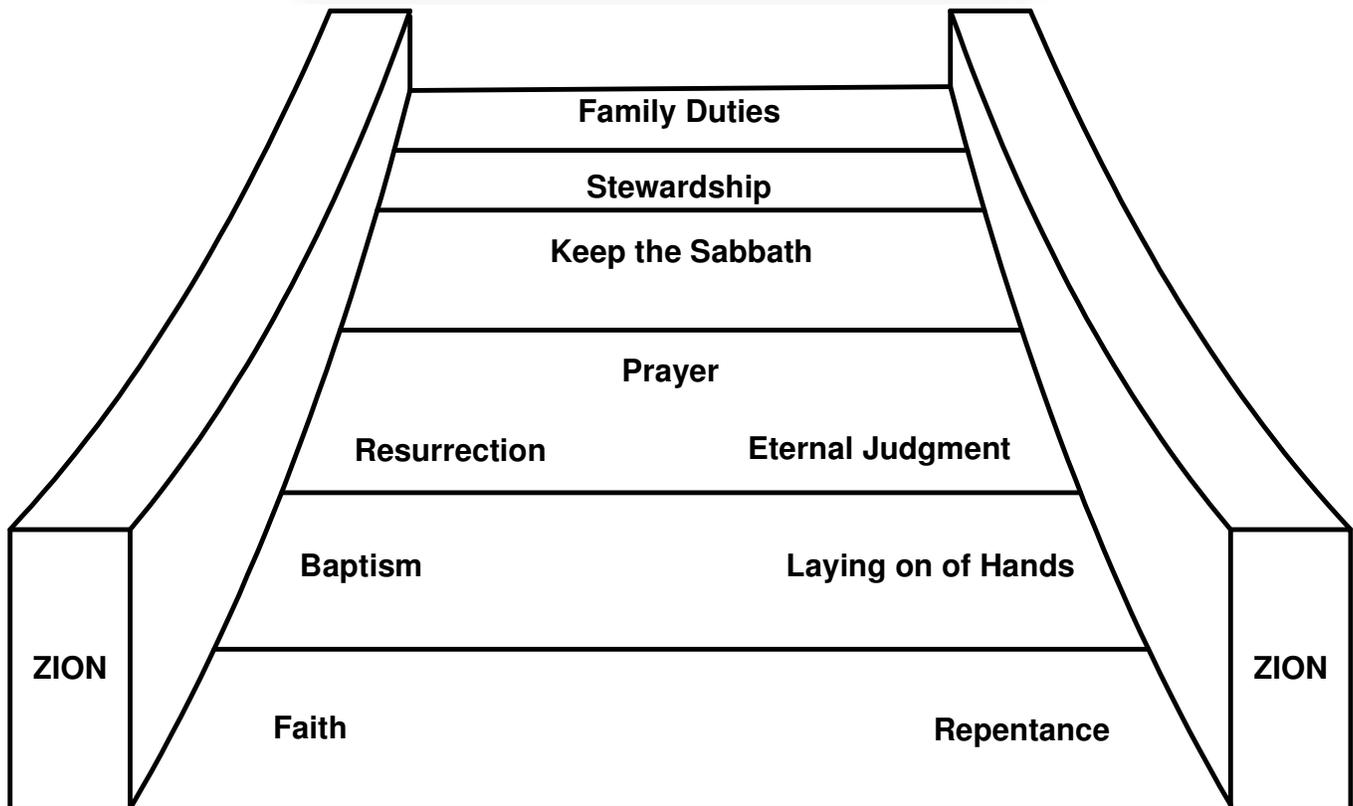


# Family Steps Toward Zion



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## 1. Step 1: Faith

### 1.1. Summary

Faith on the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation on which we must build our lives (Hel. 2:74-75). It is the very principle by which we were created, and have our being from day to day (Mat. 6:34-39, Heb. 11:3).

The Lord called upon Joseph Smith and spake unto him from heaven and gave him commandments, that the fullness of his Gospel might be proclaimed, that his Everlasting Covenant might be established, that Faith might increase in the earth.

Faith being the first principle in revealed religion and the foundation of all righteousness, necessarily claims the first place in the Family Steps Toward Zion (Alma 16:217).

### 1.2. Questions

1. The Apostles said to Jesus, "Lord, increase our faith,"

- Luke 17:5-6, D&C 1:4c-e

What is Faith?

- Heb.11:1
- Alma 16:143
- Alma 16:143

Is there a similarity between the word assurance and the word truth?

