



**LESSON 9:
GATHER
ISRAEL**

“I call upon you to help gather scattered Israel and to prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord. I call upon you to talk of Christ, testify of Christ, have faith in Christ, and rejoice in Christ!” (Russell Nelson, “The Lord Jesus Christ Will Come Again,” Oct. 2024).



Birthday Gatherings (Loved Ones)



Vacation Gatherings (Family)



Reunions (Grandparents)



High School Gatherings (Band Party)



School Gatherings (College)



High School Gatherings (Reunions)



Mission Gatherings (Zone Conferences)



Companion Gatherings (Mission)



What is the universal theme of all these gatherings?



There were MISSION gatherings



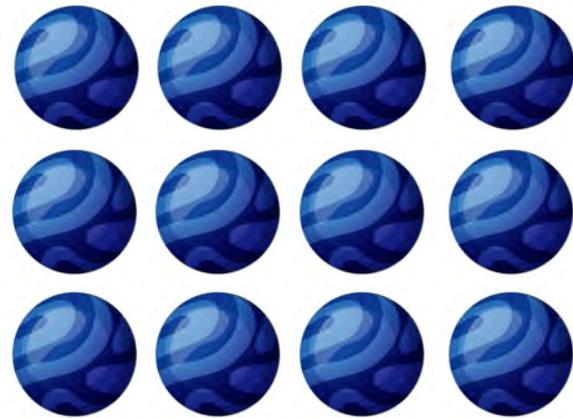
There were **HAWAII** gatherings



There were **COLLEGE** gatherings



There were **FAMILY** gatherings



The common theme was...



Today, we will talk about the most important love gathering of all...

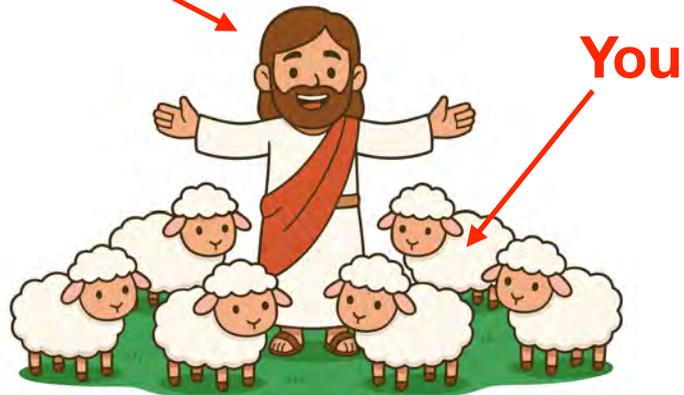


The gathering of Israel in preparation for the Second Coming

He is inviting us to come unto Him before He arrives



Jesus



You

Jesus is gathering Israel (His sheep)



Who is Israel?

In the Bible dictionary, it says that “Israel” means **“One who prevails with God”** or **“Let God prevail.”** The name Israel is therefore variously used to denote (1) the man Jacob, (2) the literal descendants of Jacob, and (3) **the true believers in Christ, regardless of their lineage or geographical location.**

No, we are not talking about the country.



No, we are not talking about the man.

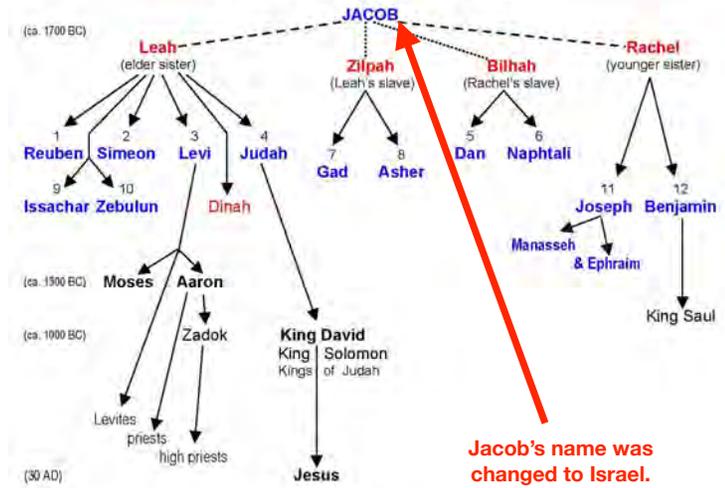


Jacob is Israel.



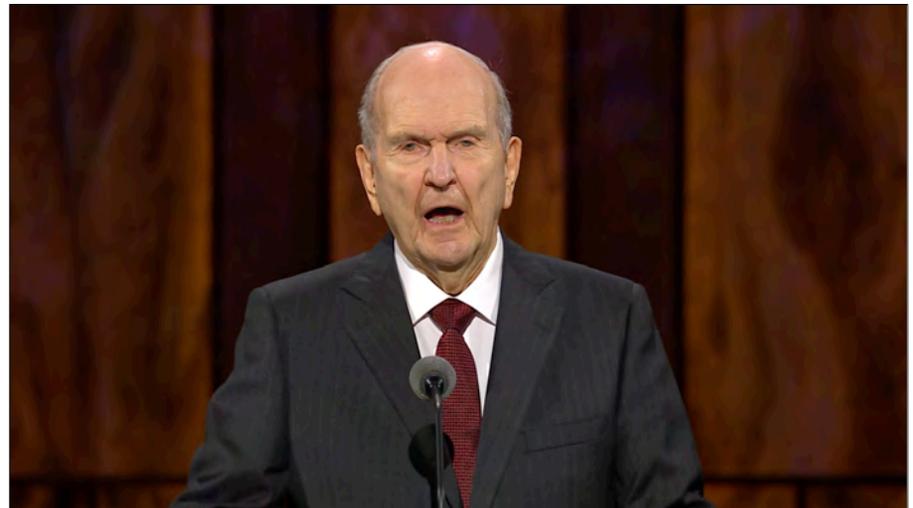
Israel is Jacob.

No, we are not talking about Israel's posterity.

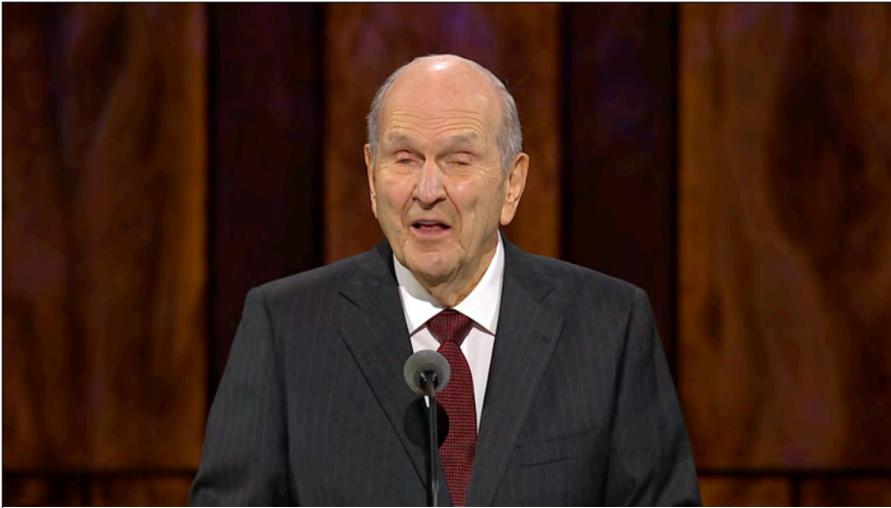


Jacob's name was changed to Israel.

Yes! We are talking about the “gathering of Israel” where true believers in Christ gather, regardless of their lineage or geographical location.



