

LESSON 12

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

TODAY'S KEY WORD:

History

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

Will you judge Church history with a 360° view, put events in context, and focus on Jesus Christ?

FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS: CHRIST

Some of the history of the Church is sad, messy, confusing, ugly, and unsavory. But that does not change the facts that Jesus is your Savior and that He restored His Church through Joseph Smith.



You will never know the entire truth of any history.
There will always be missing pieces to the story.
Will you continue to “add to your puzzle” about Church history?

WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

1. How will studying Church history strengthen your testimony of the Savior and His restored Church?
2. What should you do if you discover things in the history of the Church that upset or confuse you?

CHURCH HISTORY RESOURCES

- Gospel app library > Restoration and Church History
- History.lds.org. This is the best place to start. It will give you links to many sources.
- Revelations in Context
history.lds.org/section/revelations
- Gospel Topics Essays
lds.org/topics/essays
- “Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days.” Read the inspiring true story of the Restoration in this new, four-volume narrative history.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



“It is important that we become familiar with our Church’s history, especially with its founding stories. These stories—Joseph Smith’s First Vision, the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, angelic visitations by John the Baptist, Peter, James, John,

Elijah, Elias, and others—contain the foundational truths upon which the Restoration is based” (Elder Marlin K. Jensen, Served as a member of the Seventy from 1989 to 2012 From a CES devotional address, “Stand in the Sacred Grove,” given in California on May 6, 2012).








“Let’s just say I like history.”

Keys for Evaluating Church History



SOURCE: "A Method for Evaluating Latter-Day Saint History" by Anthony R. Sweat and Kenneth L. Alford, Religious Educator, Volume 21, Number 3, 2021, page 61–81. Other source: "Real vs. Rumor" by Keith A. Erickson

QUESTIONS	EVALUATION CHOICES			REASONS
	Green Minor or no concerns	Yellow Moderate concerns	Red Significant concerns	
 <p>PRIMARY ACCOUNT Was the account produced by a participant or actual observer? Or is this a secondhand knowledge? Or third-hand? Or more?</p>				
 <p>HARMONY How does this account harmonize with other accounts? How does it compare to other historical records? Are the dates, facts, details, and claims consistent with other sources?</p>				
 <p>CONTEMPORARY How soon after the event was the account recorded? Have details been lost or confounded as time passes? Have the facts changed because time or interpretation?</p>				
 <p>OBJECTIVE Is the author or the source of this event free from bias? Has the source consciously or unconsciously inserted their views into this event? Is any historical event objective?</p>				
 <p>OTHER EVIDENCE Is there additional information or sources that tend to confirm this account? Is there other evidence, or does it appear to be hearsay, conjecture, subjective opinion or blatantly false information?</p>				



HOMWORK

STEP 1: In your study journal, list some events of the history of the Church that either bother you or you do not know much about. STEP 2: Choose one event, do your homework, and come to your own conclusions.