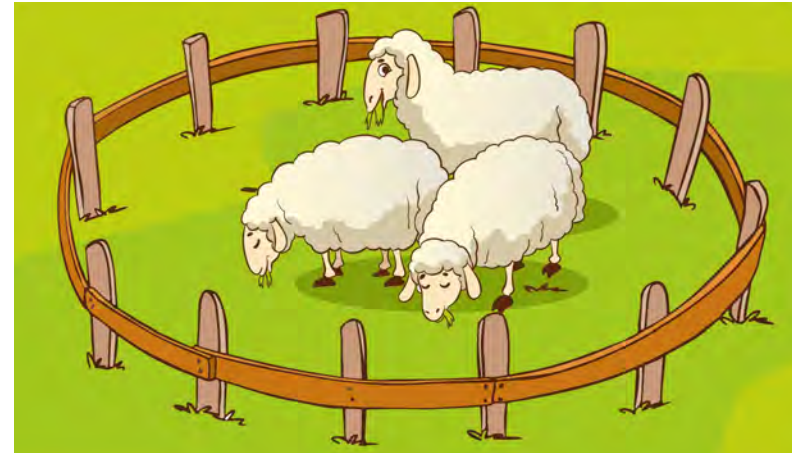




**LESSON 9:
BUILD ZION**

“Before Christ comes a people have got to be prepared by being sanctified before the Lord. Temples have got to be built; Zion has got to be built up; there must be a place of safety for the people of God...” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff, 254).



Last week, we talked our challenge to gather Israel—Israel being those who want God to prevail in their lives.

I challenged you to do two things.



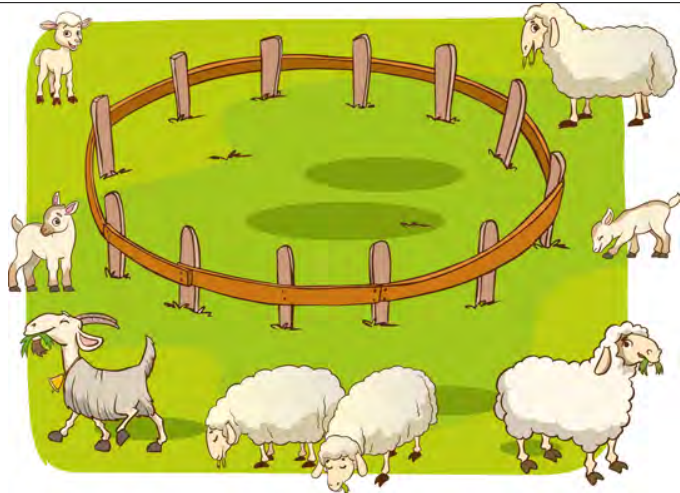
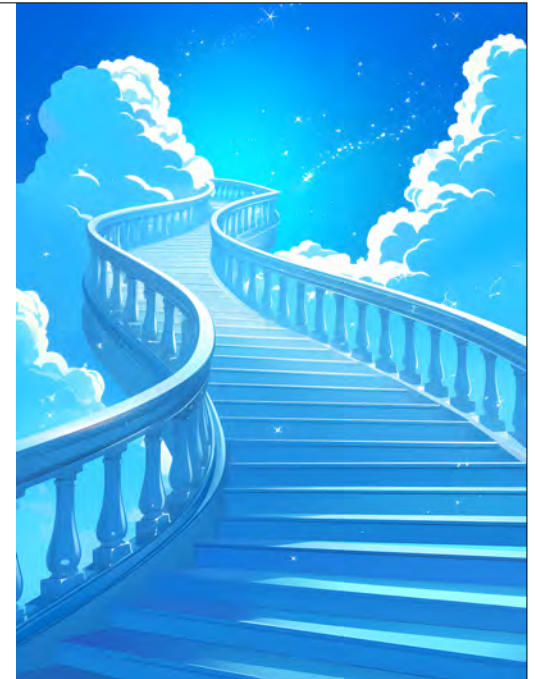
One, pray for opportunities to have unexpected and unplanned chances to share the gospel.