2. How can we obtain greater Faith?

- Rom. 10:16
- Hel. 5:96

3. What is the word of God?

- John 1:16
- 1 Nephi 4:38-40
- John 17:17; D&C 32:1b

4. What is the Spirit of Truth?

- D&C 83:7b

5. How does the word increase our faith?

- 2 Nephi 15:1
- Alma 16:151-155

6. What is the purpose of Faith?

- D&C 8:3d-e
- D&C 28:12a
- D&C 63:3
- Rev. 2:7; Heb. 11:6

7. What can be accomplished by Faith?

- Gen. 7:15-17
- Rev. 2:7; Heb. 11:6
- D&C 34:3c-e
- Heb. 11; Eth. 5:11-22; Moroni 7:35-43

8. What are the consequences of no Faith?

- Moroni 7:43

9. Faith is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22

Faith is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:9

Faith is one of the principles of the \_\_\_\_\_ . Heb. 6:1

A three-fold cord is hard to break.

For surely Faith is an invincible surmise, wrought in the heart and soul of man by the Spirit of God. It does not originate with men, but with God. It is of the Spirit.

## O WORLD

O world, thou chooseth not the better part!  
 It is not wisdom to be only wise,  
 And on the inward vision close the eyes;  
 But it is wisdom to; believe the heart  
 Columbus found a world, and had no chart  
 Save one that Faith deciphered in the Skies;  
 To trust the souls invincible surmise  
 Was all his science and his only art  
 Our knowledge is a touch of smoky pine  
 That lights the pathway but one step ahead  
 Across a void of mystery and dread,  
 Bid, then, the tender light of Faith to shine;  
 By which alone the mortal heart is lead  
 Unto the thinking of the thought divine.

-George Santayna-

### 1.3. Scriptures

**INSPIRED VERSION**

Gen. 7:15-23; 14:27-32	Rom.1:16-17;4:16-22;5:1-2;10:11-16
Psalms 141:5	Gal.5:6, 22
Isa. 29:25	Ephs. 6:13-18
Matt. 6:34-39;8:5-13; 17:20;21:19-20;23:20	1 Thes. 5:8
Mark 4:30-32; 9:15-26	Heb. 6:1-3
Luke 22:32	James 1:2-8; 2:1,14-25; 5:14-15
John 14:12; 16:24	1 Pet.1:6-9
Acts 3:16; 20:21	

**BOOK OF MORMON**

1 N. 2:18, 28; 3:23-37; 4:13	3 N. 3:57-60; 6:8-11; 12:2-5,32
2 N. 6:48; 11:145; 15:4	Alma 3:23-26;7:41; 9:65-69; 10:77-99;
Jac. 2:49; 3:17	Alma 12:113,137-140,161; 13:51;
Enos 1:5-28	Alma 14:76-77,103;
Jarom 1:9	Alma 16:119-120,138-174,202-203,217,225
Hel. 2:111-113; 3:115-117; 5:7, 96-97	Alma 17:65-66,76; 20:68-69; 24:63-79;
Mos. 1:121-122; 2:6, 36; 3:9; 5:81;	Alma 25& 26
Mos. 9:35-37; 11:23-24,167-169	Mor. 6:5; 7:20-53; 8:15-16; 10:4-17
Eth. 1:63-85,101; 5	WofM 1:78; 4:103

**DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS**

Sec. 1:4c-e; 8:1b, 3d-f; 10:8c;	Sec. 28:2c, 12a; 32:3a-c; 34:3c-d;
Sec. 11:4a-b; 12:4a; 16:4c-d;	Sec.42:5b,7d,12c-13b; 43:3d;44:2a
Sec. 17:3a-b; 18:4a-d;	Sec. 52:5b; 61:2c
Sec. 19:2a-b; 25:1b; 26:3d-g;	Sec.63:3a-4a,6b; 68:4a; 85:36a-c

## 2. Step 2: Repentance

### 2.1. Summary

The gospel of Christ is plain and precious, calling all men everywhere to repent and be baptized by the water and by the Spirit. Without repentance we are forever separated in sin from our Heavenly Father and our Savior Jesus Christ, who died that we might live if we will accept the gift of eternal life by obedience to His gospel. Repentance is an essential key which unlocks the power of Christ's atonement in our lives. We willingly forgive others their sins for we see that God's love is openly extended to us in forgiveness, that we might come back to him.

