

# LESSON 8

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

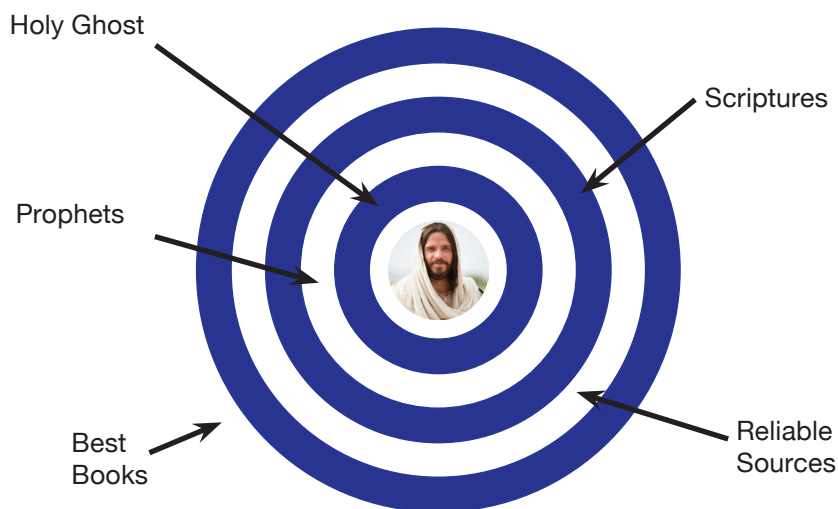
TODAY'S KEY WORD:

# Resources

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

**Will you turn to reliable sources when searching for truth that brings you to Christ?**

Always ask yourself:  
Does this resource bring me towards Christ?



“And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118).

## WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

1. Why is it best to consult reliable and authoritative sources, and consider the motives of those who prepared each source?
2. Why remain faithful to what you already know by the Spirit to be true?
3. Why should you examine questions with the eternal perspective of the plan of salvation?
4. How do you learn to detect partial truths and lack of context?
5. Why is it wise to try to avoid premature conclusions when searching?
6. Why shouldn't you feel embarrassed or unworthy when you have questions or concerns?

## QUOTES OF THE DAY



“Through your diligent efforts to learn by study and by faith, you will be able to help your students learn the skills and attitudes necessary to distinguish between reliable information that will lift them up and the half-truths and incorrect interpretations of doctrine, history, and practices that will bring them down” (Russell M. Ballard, “By Study and by Faith,” Ensign, December 2016).



“Never in the history of the world have we had easier access to more information—some of it true, some of it false, and much of it partially true. Consequently, never in the history of the world has it been more important to learn how to correctly discern between truth and error” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf “What Is Truth?” Church Educational System devotional, January 13, 2013).



*“I guess we should have researched this dating website a little better.”*

# SOURCES OF TRUTH

## Holy Ghost



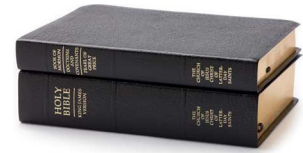
## General Authorities

Especially the living prophet and apostles



Photo: February 2024

## Scriptures



Church Website

## BOOKS

- Michael R. Ash, Shaken Faith Syndrome
- Susan Easton Black, Expression of Faith: Testimonies of Latter-day Saint Scholars
- Keith A. Erekson, Real versus Rumor: How to dispel latter-day myths
- Henry B. Eyring, ed., On Becoming a Disciple-Scholar
- James L. Ferrell, The Holy Secret
- J. Spencer Fluhman, Kathleen Flake eds., To Be Learned Is Good
- James W. Fowler, Stages of Faith
- Alonzo Gaskill, Sacred Symbols: Finding Meaning in Rites, Rituals, and Ordinances
- Terryl & Fiona Givens, The Crucible of Doubt
- Bruce C. Hafen and Marie K. Hafen, Faith Is Not Blind
- Laura H. Hales, ed., A Reason for Faith: Navigating LDS Doctrine and Church History
- Patrick Q. Mason, Planted: Belief and Belonging in an Age of Doubt
- David B. Marsh, Doubt Not, But Be Believing
- Thomas Wirthlin McConkie, Navigating Mormon Faith Crisis: A Developmental Map
- Adam S. Miller, Letters to a Young Mormon
- Robert L. Millet, Whatever Happened to Faith?
- Robert L. Millet, ed., No Weapon Shall Prosper: New Light on Sensitive Issues
- Robert L. Millet, ed., To Be Learned Is Good If...
- David B. Ostler, Bridges: Ministering to Those Who Question
- Steven L. Peck, Evolving Faith
- Robert A. Rees, ed., Why I Stay: The Challenges of Discipleship
- S. Michael Wilcox, Holding On: Impulses to Leave and Strategies to Stay

## TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Neil L. Andersen, "Faith Is Not by Chance, but by Choice," Oct. 2015 General Conference Address
- Neil L. Andersen, "You Know Enough," Oct. 2008 General Conference Address
- M. Russell Ballard, "The Opportunities and Responsibilities of CES Teachers in the 21st Century," Feb. 26, 2016
- David A. Bednar, "Seek Learning by Faith," Address to CES Religious Educators, Feb. 3, 2006
- Clayton M. Christensen, "Decisions for Which I've Been Grateful," BYU-Idaho Devotional Address, June 8, 2004
- Lawrence E. Corbridge, "Stand Forever," BYU Devotional Address, Jan. 22, 2019
- Sheri L. Dew, "Will You Engage in the Wrestle?" BYU-Idaho Devotional Address, 2016
- Henry B. Eyring, "And Thus We See: Helping a Student in a Moment of Doubt," Address to CES Religious Educators, Feb. 5, 1993
- Terryl L. Givens, "Letter to a Doubter," Interpreter (2013): 131-146.
- Bruce C. Hafen, "A Willingness to Learn from Pain," Ensign, Oct. 1983
- Robert D. Hales, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," Oct. 2008 General Conference Address
- Jeffrey R. Holland, "A School in Zion," BYU University Conference Address, Aug. 22, 1988
- Jeffrey R. Holland, "Lord, I Believe," Apr. 2013 General Conference Address
- Jeffrey R. Holland, "Be Not Afraid, Only Believe," Address to Religious Educators, Feb. 6, 2015
- Ally Isom, "Faith-Centered Dialectics: Talking About Differences Transforms," FairMormon Conference Address, Aug. 4, 2016
- Spencer W. Kimball, "Education for Eternity," Pre-school Address to BYU Faculty and Staff, Sept. 12, 1967
- Patrick Q. Mason, "The Courage of Our Convictions: Embracing Mormonism in a Secular Age," FairMormon Conference, Aug. 5, 2016
- Neal A. Maxwell, "Some Thoughts on the Gospel and the Behavioral Sciences," BYU Behavioral Sciences Symposium, Feb. 26, 1976
- Neal A. Maxwell, "Out of Obscurity," Oct. 1984 General Conference Address
- Neal A. Maxwell, "Discipleship and Scholarship," BYU Studies 32.3 (1992): 5-9.
- "Mormon Scholars Testify," Compilation of Testimonies by LDS Scholars
- Hugh W. Nibley, "Leaders and Managers," BYU Commencement Address, Aug. 19, 1983
- Dallin H. Oaks, "Reading Church History," CES Symposium Address, Aug. 16, 1985
- Boyd K. Packer, "The Mantle Is Far, Far Greater than the Intellect," Address to Religious Educators, Aug. 22, 1981
- Lynn G. Robbins, "Tasting the Light," Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults, May 3, 2015
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "What Is Truth?" CES Devotional, Jan. 13, 2013
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Come, Join with Us," Oct. 2013 General Conference Address
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Be Not Afraid, Only Believe," Oct. 2015 General Conference Address
- Richard N. Williams, "Faith, Reason, Knowledge, and Truth," BYU Devotional Address, Feb. 1, 2000

## HOMEWORK

Choose a topic. Do a "deep dive" into that subject. When evaluating resources, use the six questions on the handout. Find the truth.

## How to evaluate sources:

*(1) What are the qualifications, intentions, and possible biases of the author?* We should "be cautious about the motivation of the one who provides information. ... Our personal decisions should be based on information from sources that are qualified on the subject and free from selfish motivations" (Dallin H. Oaks, Nov. 2018, 25).

*(2) How closely connected is the author to the events being described?* When a source addresses something from Church history, ask yourself how far removed the source is from the event it is discussing. Stories based on second-hand or third-hand accounts are often less reliable.

*(3) Does the author intentionally ignore available evidence in order to mislead?* Some authors deliberately omit important facts and ignore critical evidence to support their particular point of view.

*(4) Are the teachings and events addressed in this source presented in the proper context of their time, place, and circumstance?* Some teachings and historical events can become confusing when they are taken out of the context of their time and place. Historical context also includes other events happening at the time (such as wars, economic crises, and social and political movements) and the culture and demographics of a given time and setting.

*(5) Are the teachings and events supported by additional reliable sources?* Support from other reliable sources helps establish the accuracy of doctrine and historical events.

*(6) Does this resource bring me to Christ?* If not, avoid it at all cost.