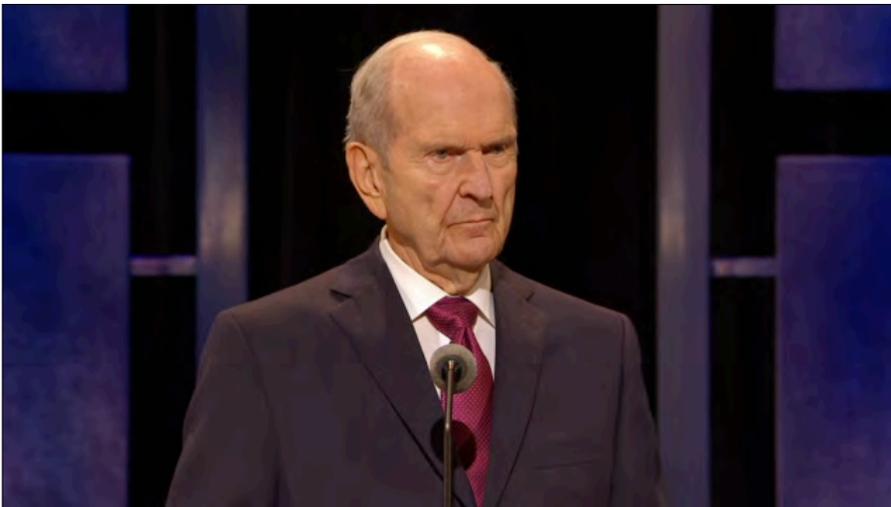
I learned that one of the Hebraic meanings of the word Israel is “let God prevail.” Thus the very name of Israel refers to a person who is willing to let God prevail in his or her life. That concept stirs my soul! (Russell M. Nelson, “Let God Prevail,” Oct. 2020)



The word willing is crucial to this interpretation of Israel. We all have our agency. We can choose to be of Israel, or not. We can choose to let God prevail in our lives, or not. We can choose to let God be the most powerful influence in our lives, or not.
(Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020)



“Gathering” defined



When we speak of the gathering, we are simply saying this fundamental truth: every one of our Heavenly Father’s children, on both sides of the veil, deserves to hear the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. They decide for themselves if they want to know more. (Russell and Wendy Nelson, “Hope of Israel,” Worldwide Youth Devotional, June 3, 2018)

WHY IS THE GATHERING IMPORTANT?
“And after the house of Israel should be scattered they should be gathered together again; or, in fine, after the Gentiles had received the fulness of the Gospel, the natural branches of the olive tree, or the remnants of the house of Israel, should be grafted in, or come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, their Lord and their Redeemer” (1 Nephi 10:14).



Here is the great and grand question of the day:

**Are you willing to
let God prevail in
your life?**



**Then you
are Israel!**

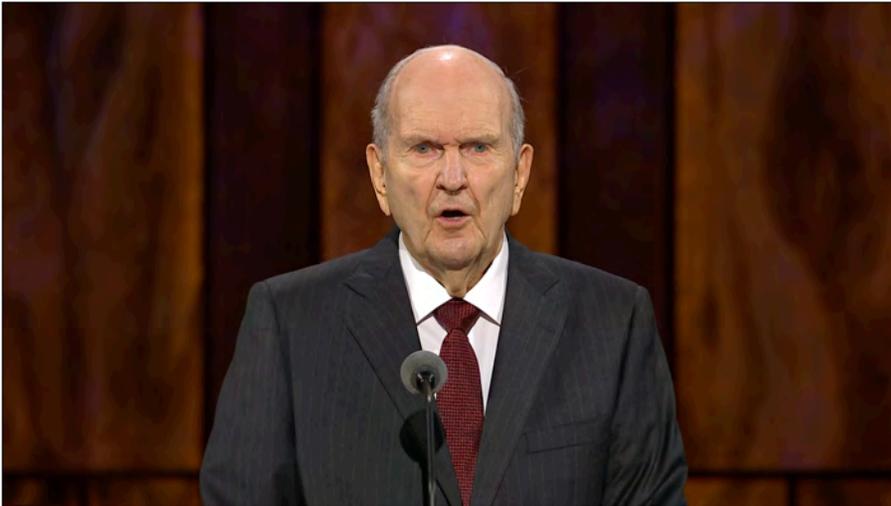


LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

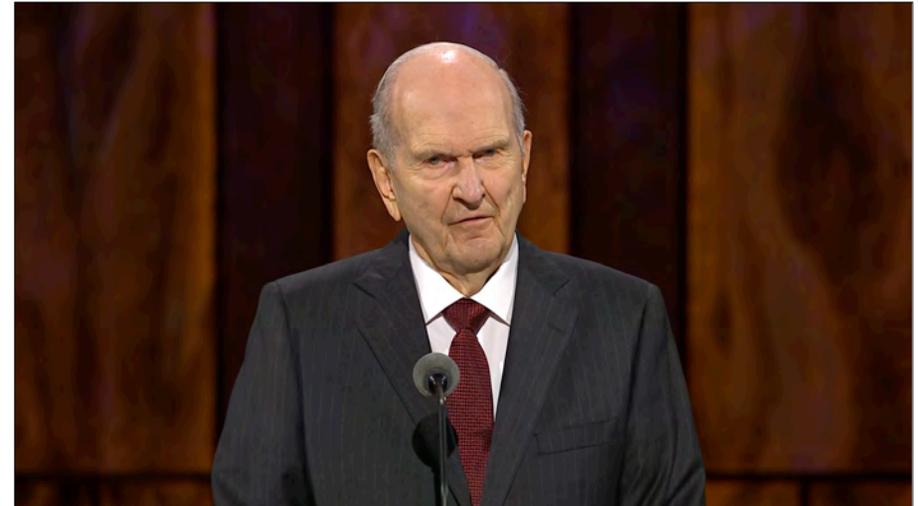
What evidences prove
that you are letting God
prevail in your life?



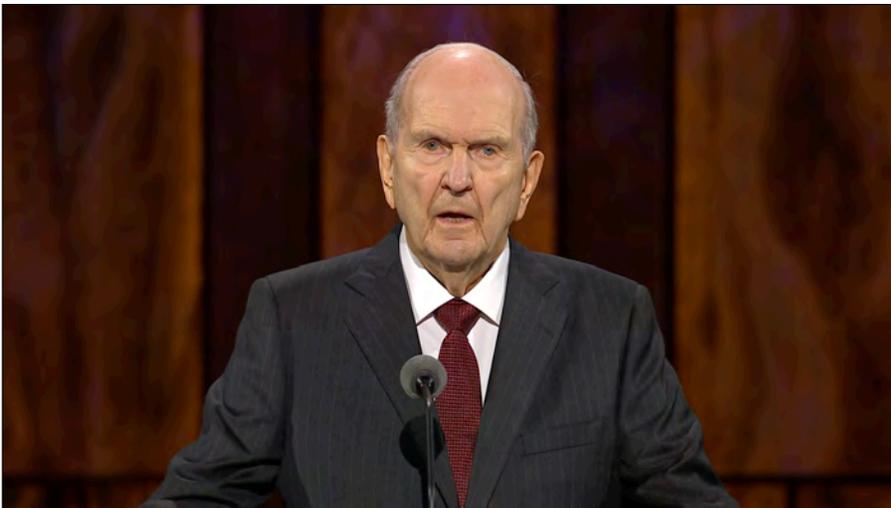
Why gather?



