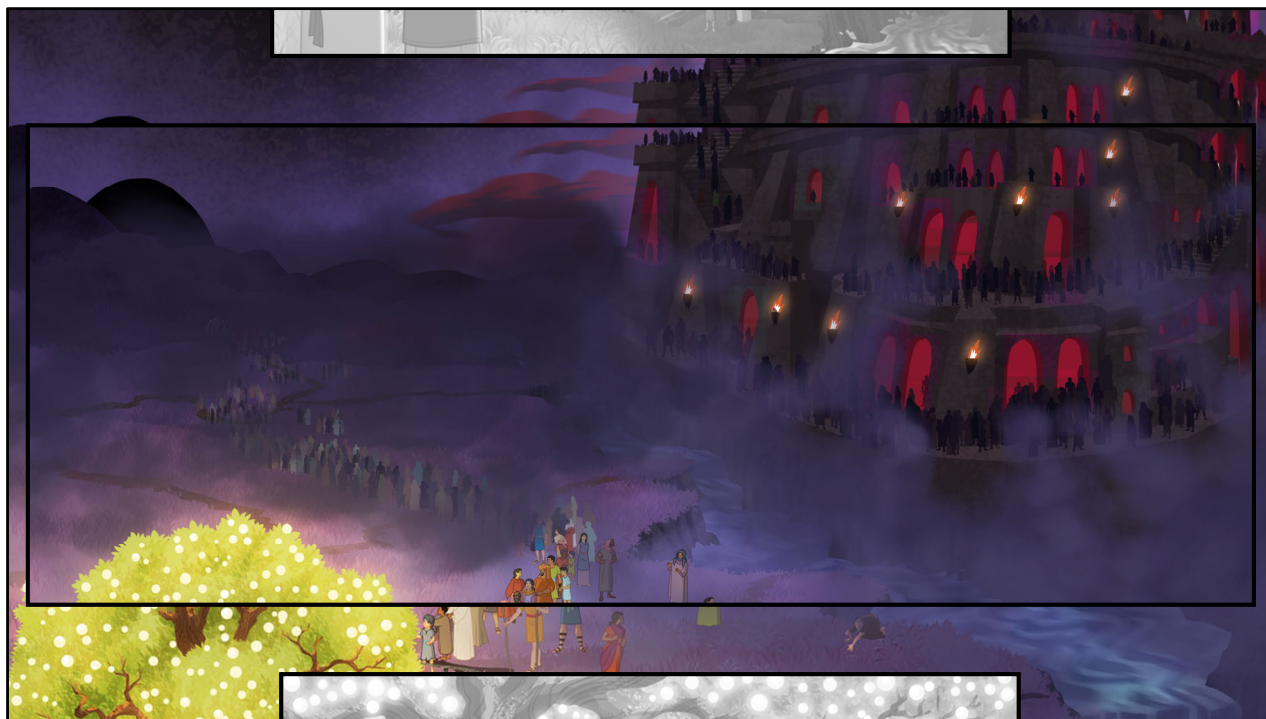
<sup>19</sup>)But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word and readily with joy receiveth it, yet he hath not root in himself, and endureth but for a while; for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

### **1 Corinthians 15:40-42**

**40** Also ***celestial*** bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another. **41** There is ***one glory of the sun*** [Celestial], and another glory of the moon [Terrestrial], and another glory of the stars [Telestial]; for one star differeth from another star in glory. **42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption;

### **DC 76:7**





### Thorny Ground [Matthew 13:20]

**20** He also who received seed among the thorns, is he that **heareth the word** and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, **choke** the word, and he becometh **unfruitful**.

### 1 Corinthians 15:40-42

**40** Also **celestial** bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another. **41** There is **one glory of the sun** [Celestial], and another glory of the moon [Terrestrial], and another glory of the stars [Telestial]; for one star differeth from another star in glory. **42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption;

DC 76:6



### Good Ground [Matthew 13:21]

**21** But he that received seed into the ***good ground***, is he that heareth the word and understandeth and endureth; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, and some thirty.