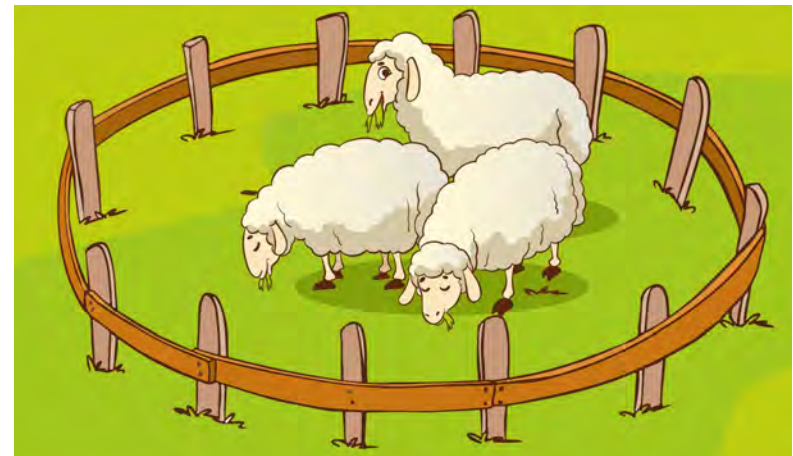
Two, create your personal plan for doing missionary work.



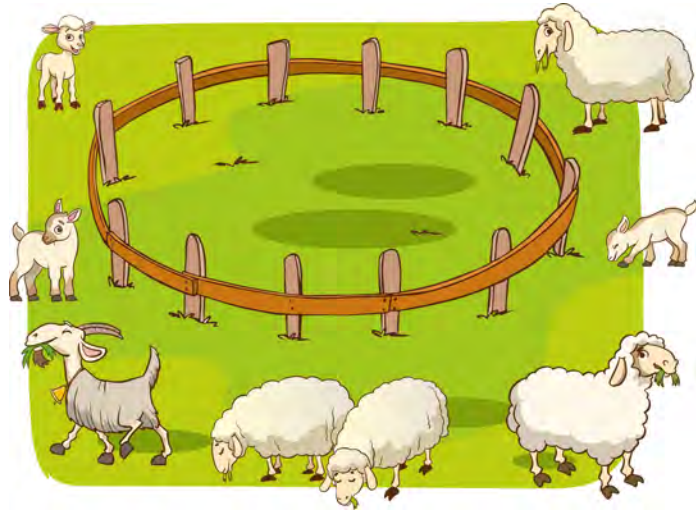
Hopefully, you will be an instrument in the Lord's hands to help someone enter the covenant path. In other words, gather Israel.



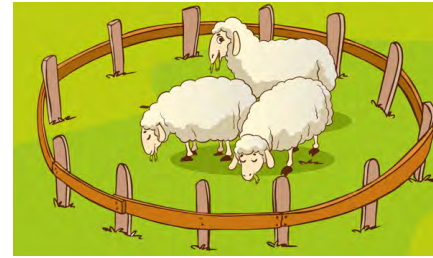
This week, we will learn how to keep Israel on the covenant path so they don't leave the gospel "corral."



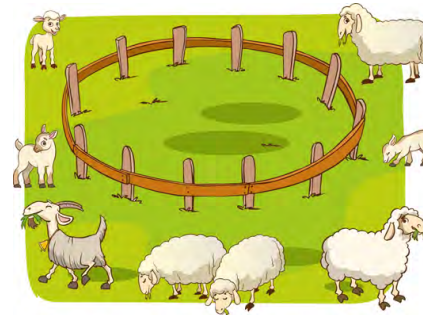
This is good.



This is bad.



Good



Bad



To help Israel stay active in the Church, we need to build Zion.

Brigham Young said: “**The purpose of our life should be to build up the Zion of our God, to gather the House of Israel**, bring in the fulness of the Gentiles, restore and bless the earth with our ability and make it as the Garden of Eden, store up treasures of knowledge and wisdom in our own understandings, purify our own hearts and **prepare a people to meet the Lord when he comes**” (DBY, 88).





Build Zion

What is Zion?

Zion is unity

“And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them” (Moses 7:18).

Zion is the pure in heart

“Therefore, verily, thus saith the Lord, let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion—the pure in heart; therefore, let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn” (D&C 97:21).

Zion is equality

“That you may be equal in the bonds of heavenly things, yea, and earthly things also, for the obtaining of heavenly things. For if ye are not equal in earthly things ye cannot be equal in obtaining heavenly things (D&C 78:5–6).

Zion is respect

“And let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me. And again I say unto you, let every man esteem his brother as himself” (D&C 38:24–25).

Zion is oneness

“Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine (D&C 38:27).

Zion is celestial

“And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself” (D&C 105:5).



What can you do to build Zion?