With the Hebraic definition of Israel in mind, we find that the gathering of Israel takes on added meaning. The Lord is gathering those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives. The Lord is gathering those who will choose to let God be the most important influence in their lives. (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020)



For centuries, prophets have foretold this gathering, and it is happening right now! As an essential prelude to the Second Coming of the Lord, it is the most important work in the world! (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020)



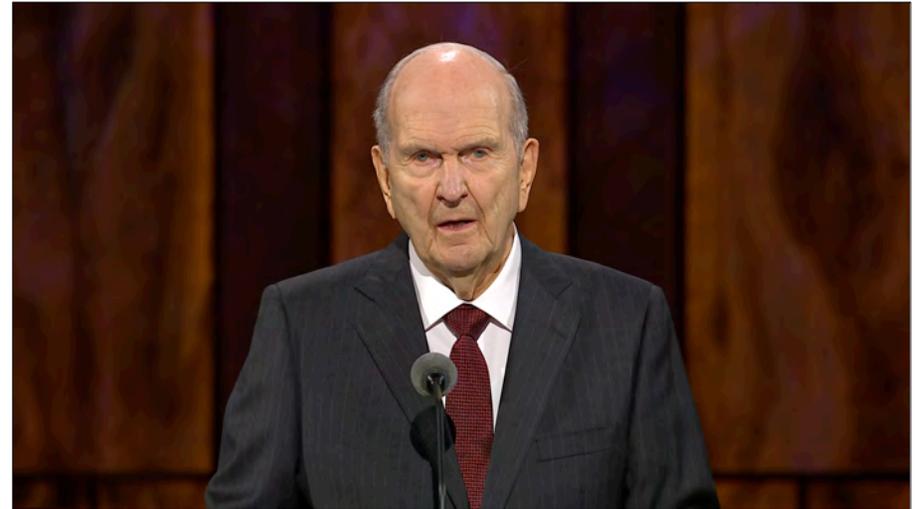
This premillennial gathering is an individual saga of expanding faith and spiritual courage for millions of people. And as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or "latter-day covenant Israel," we have been charged to assist the Lord with this pivotal work. (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT
Why does Jesus want to
gather His sheep?



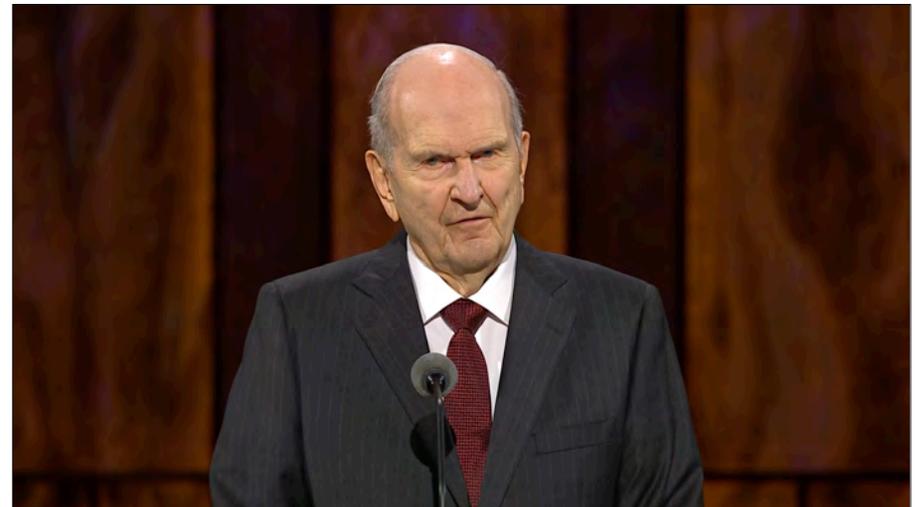
Where gathered?



When we speak of gathering Israel on both sides of the veil, we are referring, of course, to missionary, temple, and family history work. We are also referring to building faith and testimony in the hearts of those with whom we live, work, and serve. Anytime we do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—to make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel. (Russell M. Nelson, “Let God Prevail,” Oct. 2020)



How important?



“For centuries, prophets have foretold this gathering, and it is happening right now! As an essential prelude to the Second Coming of the Lord, it is the most important work in the world!” (Russell M. Nelson, “Let God Prevail,” October 2020)



Who gathers?



As I have stated before, the gathering of Israel is the most important work taking place on earth today. One crucial element of this gathering is preparing a people who are able, ready, and worthy to receive the Lord when He comes again, a people who have already chosen Jesus Christ over this fallen world, a people who rejoice in their agency to live the higher, holier laws of Jesus Christ. (Russell M. Nelson, "Overcome the World and Find Rest," October 2022)



How to gather

M
**6Ms of
Missionary Work**



M1: Mankind

M2: Motives

M3: Message

M4: Media

M5: Measurements

M6: Maps



M1: Who are you gathering?

M2: What is your purpose?

M3: What do you feel about Christ?

M4: How will you talk to others?

M5: Are they moving to Christ?

M6: What's your missionary plan?



MANKIND

WHO

**Who is the Lord
prompting you to
“gather”?**

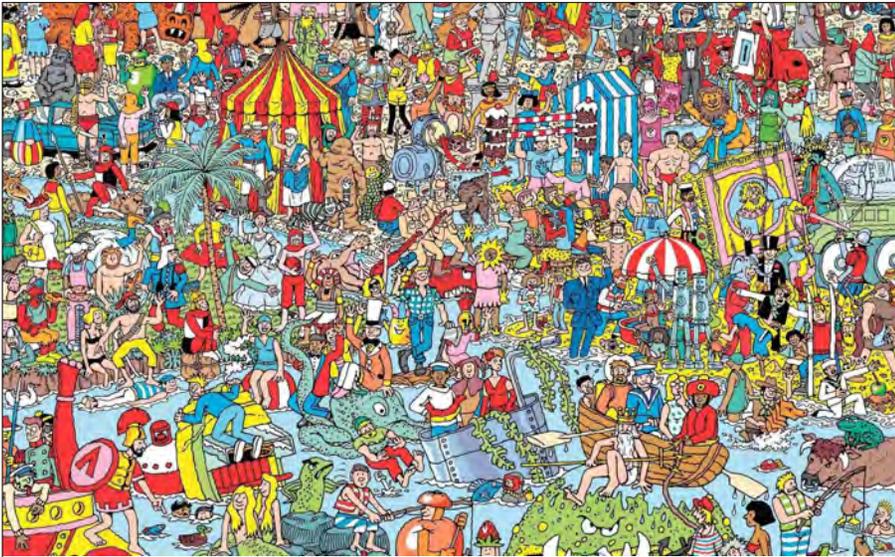


Where's Waldo? Where are those people who want to be gathered, those who want God to prevail in their lives?



Hi, can you direct me to the missionaries?

Here's the challenge: People looking to let God prevail in their lives do not normally raise their hands.



Unfortunately, they are not easy to spot.



Hi, I am interested in letting God prevail in my life!

Wouldn't it be nice if those people who wanted to be taught had a GPS tracking device on them!



Where do you start?

