

LESSON

4

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

TODAY'S KEY WORD:

Joseph Smith

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

Will you accept Joseph and the Restoration as the greatest things since Jesus Christ?

“Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it” (D&C 135:3)



“The second of the two things to which we must all give full faith is that the Father and the Son actually and in truth and very deed appeared to the Prophet Joseph in a vision in the woods” (J. Reuben Clark, “The Charted Course”).

WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

1. Why might it be difficult for some people to accept the truthfulness of Joseph Smith and the Restoration of Christ's Church?
2. What principles did Joseph Smith learn about how to find spiritual truth?
3. How has your testimony of the First Vision influenced your belief in the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. What doctrinal truths can be learned from the First Vision?
5. Why does the “whole strength [of the Church] rests on the validity of that vision”? (See “The Marvelous Foundation of Our Faith” by Gordon B. Hinckley, Oct. 2002.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY



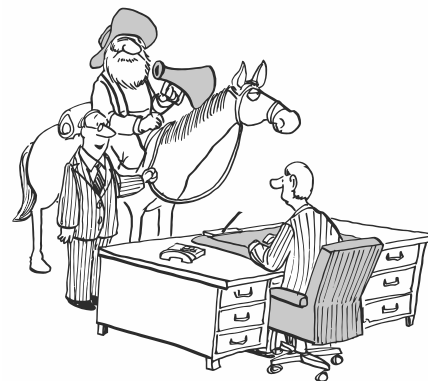
Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration. His spiritual work began with the appearance of the Father and the Son, followed by numerous heavenly visitations. He was the instrument in God's hands in bringing forth sacred scripture, lost doctrine, and the restoration of the priesthood. The importance of Joseph's work requires more than intellectual consideration; it requires that we, like Joseph, “ask of God.” Spiritual questions deserve spiritual answers from God.

Many of those who dismiss the work of the Restoration simply do not believe that heavenly beings speak to men on earth.

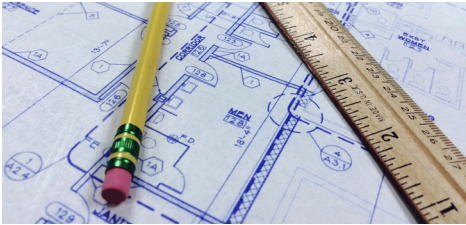
Impossible, they say, that golden plates were delivered by an angel and translated by the power of God. From that disbelief, they quickly reject Joseph's testimony, and a few unfortunately sink to discrediting the Prophet's life and slandering his character.

We are especially saddened when someone who once revered Joseph retreats from his or her conviction and then maligns the Prophet.

“Studying the Church ... through the eyes of its defectors,” Neal A. Maxwell once said, is “like interviewing Judas to understand Jesus. Defectors always tell us more about themselves than about that from which they have departed.” (Neil L. Andersen, Oct. 2014).



“In addition to the Internet, we think we have found a timeless way to do missionary work.”



What is the blueprint of Christ's Church?

See below. Compare Christ's original church with His Restored Church: **both churches are the same.** Christ organized His Church when He was on the earth. Then, through Joseph Smith, Christ's Church was restored to the earth. SOURCE: "What Is the Blueprint of Christ's Church?" by Elder Tad R. Callister • CES Devotional for Young Adults • Jan. 12, 2014 • Brigham Young University