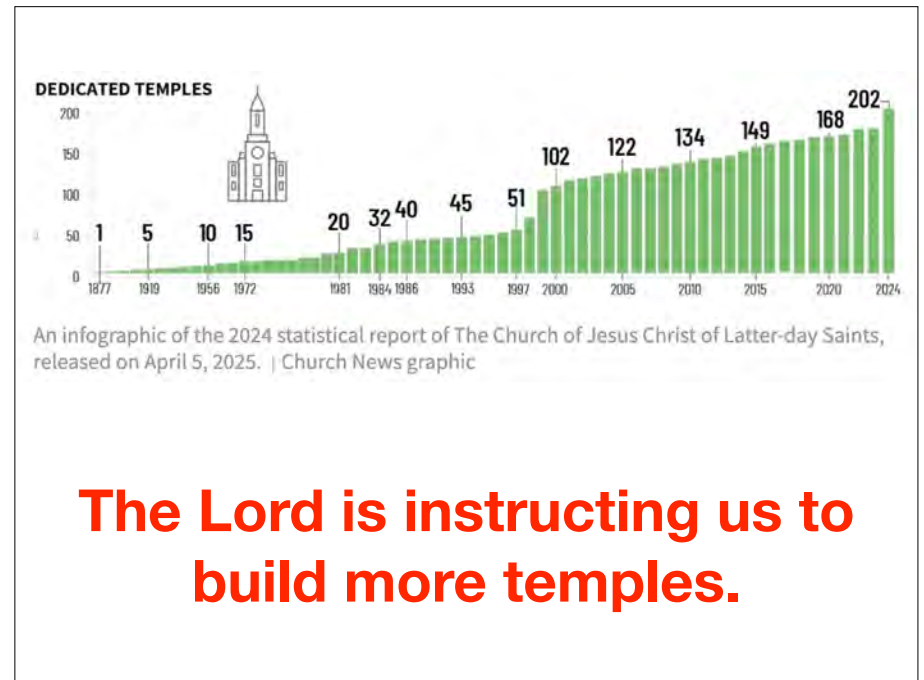
THIS!

Someone joins the Church and gets on and stays on the covenant path




NOT THIS!

Someone joins and then leaves

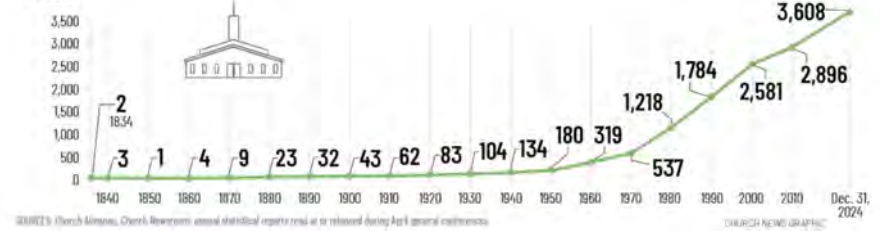


WARDS AND BRANCHES



The number of wards and branches are increasing.

STAKES



The number of stakes continues to grow.

But is all well in Zion?

Frequency of U.S. Religious Service Attendance

How often do you usually attend church, synagogue, mosque or temple?

	Every week	Almost every week	About once a month	Seldom	Never
U.S. adults	21%	9%	11%	25%	31%
Mormon/Latter-day Saints	54%	13%	7%	14%	12%
Protestant/Christian	30%	14%	13%	27%	16%
Islam/Muslim	28%	10%	17%	26%	18%
Catholic	23%	10%	17%	32%	18%
Judaism/Jewish	16%	6%	15%	41%	21%
Orthodox	15%	11%	18%	40%	16%
Buddhism/Buddhist	12%	2%	12%	29%	46%
Hinduism/Hindu	7%	6%	36%	26%	25%
Non/Atheist/Agnostic	2%	1%	2%	16%	79%
Other	16%	5%	8%	21%	50%

54% attend every week

Source: Gallup, "Church Attendance Has Declined in Most U.S. Religious Groups," 2024
GRAPHIC BY CHRISTOPHER CHERRINGTON | The Salt Lake Tribune

Source: Salt Lake Tribune, "Latter-day Saints lead the way in church attendance, but the numbers may not reflect reality" by Tamarra Kemsley, March 27, 2024

Gordon B. Hinckley said: “To the missionaries, I repeat, it will do no good for you to baptize someone and have that individual fall away from the Church shortly thereafter. What have you accomplished? You may have labored long and hard, you may have fasted and prayed as you taught a particular individual the gospel. **But if he does not remain active in the Church, all of your labor has been in vain.** The whole process counts for nothing. Any investigator worthy of baptism becomes a convert worthy of saving.”

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” satellite broadcast given at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 21 February 1999)



Today I hope you will decide to stay active in the Church and help others stay active by building Zion.