### 1 Corinthians 15:40-42

**40** Also ***celestial*** bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another. **41** There is ***one glory of the sun*** [Celestial], and another glory of the moon [Terrestrial], and another glory of the stars [Telestial]; for one star differeth from another star in glory. **42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption;

DC 76:5



**God wants to give us everything.** This tree represents Celestial Glory. He wants to give us all...

- His glory
- His majesty
- His power
- His life and light
- His knowledge and truth
- His righteousness
- His love

Just like the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son





Yes, we see that whosoever will lay hold upon the word of God which is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning, and the snares, and the wiles of the devil, and lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked, and land their souls, yes, their immortal souls, at the right hand of God, in the kingdom of heaven, to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and with Jacob, and with all our holy fathers, to go no more out.

- Helaman 2:26

**God, just like He did with Moses at the Red Sea,**

- has parted the darkness and given us a way through Jesus Christ to eternal life.
- Will we take that path to it's end?

**There're times when a baby** will be enticed by an object that is across the room, or even on the other end of the house.

- He will immediately take off in pursuit of this object, but before he gets there,
- other items around the room will pull his attention away from his end goal,
- until he forgets about that initial object completely.

**We are like this at times.** God has laid before us the ultimate gift of eternal life with Him.

- He promises us through His Spirit, His Word, His Voice, etc. joy, peace, majesty, glory, honor, etc.
- He does this just as He did with Lehi and the tree of life.
- However, we don't truly know the height, width, and depth of this amazing gift until we actually experience it for ourselves.
- Thus, we are reliant upon our vision, our faith, our hope.

**This is where Satan comes in.** he desires to distort our vision, shake our faith, and destroy our hope.

- However, he doesn't often do this in a way that we expect.
- Instead, he will lay things before our path to pull us away from our end goal, just like what happens to the baby.
- He will put harmless thing before us, books, video games, movies, sports, status, career, love, etc.
- If we are not careful, we will lose our vision, faith, and hope.
- This is not because we are necessarily bad or desperately wicked, but rather because we have lost sight of God and His love for us.

**The good thing is,** Jesus is all around us, inviting us to turn around and find our way home to Him.

- There's always the opportunity to repent.
- We see this dynamic clearly in Helaman 2:26.
- We also see how to make it through.



**When you enter into a covenant** with God in the waters of baptism, you are enlisting in His army.

- You are now a soldier of Christ.
- When you become a soldier, you start to stand out in comparison to the world
- The enemy, Satan, is now going to try to keep you from the fight.
- Don't entangle yourself with the affairs of this life
- Instead seek to serve the very God who chose you to be a soldier.

**If you want to put on the Armor of God**, and stay on the path,

- then practice the Transformative Twelve:

[Notes: 2 Timothy 2:3-4]

- You therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
- No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier.



The Transformative Twelve:

1. Four minutes of Prayer
2. Four minutes of Study
3. Four minutes of Worship

**These 12 minutes total** ( $4 + 4 + 4 = 12$ ) per day will transform you life



**Remind them of the tuning fork example.**

- A tuning fork will resonate with a second tuning fork if it is close, still, and in tune (of the same frequency).
- Similarly, we can resonate with the power of God if:
  1. We come close to God
  2. We are still
  3. We are in tune with God



**Moroni 8:29: By going into the water,**

- you're promising that you believe in Christ and
- That you are willing to follow Him (i.e., laying your life down).

**Through the laying on of hands,**

- God is promising you eternal life and
- that He is always available to you through His Spirit.

**The sacrament** is meant to help us remember what God did for us (He gave us His Son),

- and what we promised that we would do for Him.
- It's an opportunity to ask ourselves, "How am I doing in this process?"
- Am I keeping my promise?"

**This is the foundation**, and it's built on the understanding that Christ died and rose again for us.

- Now to keep this promise, we need to study, pray, fast, and serve,
- which will grow our relationship with God and provide us with further instructions.
- But this comes as an outpouring of our promise.