Friends

People you know



600

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/19/science/the-average-american-knows-how-many-people.html>

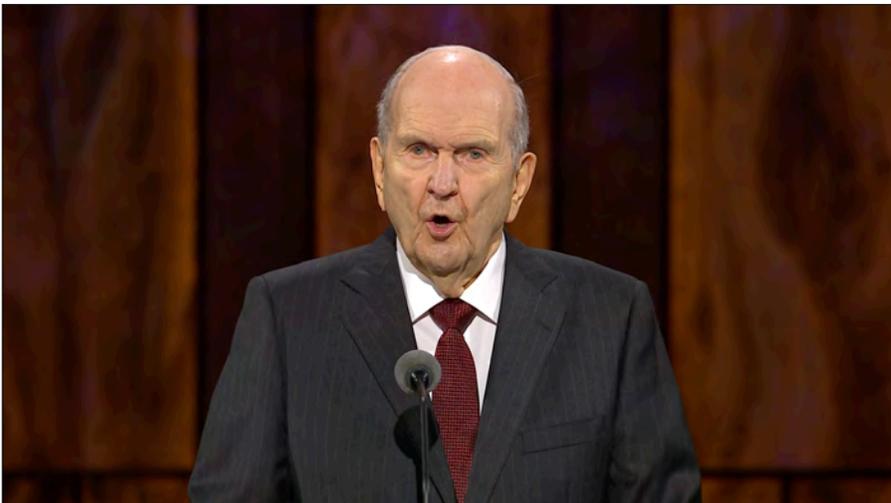
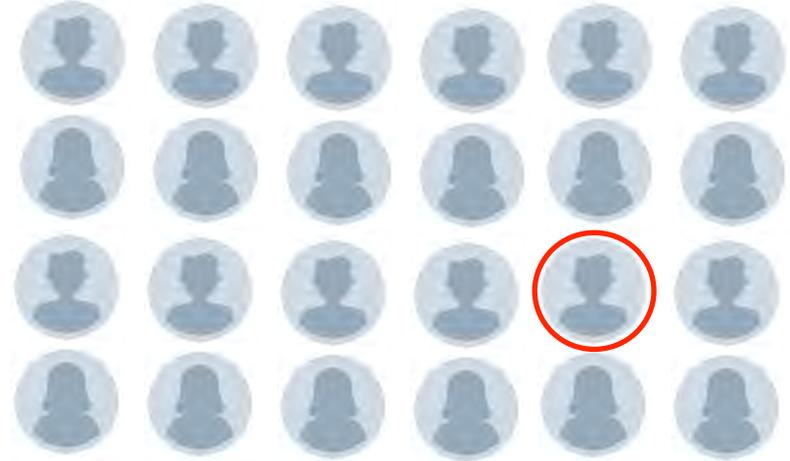
The average person knows 600 people

Strangers

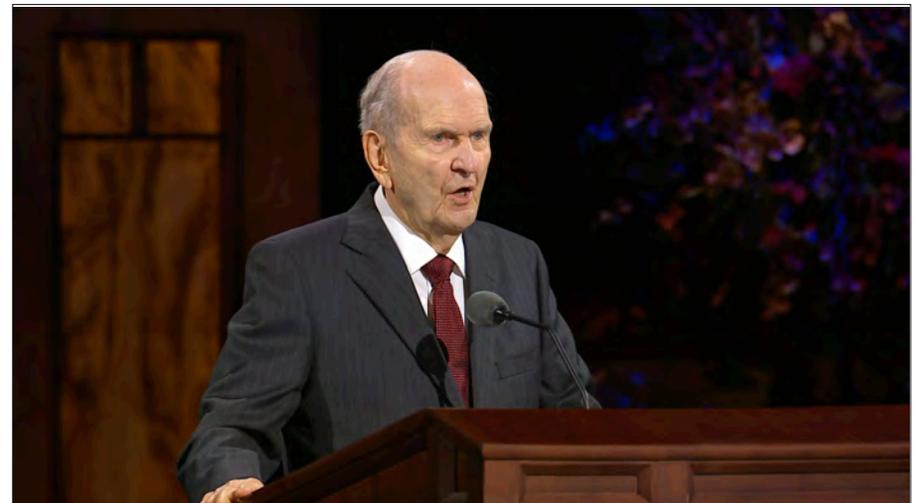
People you don't know



STRANGERS



We often pray that we and the missionaries will be led to those who are prepared to receive the truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. I wonder, to whom will we be led when we plead to find those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives? (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020).



We may be led to some who have never believed in God or Jesus Christ but who are now yearning to learn about Them and Their plan of happiness. Others may have been "born in the covenant" but have since wandered away from the covenant path. They may now be ready to repent, return, and let God prevail. We can assist them by welcoming them with open arms and hearts. (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020).



The gospel net to gather scattered Israel is expansive. There is room for each person who will fully embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ. Each convert becomes one of God's covenant children, whether by birth or by adoption. Each becomes a full heir to all that God has promised the faithful children of Israel! (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Oct. 2020).



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

When we talk about mankind, we are talking about many people. Where is the best place to start gathering Israel?



INTENT

Are your desires focused on bringing others to Christ?

Hopefully, your motive matches the missionary purpose found in *Preach My Gospel* on page one:



“Your Purpose: Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.”



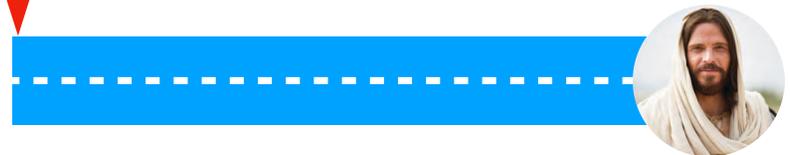
“As your understanding and testimony of the Savior and His Atonement grow, your desire to share the gospel will increase. You will feel, as Lehi did, the ‘great ... importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth’ (2 Nephi 2:8)” (*Preach My Gospel*, 2).