**We are
asked to
build Zion**

“**And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,** for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be” (1 Nephi 13:37).

“Now, as you have asked, behold,
I say unto you, keep my
commandments, and **seek to
bring forth and establish the
cause of Zion**” (D&C 6:6).

“For Zion must increase in beauty,
and in holiness; her borders must be
enlarged; **her stakes must be
strengthened**; yea, verily I say unto
you, Zion must arise and put on her
beautiful garments” (D&C 82:14)



Let's talk about
four things we can
do to build Zion



This places upon each of us an urgent and pressing need to fellowship those who join our ranks. It is not an easy thing to become a member of this Church. In most cases it involves setting aside old habits, leaving old friends and associations, and stepping into a new society which is different and somewhat demanding.
(Gordon B. Hinckley, "Converts and Young Men," April 1997)



With the ever-increasing number of converts, we must make an increasingly substantial effort to assist them as they find their way. Every one of them needs three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with “the good word of God” (Moro. 6:4). It is our duty and opportunity to provide these things. (Gordon B. Hinckley, “Converts and Young Men,” April 1997)



Build Zion

1) Everyone needs a friend

How can you make others feel loved?

Gordon B. Hinckley said: “My message to you today ... is that you **resolve to dedicate a part of your time, as you map out your life’s work, to those in distress and need**, with no consideration of recompense. Your skills are needed, whatever they may be. Your helping hands will lift someone out of the mire of distress. Your steady voice will give encouragement to some who might otherwise simply give up. **Your skills can change the lives**, in a remarkable and wonderful way, of those who walk in need. If not now, when? If not you, who?” (Discourses of President Gordon B. Hinckley, Volume 1, 544–45.)

Gordon B. Hinckley said: “I have said before, and I repeat it, that every new convert needs three things: A friend in the Church to whom he can constantly turn, who will walk beside him, who will answer his questions, who will understand his problems.”

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” satellite broadcast given at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 21 February 1999)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

What you can do to make sure others in your ward or stake feel loved? What examples can you find from the life of Christ?



Build Zion

2) Everyone needs a responsibility

How can you help others feel needed?

Do your part, no matter how small.



Some years ago in our meetinghouse in Darmstadt, Germany, a group of brethren was asked to move a grand piano from the chapel to the adjoining cultural hall, where it was needed for a musical event. None were professional movers, and the task of getting that gravity-friendly instrument through the chapel and into the cultural hall seemed nearly impossible. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Lift Where You Stand, Oct. 2008).



Everybody knew that this task required not only physical strength but also careful coordination. There were plenty of ideas, but not one could keep the piano balanced correctly. They repositioned the brethren by strength, height, and age over and over again—nothing worked. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand, Oct. 2008).



As they stood around the piano, uncertain of what to do next, a good friend of mine, Brother Hanno Luschin, spoke up. He said, “Brethren, stand close together and lift where you stand.” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand, Oct. 2008).



It seemed too simple. Nevertheless, each lifted where he stood, and the piano rose from the ground and moved into the cultural hall as if on its own power. That was the answer to the challenge. They merely needed to stand close together and lift where they stood. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand, Oct. 2008).



I have often thought of Brother Luschin’s simple idea and have been impressed by its profound truth. Tonight I would like to expand on that simple concept, “lift where you stand.” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand, Oct. 2008).



Although it may seem simple, lifting where we stand is a principle of power. Most of the priesthood bearers I know understand and live by this principle. They are eager to roll up their sleeves and go to work, whatever that work might be. They faithfully perform their priesthood duties. They magnify their callings. They serve the Lord by serving others. They stand close together and lift where they stand. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Lift Where You Stand, Oct. 2008).

Gordon B. Hinckley said that every new convert needs: "An assignment. Activity is the genius of this Church. It is the process by which we grow. Faith and love for the Lord are like the muscle of my arm. If I use them, they grow stronger. If I put them in a sling, they become weaker. Every convert deserves a responsibility. The bishop may feel that he is not qualified for responsibility. Take a chance on him. Think of the risk the Lord took when He called you. Of course the new convert will not know everything. He likely will make some mistakes. So what? We all make mistakes. The important thing is the growth that will come of activity."

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep," satellite broadcast given at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 21 February 1999)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

What you can do to make sure others in your ward or stake feel needed? What examples can you find from the life of Christ?



3) Everyone needs spiritual nourishment

How can you help others grow closer to the Savior?