CHRIST'S ORIGINAL CHURCH

CHRIST'S RESTORED CHURCH

1. Aaronic Priesthood.....	Numbers 3:3; Luke 7:24–30	D&C 13; JS—History 1:68–72
2. Melchizedek Priesthood	Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 8:6.....	D&C 27:12; 107:2–4
3. Moses (missionary work).....	Num. 12:7; Matt. 17:3–4; Mark 9:4–9	D&C 110:11
4. Elias (celestial marriage).....	John 1:20–28	D&C 110:12
5. Elijah (sealing families).....	Malachi 4:5–6; Matthew 17:3.....	D&C 110:13–16
6. Jesus Christ, chief cornerstone.....	Ephesians 2:20.....	D&C 50:44
7. Apostles and Prophets	Ephesians 4:13–14	D&C 1:14
8. Seventy	Luke 10:1	D&C 107:25,26, 34, 33
9. Bishops.....	1 Timothy 3; Titus 1:7	D&C 46:27
10. Elders.....	Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5	D&C 20:2, 16, 38, 45
11. Deacons.....	Philippians 1:1	D&C 20:38, 57–59
12. Evangelists (Patriarchs)	Ephesians 4:11	D&C 124:91
13. Pastors (Bishops, Stake Pres.).....	Ephesians 4:11	D&C 68:25–26
14. Called to church callings	John 15:16	D&C 107:99–100
15. Set apart in church callings.....	Acts 6:6	D&C 42:31
16. Priesthood authority	Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1	D&C 1:6
17. Power given to His servants.....	Mark 13:34	D&C 1:38
18. Name of Church	3 Nephi 27:8; 1 Corinthians 1:10–13	D&C 115:3–4
19. Christ has a physical body	Luke 24:37–39, 41–43.....	D&C 130:22
20. God has a body	Hebrews 1:3	D&C 130:22
21. Sacrament	Matthew 26:26–27	D&C 20:76–79
22. Godhead: separate beings, roles	Luke 22:42; Mark 15:34	D&C 20:28
23. Gospel preached in Spirit World	1 Peter 4:6	D&C 138:16–19
24. Three degrees of glory	1 Corinthians 15:41; 2 Cor. 12:2	D&C 76
25. Sealing power	Matthew 18:18.....	D&C 110
26. Eternal marriage	1 Corinthians 11:11; 1 Peter 3:7	D&C 132
27. Infants blessed	Matthew 19:15.....	D&C 20:70
28. Infant baptism condemned	Mark 10:16.....	D&C 68; Moroni 8
29. Baptism essential	Acts 2:38; John 3:5	D&C 20:37
30. Baptism by immersion.....	Matt 3:16; John 3:23; Romans 6:3–5.....	D&C 20:73–74
31. Baptism for the dead.....	1 Corinthians 15:29	D&C 130:33
32. Holy Ghost after baptism	Acts 8:17; 19:5–6.....	D&C 68:8
33. Our physical bodies are temples.....	1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19.....	D&C 93:25
34. Miracles, gifts of the Spirit.....	Hebrews 2:4	D&C 46
35. Missionaries sent forth	Matthew 28:19.....	D&C 4
36. Family-centered church.....	Ephesians 5:23–25.....	D&C 75:28; 83:2
37. Divine revelation	Matthew 11:27	D&C 1:14; 11:25; 20:35; 29:11

DISPENSATION:

A period of time in which the Lord has at least one authorized servant on earth who has the priesthood and the keys necessary to administer the gospel. We do **not** know the number of dispensations. Here are a few:

ADAM D&C 107:40–41 (Circa 4000 B.C.)	ENOCH D&C 107:38, 53 (Circa 3765 B.C.)	NOAH Moses 8:19–20 (Circa 3000 B.C.)	ABRAHAM D&C 84:14; Abr. 1:16, 18 (Circa 2000 B.C.)	MOSES D&C 84:6 (Circa 1500 B.C.)	JESUS CHRIST Meridian of time Matt 16:19 Heb. 5:5–10 (Circa A.D. 30)	JOSEPH SMITH Dispensation of the Fullness of times D&C 20:1 (A.D. 1830)
APOSTASY	APOSTASY	APOSTASY	APOSTASY	APOSTASY	APOSTASY	GREAT APOSTASY



HOMWORK

Study Joseph Smith. FIRST, search "LDS History Ask of God." SECOND, search "Joseph Smith First Vision" or "Ask of God Joseph Smith's First Vision." THIRD, visit other reliable Internet sources: The Joseph Smith Papers; BYU Religious Studies Center; BYU Studies; Joseph Smith Foundation.org. FOURTH, to learn about Joseph Smith and polygamy, visit two websites: JosephSmithPolygamy.org and JosephSmithsPolygamy.org. As you study, record in your study journal what you learned and felt.