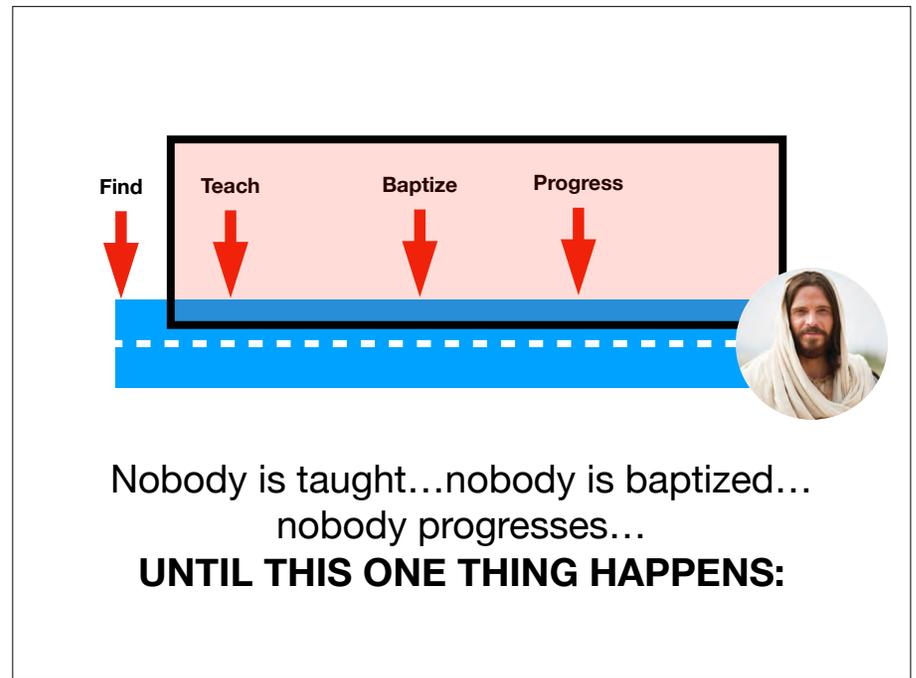
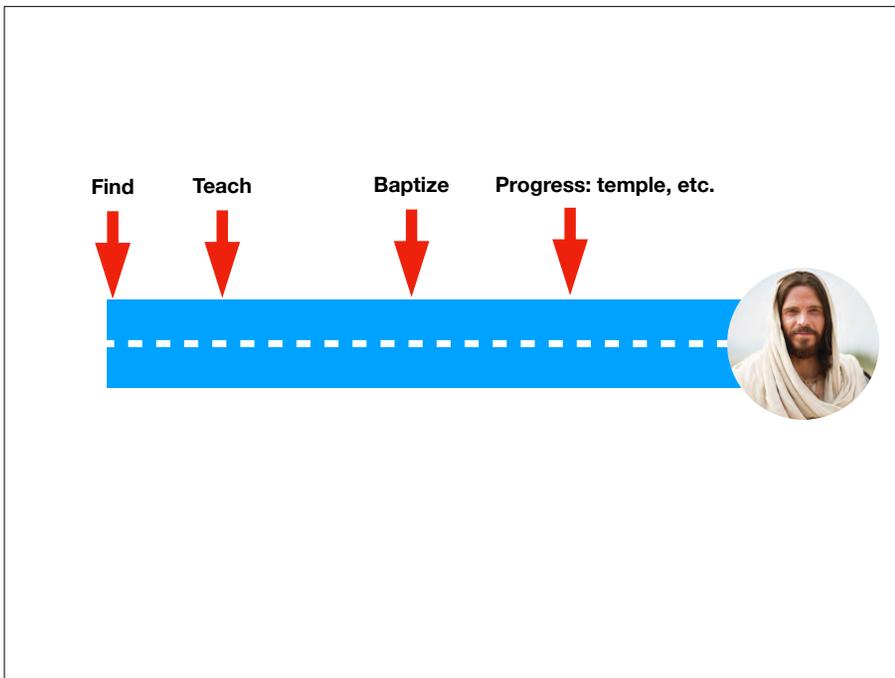
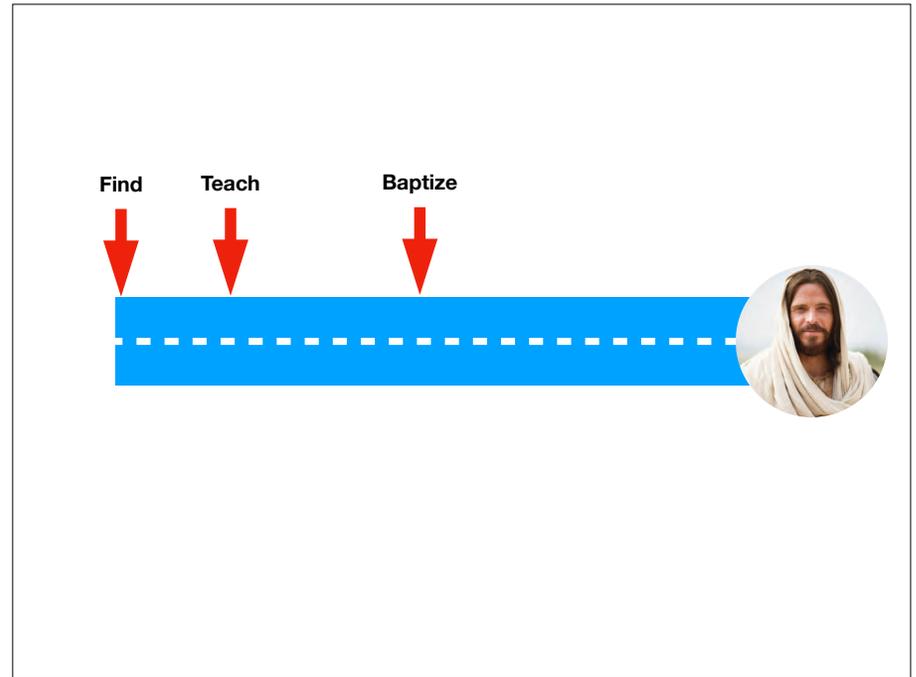
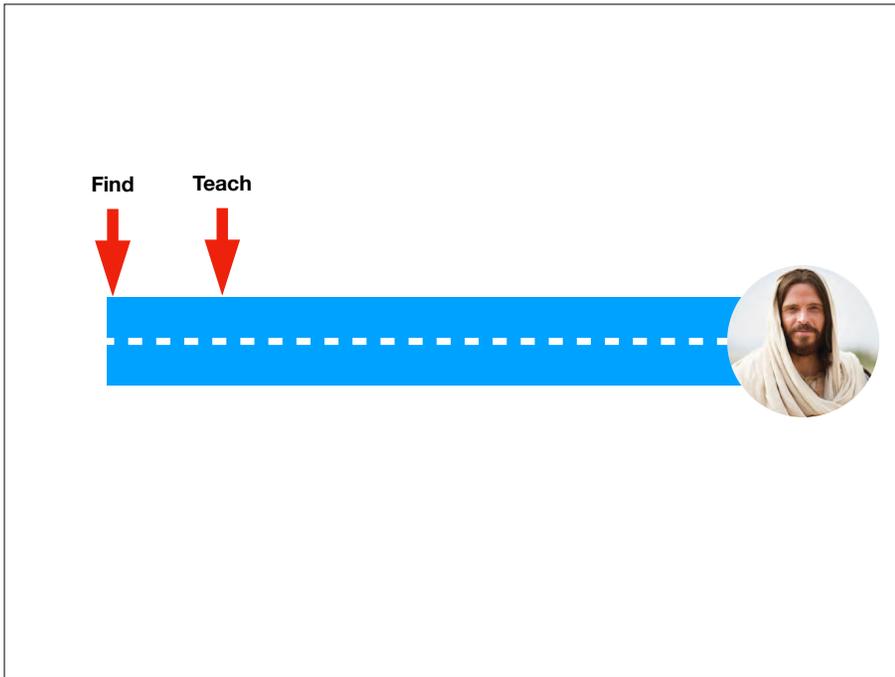
What are you doing to help others on the covenant path?



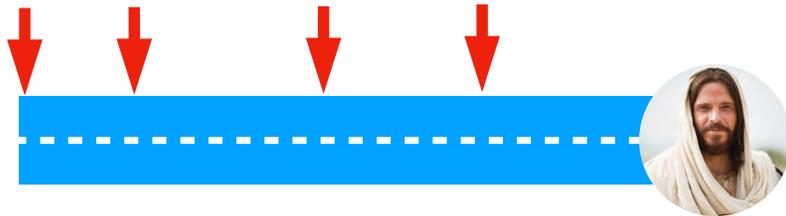
What is the covenant path?

Find





Find Teach Baptize Progress



You must first **FIND** someone to teach!



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

What are your reasons or motives for opening your mouth and talking about Christ and His gospel?



MESSAGES

WORDS

What do you say to people when you want to talk about Christ?

“Therefore, verily I say unto you, lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men; **For it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say**”
(D&C 100:5–6).

Just start talking...

Example: When I want to start a conversation with someone about gospel things, I bring up one of these topics:

- **BYU**
- **My Mission**
- **Japan**
- **Japanese food**
- **Japanese language**
- **Grandkids**
- **Wife**
- **Utah**
- **Polygamy**
- **Mormon**
- **Brigham Young**
- **Hawaii**
- **BYU-Hawaii**
- **Laie Elementary**
- **Kahuku High School**
- **Zion National Park**
- **Arches National Park**
- **Tabernacle Choir**
- **Book of Mormon**
- **Mitt Romney**
- **Missionaries**
- **Two years away from home**

Inevitably, it always leads to a discussion about my religion.

“But a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name, in solemnity of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in all things. And I give unto you this promise, that **inasmuch as ye do this the Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say**”
(D&C 100:7–8).



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT
What words have you used in the past to start a gospel conversation?



HOW

What means of communication will you use to connect with friends and strangers?

Many are 'only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it' (D&C 123:12).

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO...



“Open your mouths and they shall be filled, and you shall become even as Nephi of old, who journeyed from Jerusalem in the wilderness (D&C 33:8).



“Yea, **open your mouths** and spare not, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your backs, for lo, I am with you” (D&C 33:9).