Gordon B. Hinckley said: “Every convert must be ‘nourished by the good word of God’ (Moro. 6:4). It is imperative that he or she become affiliated with a priesthood quorum or the Relief Society, the Young Women, the Young Men, the Sunday School, or the Primary. He or she must be encouraged to come to sacrament meeting to partake of the sacrament, to renew the covenants made at the time of baptism.”

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” satellite broadcast given at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 21 February 1999)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

What you can do to make sure others in your ward or stake feel spiritually nourished? What examples can you find from the life of Christ?



Build Zion

4) Everyone needs to feel secure

How can you help others with their temporal needs?



Where are your financial priorities?

“For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted” (Mormon 8:37)

**“Why do ye adorn yourselves with that which hath no life, and yet suffer the hungry, and the needy, and the naked, and the sick and the afflicted to pass by you, and notice them not?”
(Mormon 8:39)**

“For there were many merchants in the land, and also many lawyers, and many officers” (3 Nephi 6:11).

**“And the people began to be distinguished by ranks, according to their riches and their chances for learning; yea, some were ignorant because of their poverty, and others did receive great learning because of their riches”
(3 Nephi 6:12).**

**“And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish”
(Mosiah 4:16).**

**“Perhaps thou shalt say: The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just”
(Mosiah 4:17).**

**“But I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this the same hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done he perisheth forever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God”
(Mosiah 4:18).**

“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 4:19).



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

What you can do help others feel temporally secure? What examples can you find from the life of Christ?



TO DO

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

WEEK 10 CHALLENGE

BUILD ZION

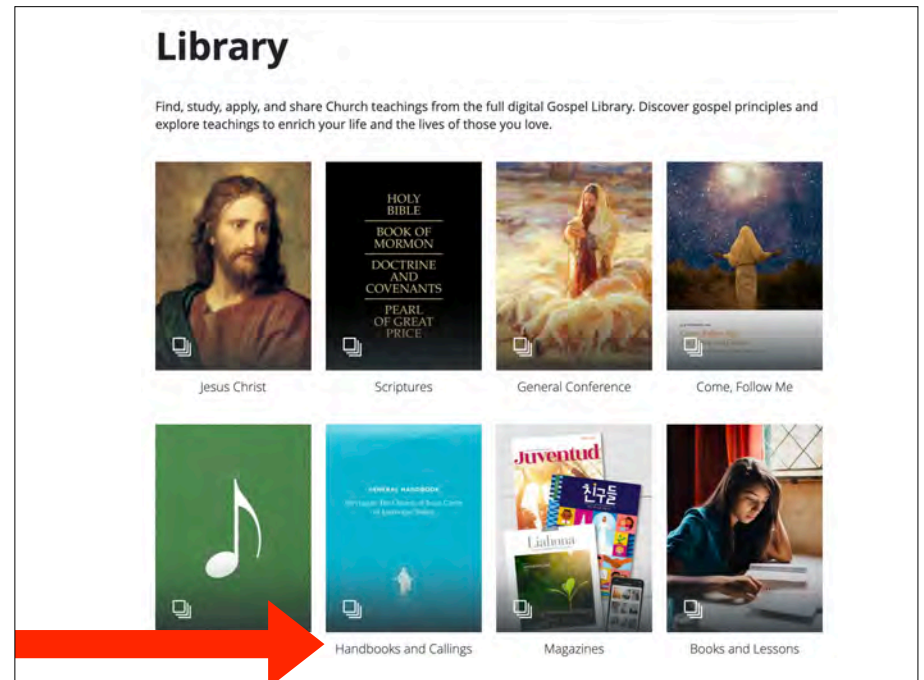
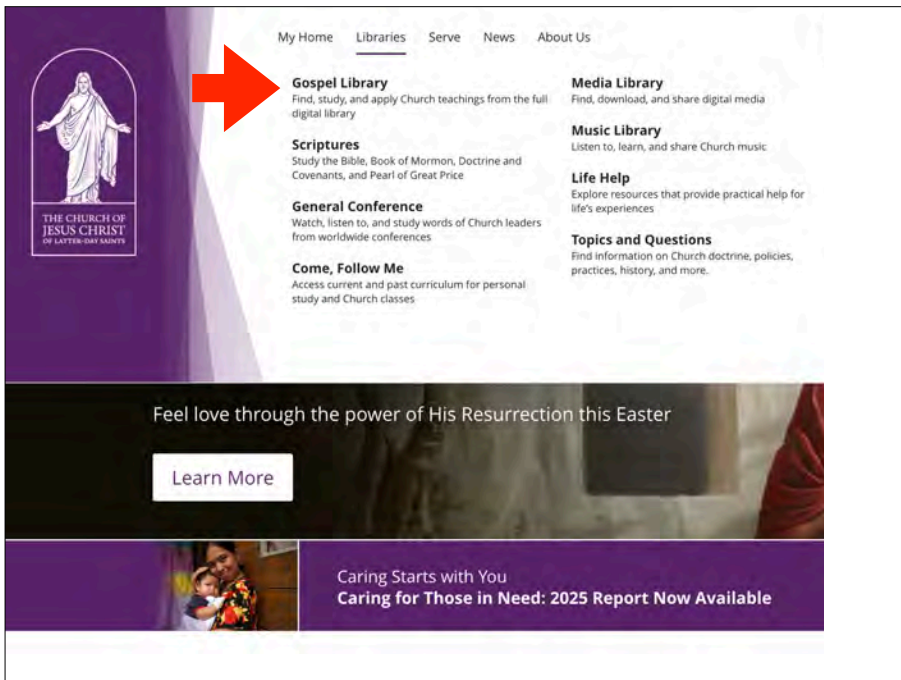
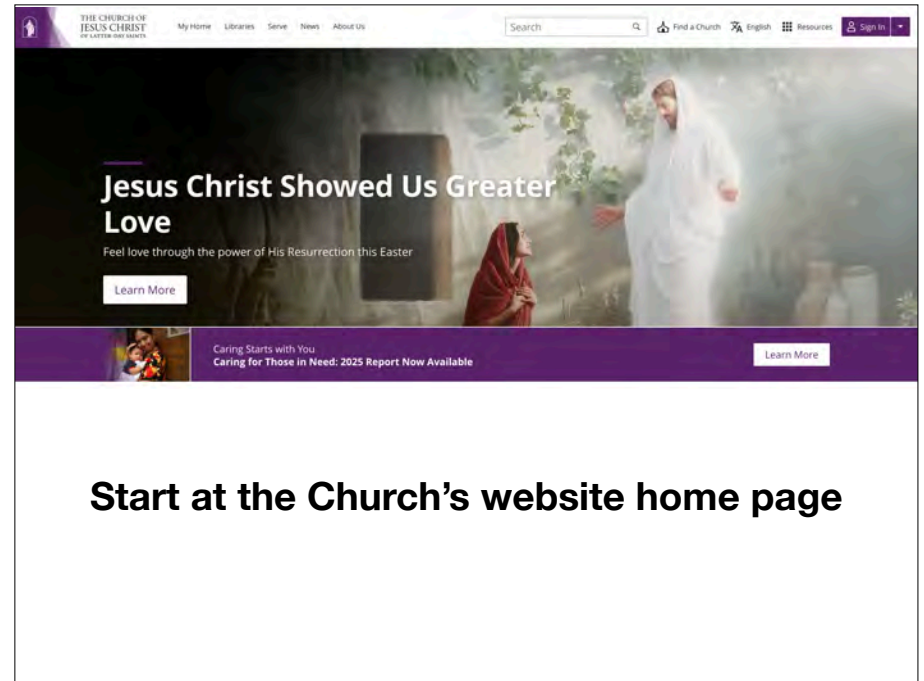
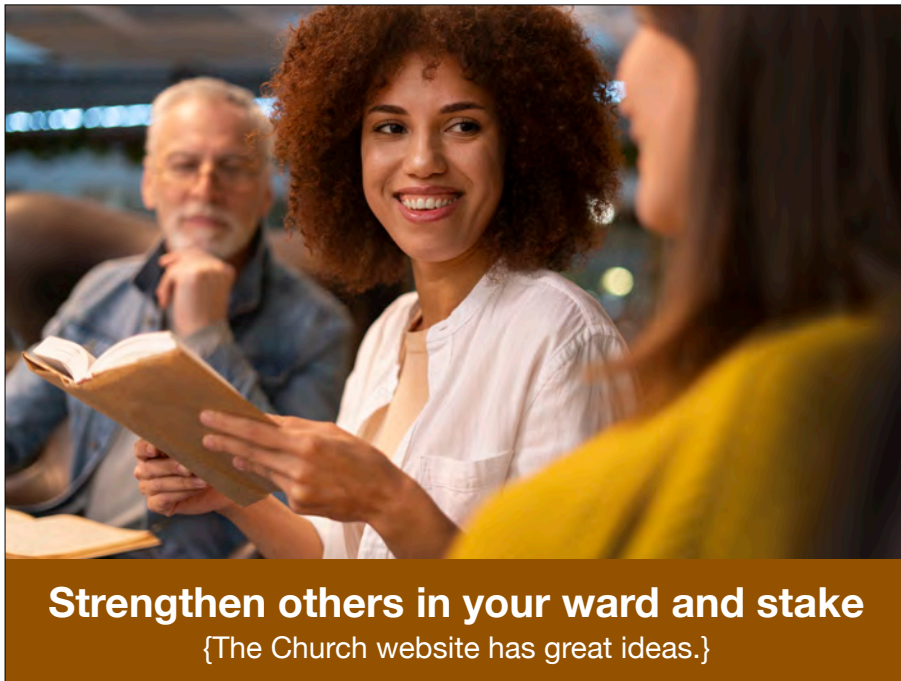
One, will you be a friend?
Two, will you be a servant?
Three, will you spiritually nourish others? Four, will you help others temporally?