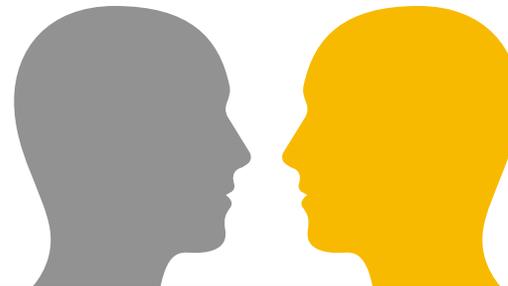


“Yea, **open your mouths** and they shall be filled, saying: Repent, repent, and prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (D&C 33:10).

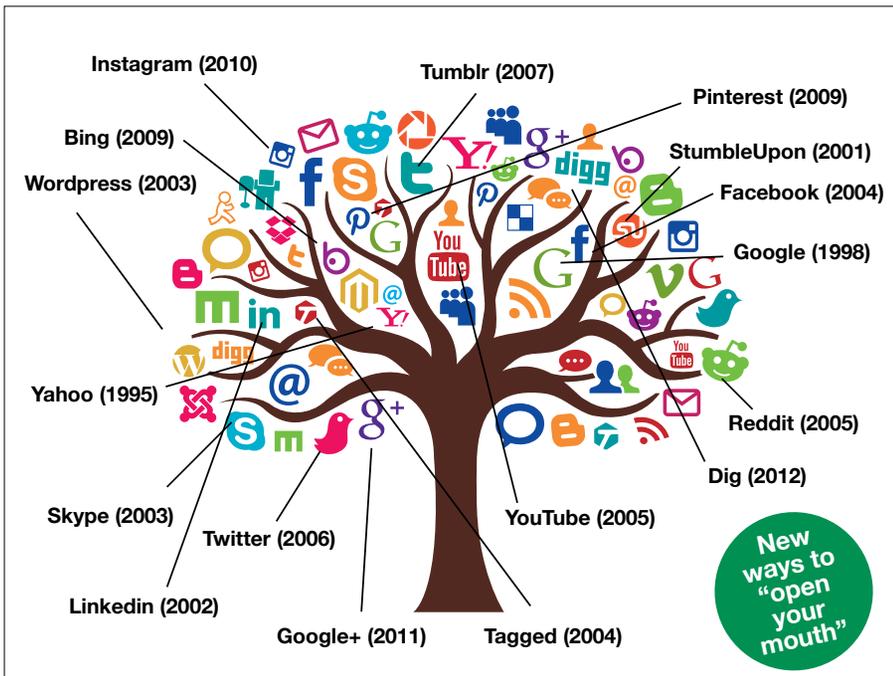


How do you open your mouth?

Open your mouth
OFF-LINE







What is one way to open your mouth?

“And thou shalt declare glad tidings, yea, **publish** it upon the mountains, and upon every high place, and among every people that thou shalt be permitted to see” (D&C 19:29).

Who will be with you when “publish” and open your mouth?

“And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up” (D&C 84:88)

2:56

How do Elder Bednar’s words affect your online missionary plan?
 (David A. Bednar, 19 August 2014, BYU Campus Education Week)



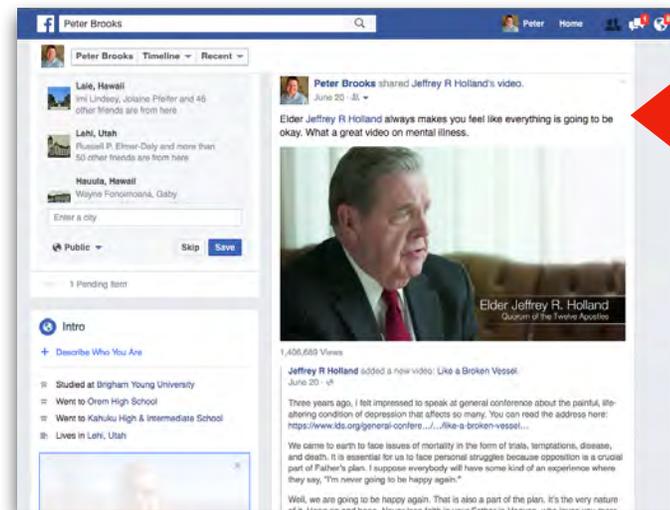
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

How have you spread the gospel using off-line and on-line methods?

N5 MEASUREMENT

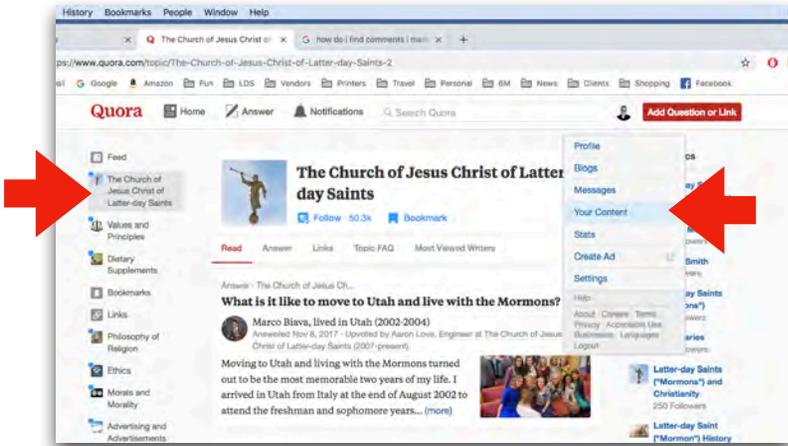
COUNT

How do you track your missionary efforts?



Track your posts on social media

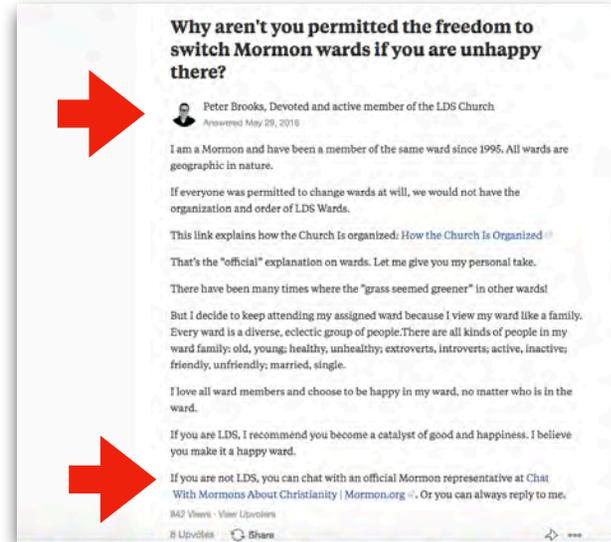
Quora



Engage on Quora

Quora

Teach members to answer questions on Quora



Quora

How can people believe in God when things like terrorist attacks happen so frequently?

Peter Brooks, LDS Returned Missionary
11 Views

God gives people their agency, the ability to choose. It is one of God's greatest gifts to His children. We can choose to do good or evil. If God took away that agency, we would have no opposition. If we did not have opposition, there would be no righteousness or evil. No good or evil. No happiness or misery. God put us on this earth to see what we would choose: good or evil.

Unfortunately, some people choose evil. God will not prevent people from choosing evil or good. He lets us control our lives.

It is sad when someone else exercises their agency to the harm others. If God decided to prevent every tragedy or horrific act, he would be stifling the ability of His sons and daughters on earth to choose.

Thank goodness there is an afterlife. [Plan of Salvation](#) | [Great Plan of Happiness](#) - [Plan of Redemption](#) . . . We live forever. Our eternal progression depends on how we use the gift of agency.

We must choose to follow Jesus Christ who is the Author of all good, or follow Satan who is the source of all evil. This gift of agency is not new. Even Adam and Eve had to make choices in the Garden of Eden. "Of every tree...though mayest freely eat." (Genesis 2:16).