ONLINE CLASS

Watch this lesson online or download a PDF of today's slides.

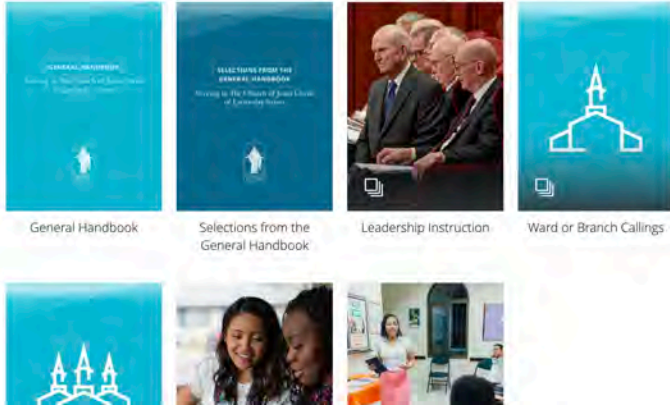


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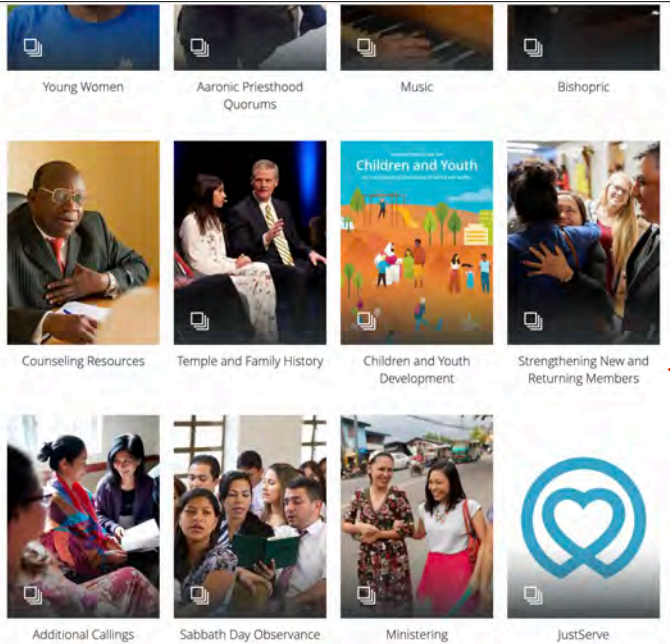
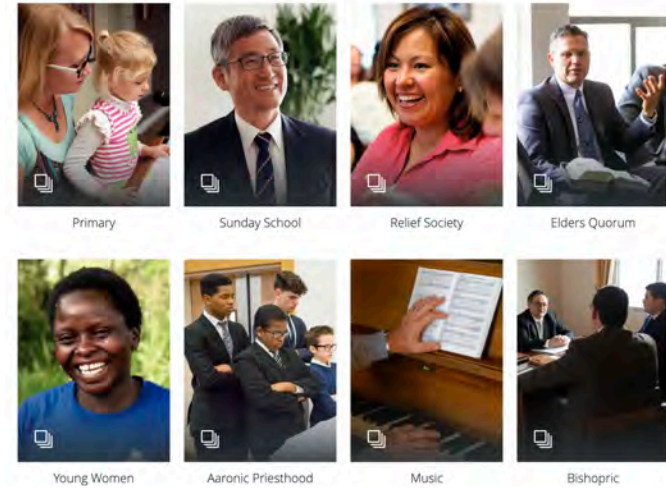


Church Calling & Leadership Instruction Manuals

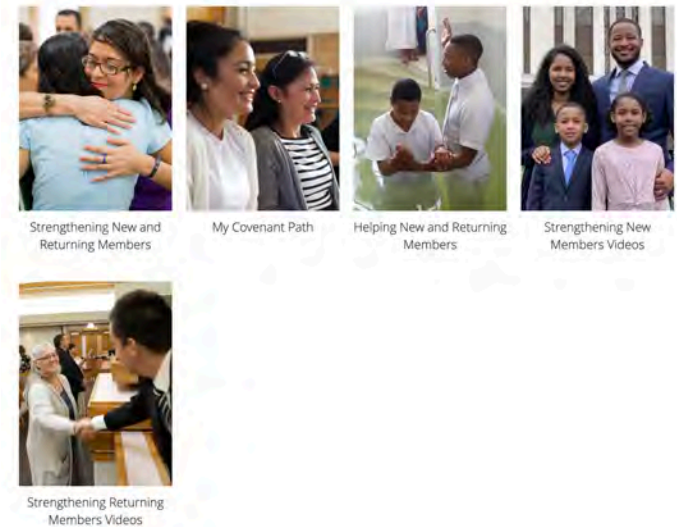
Church leadership and calling instruction manuals from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These manuals are provided to assist members who have received a Church calling to better serve in that calling.



Ward or Branch Callings



Strengthening New and Returning Members



READING LIST



Gordon B. Hinckley, “Converts and Young Men,” April 1997

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” satellite broadcast given at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 21 February 1999



Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand,” October 2008



LESSON REVIEW

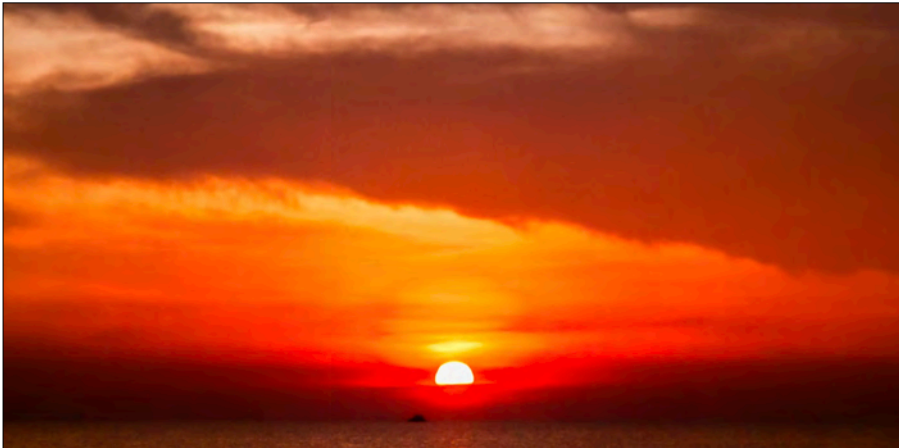
Preparing for the Second Coming



How can you prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?



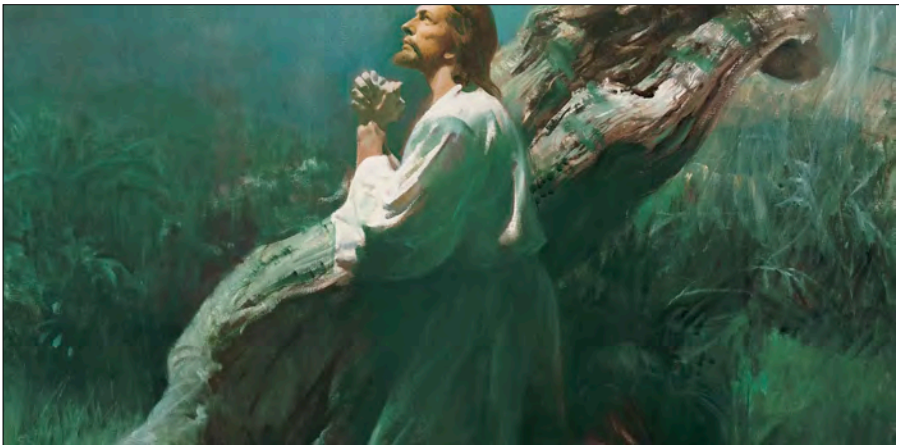
LESSON 1
Prepare – don't fear



LESSON 2
Watch for the signs



LESSON 3
Spiritually prepare



LESSON 4
Study the Atonement



LESSON 5
Study the Book of Mormon



LESSON 6
Go to the temple



LESSON 7
Fortify your home



LESSON 8
Prepare Temporally



LESSON 9
Help Gather Israel



LESSON 10

Build Zion



NEXT CLASS

▶ March 19
Christlike Attributes

“The lives we present to Him in that sacred hour must be worthy of Him!”
(Jeffrey R. Holland, Ensign, Dec. 2013).