My answer is based messages given from God to His modern prophet and apostles. If you want to talk about agency, I recommend you go to [Chat With Mormons About Christianity](#) | [Mormon.org](#) . . . and chat with a missionary online.

MINISTERING LEVELS

| | LEVEL 1 | LEVEL 2 | LEVEL 3 |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | GOOD | BETTER | BEST |
| Contact Method | Text / Email / Call | Visit Somewhere | Visit in Home |
| What I know | Contact Info Only | Temporal Needs | Spiritual Needs |
| EQ Presidency Asks | Did you contact? | Did you see? | What do you know? |
| Visit with Companion | No | Maybe | Most of the Time |
| Why minister | Fear | Hiring | Shepherd |
| Lord's Way | Watch Over | Administer | Minister |
| Love Level | Obedience | Duty | Charity |
| Pray with Family | No | Maybe | Yes |
| Lesson Delivered | No | Maybe | Yes |



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

How do you measure your gathering results?



PLAN

What is your personal missionary plan for gathering Israel?

Sample Ward Mission Plan *(building blocks chosen from the ideas in this training document, for illustration)*



Goals: This year we will grow Sacrament Meeting attendance from 125 to 140; and we will find 24 people for the missionaries to teach.

We will do this by:

1. The Relief Society will invite a non-member friend to lead a class at each Enrichment Night
2. The Primary will ask the family of each child being baptized to invite the families of several of the child's friends to attend the baptismal service
3. The bishop will invite all adults and youth, 10 people at a time, to attend a 3-week class on how to share the gospel.
4. The bishop will ask the missionaries will home teach 5 less-active families at all times. We will treat them as investigators, using the Progress Report in each PEC/Ward Council. If they do not progress, or if they become active, we'll ask the to home teach another family.
5. The high priests will ensure that each new convert visits the temple to perform baptisms for ancestors within 2 months of their baptism.
6. The YMYW advisers will invite a non-member friend each month to lead a youth activity
7. The elders quorum will hold 4 firesides on how to be good husbands and fathers, to which non-member friends will be invited.
8. The missionaries and the 1st counselor in the bishopric and in each priesthood and auxiliary presidency will confer after meetings each Sunday to list those members who ought to have attended but didn't come. We will contact each of them that day to say they were missed, to express concern for their well-being, and to invite them attend church the next Sunday.

Many wards have a mission plan



“For behold, angels are declaring it unto many at this time in our land; and this is for the purpose of **preparing the hearts** of the children of men to receive his word at the time of his coming in his glory” (Alma 13:24).

How to gather Israel

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | |
| | A | B |
| | C | D |

Who will do the finding?

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Who will do the finding?

Members

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Who will do the finding? | | |
| Members | | |
| Missionaries | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Who will do the finding? | How will you find? | |
| Members | | |
| Missionaries | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Who will do the finding? | How will you find? | |
| | On-line USE TECHNOLOGY | |
| Members | | |
| Missionaries | | |



| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Who will do the finding? | How will you find? | |
| | On-line | Off-line BE CREATIVE |
| Members | | |
| Missionaries | | |



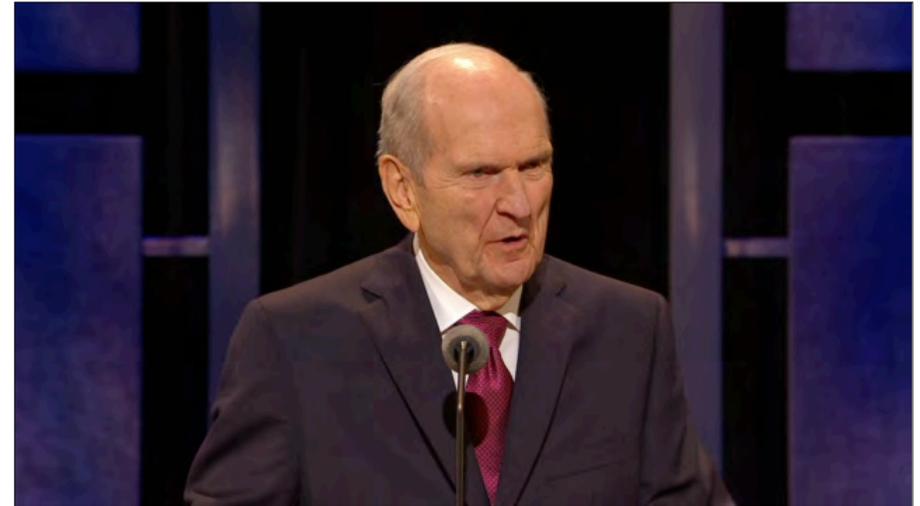
| | On-line | Off-line |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| Who will do the finding? | | |
| How will you find? | | |
| Members WORKING SMART | A | B |
| Missionaries | C | D |

| | On-line | Off-line |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Who will do the finding? | | |
| How will you find? | | |
| Members | A | B |
| Missionaries WORKING HARD | C | D |

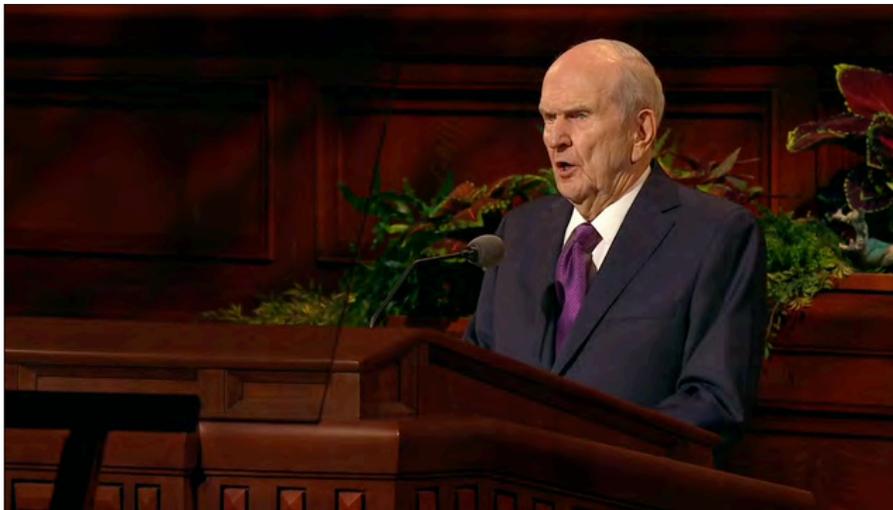
| | On-line | Off-line |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Who will do the finding? | | |
| How will you find? | | |
| Members WORKING SMART | A | B |
| Missionaries WORKING HARD | C | D |

| | On-line | Off-line |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Who will do the finding? | | |
| How will you find? | | |
| Members WORKING SMART | A | B |
| Missionaries WORKING HARD | C | D |

| Who will do the finding? | How will you find? | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | On-line USE TECHNOLOGY | Off-line FOLLOW SPIRIT |
| Members WORKING SMART | A | B |
| Missionaries WORKING HARD | C | D |



“My dear young brothers and sisters, these surely are the latter days, and the Lord is hastening His work to gather Israel. That gathering is the most important thing taking place on earth today. Nothing else compares in magnitude, nothing else compares in importance, nothing else compares in majesty. And if you choose to, if you want to, you can be a big part of it. You can be a big part of something big, something grand, something majestic! (Russell and Wendy Nelson, “Hope of Israel,” Worldwide Youth Devotional, June 3, 2018)



You will remember that I have invited the youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to enlist in the Lord’s youth battalion to participate in **the greatest cause on earth today—the gathering of Israel**. I issued this invitation to our youth because they are unusually gifted in reaching out to others and sharing what they believe in a convincing fashion. The cause of the gathering is an essential part of helping to prepare the world and its people for the Second Coming of the Lord. (Russell M. Nelson, October 2019)

President Nelson said:
 “I call upon you to help gather scattered Israel and to prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord.



Russell Nelson, “The Lord Jesus Christ Will Come Again,” Oct. 2024.



TO DO

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

WEEK 9 CHALLENGE

GATHER ISRAEL

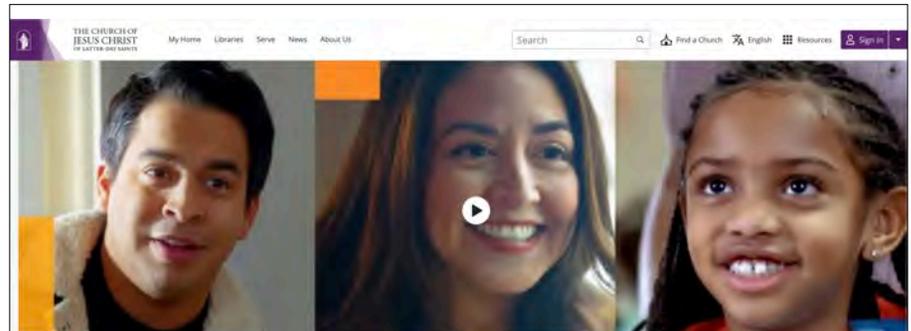
One, will you pray for opportunities to have unexpected and unplanned chances to share the gospel? Two, will you create your personal plan for doing missionary work based on the 6Ms?

ONLINE CLASS

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



www.iloveinstitute.com



Sharing the Gospel

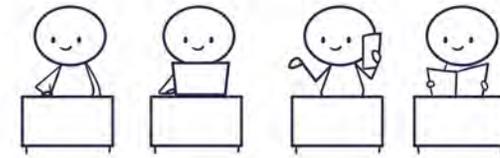
Love, share, and invite are principles to help you share the gospel with God's children. As you think about these ideas, pray to Heavenly Father for guidance and opportunities and He will help you.

The Church website has great ideas on sharing the gospel using all kinds of media

READING LIST



Russell M. Nelson, “Let God Prevail,” Oct. 2020



LESSON REVIEW

Preparing for the Second Coming



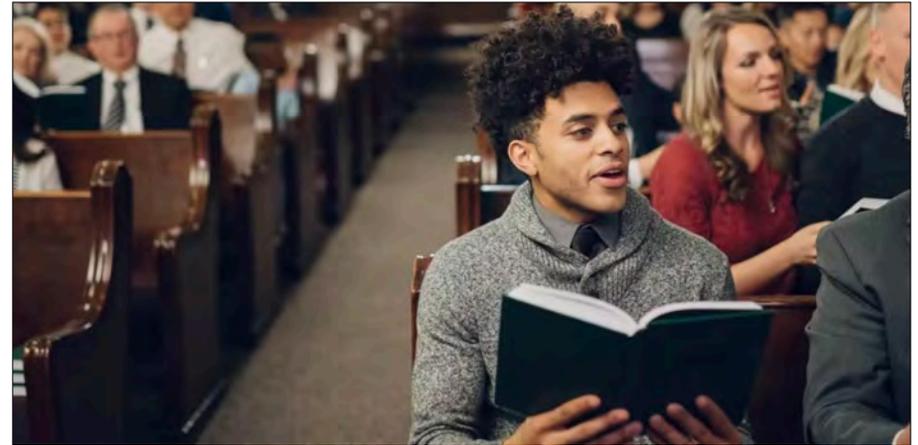
**How can you prepare for
the Second Coming of
Jesus Christ?**



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



NEXT CLASS

▶ March 12

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).



Footnotes

**Additional
Study
Materials**





The following 22 ideas are not an official list of the Church. These are ideas I have written down over the years as I have attempted to bring people to Christ and gather Israel.



1) Take action

Do not worry about controlling the future; just take action today. Move. Do not sit idly by waiting for the Holy Ghost to prompt you in every move. Take action and then you will be led by the Spirit.

Remember Nephi: “And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do” (1 Nephi 4:6).



2) Start a dialogue

Open your mouth. Ask questions. Do not worry about what you are going to say next until you hear what they have to say. Just talk.



3) Pray

Ask God every day for opportunities to be an instrument in the Lord’s hands and lead you to someone, anyone, who is searching for Christ.



4) Be creative

Do things of your own free will and choice.
God expects you to use your head and heart. Come up with your own ideas.



5) Respect people's choices.

Everyone has their agency. Your “success” is measured by only what you can do and what the Lord tells you to do.



6) Control what you can control.

You cannot control others' agency.
But you can control what you do.



7) Be a natural missionary

Make missionary work a part of my natural life. It must be just who I am. It's not like a “check-listed” thing. It is just who I am.



8) Be a genuine friend

Do missionary work the Lord's way, not the world's way. Be like Ammon. He was a friend first. The king knew Ammon's heart. That's one of the reasons he offered Ammon his daughter in marriage. He knew Ammon.



9) Make it a priority

Keep missionary work top of mind by creating a folder or reminder or something to remind you that gathering Israel is important to you. Make it visible.



10) Remember the promises

Review the promises the Lord gives to people who care enough to be his instruments in His hands. The promises are nicely listed on pages 8–10 in Clayton Christensen's book "The Power of Everyday Missionaries."



11) Do not predict response

You are not a seer. You do not have the ability to predict who will or won't be interested in the gospel. The Lord looks on the heart. See 1 Samuel 16:7. Sometimes external negative things don't show the true intent or desires of someone's heart.



12) Do not be a fake friend

Do not be a “friend” for the purpose of converting them to the gospel. Be a friend because it’s good to have friends whether or not they have any interest in the Gospel.



13) Friendship does not equal conversion

There is no correlation between the depth of your relationship with a person and the probability that a person will be interested in coming to Christ. The person, not you, determines their relationship with Christ.



14) Preserve friendships

Disconnect your friendship from your missionary desires with a phrase like this: “Scott, I am going to ask you a question. But before I ask, we need to agree that our friendship will not be affected if you decide that this is of no interest to you. Okay? As you know, I am member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For a while I have just had a sense that there are a few aspects about the Church that might be interesting to you. If at some point you have an interest, will you turn to me and talk? I would love the chance to talk a big about these things.”



15) Israel is everywhere

Do not worry where you will find people. They are everywhere, even in the strangest of all places. God knows where they are hiding. Follow His promptings.



16) You are just a tool.

The Lord knows who is ready to be gathered. Your only job is to be His emissary, His mouthpiece, His instrument, His tool, His representative, His friend.



17) Measure what you are doing

Keep track of your missionary efforts. There are things you can measure and things you can't. Measure what you can measure.



18) Don't have projects

Nobody is a "project." Although you may identify people by name who could get on the covenant path, you must be careful not to turn them into your project or personal crusade. People can tell when they are projects.



19) Listen to the Spirit

Let the Holy Spirit guide your actions and words. He knows what you should say and do. Listen and obey without fear or second guessing your feelings. If it feels right, it is right.



20) Spend time gathering

Spend time on a regular basis “doing” missionary work: emailing friends, visiting non-friend sites such as Quora and YouTube looking for people who might be interested in the Word.



21) Ditch the deadline

You do not have a time table. You are on the Lord’s timetable and the person’s time table. You can’t rush conversion. Sometimes conversion happens in seconds. Sometimes it takes years or after death.



22) Be sincere

People know your intent. They can see through you. Your intent is to bring them closer to Christ.