### 2.2. Questions

1. What is our human condition before God?
  - Mosiah 1:119-120
  - D&C 22:7b
  - Romans 3:23
  - Jer. 10:23
2. How does Christ define His gospel? His doctrine?
  - D&C 39:2
  - D&C 3:16a-b
3. Why is there a need for repentance, and what is God's plan of salvation?
  - Alma 19:88-97
4. Who does God command to repent?
  - Gen. 6:30-31, 59
5. What is the result of failing to repent?
  - Gen. 5:1-2
  - Mos. 1:108
6. How does God show his goodness to us?
  - Romans 2:4
  - 2 Pet. 3:9
7. What attitude must we have to truly repent?
  - 2 Cor. 7:9-10
  - 3 Nephi 5:66
8. What must we do to be forgiven?
  - 3 Nephi 5:71-72

- Mosiah 11:140

9. How do we repent? Refer also to the Lord's prayer.

- Mos. 11:138
- No. 7 above
- D&C 64:2d-e
- D&C 64:2b
- Jer. 10:24/Psalms 31:24

10. How is true repentance shown?

- Mos. 2:16-17
- Mat. 3:35/Moroni 8:29

Full repentance requires that you must admit that you do sin. Try to recognize your sins for what they are and view them as God does (Moroni 7:13-16). Study the scriptures, pray and fast, that God will enlighten your mind and impress upon your heart those specific wrongs for which you have need of repentance (D&C 66:2a). Accept the responsibility for your sins. Don't rationalize or try to make excuses for them. Recognize the fact that you are the one who must make the change (D&C 18:1c-d). Be truly sorry (Godly sorrow) and have an honest desire to change (3 Nephi 5:66). If possible, make amends for your wrongdoing. Try to right the relationship with your neighbor (Luke 19:8). Forgive others and accept their repentance (D&C 64:2b-e, 95:7a-d). Pray for forgiveness from God. He calls us to repentance to save, not condemn us. Have faith that he wants and will help you to change (D&C 81:2, 3 Nephi 12:29). Forgive yourself. Accept God's forgiveness. Don't act as if you have never been forgiven. Remember the devil would like nothing more than for you to continue bearing the burden of your own sins (D&C 76:4g, 18:2h). Finally, you must "remember them no more" (Luke 9:62). Yea, even as the Lord remembereth them no more (D&C 58:9c-d).

### 2.3. Scriptures

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. 4:8; 5:1-2;	Matt. 11:20-21; 12:25-39
Isa. 55:7	Mark 1:13
Jer. 10:23	Luke 13:3; 15; 17:1-4
Ezek. 18	Acts 2:37-41; 3:19; 8:18-24; 26:20
Jonah 3:9-10	Rom. 2:4-9
Matt. 3:34-38; 4:16; 9:13-14;	2 Pet.3:9
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
1 N. 3:28-29, 210-216	Alma 7:13-46; 9:40-61;
2 N. 1:107-109; 5:30-31; 6:48-49;7:5-9	Alma 10:6, 27-30;13:51
2 N. 12:23-35, 76-78; 13:11-32	Alma 14:58, 101-104;
Jac. 2:48-59	Alma 16:134-135, 216-218, 226-228

Enos 1:3-11	Alma 17:22,39,57-70;18:9-10
Mos. 1:79-91, 107-127;2:16-17, 28-50	Alma 19:11-13,81-117
Mos. 7:29-37, 46-57; 11:137-145	Hel. 2:72-73; 3:17-30; 4:4, 68-72
Alma 3:46-70, 85-90; 5:24-28; 6:36-37	Hel. 5:7-14,44,53,61,71,74
<b><u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u></b>	
Sec. 2:4b; 3:16; 5:3g-4; 6:4b;	Sec.56:3a, 4c-5b; 58:4b, 8b-9d; 63:15
Sec.13:3;16:3b-4, 6c-7b; 17:2a-b, 6a	Sec.64:2b-g; 66:2a; 68:4a; 81:1c
Sec.18:2f-m, 4d-5b; 28:4a-c; 39:2	Sec. 83:7f-8, 12c-d; 95:4, 7
Sec. 42:6-7g; 43:5d-g;49:1b, 2c-h	Sec.108:5b; 118:4c

### 3. Step 3: Baptism

#### 3.1. Summary

The third principle in The Family Steps Toward Zion is that of Baptism. This beautiful ordinance is a natural response to Faith and Repentance (Heb. 6:1-3). These three acts comprise the preparatory gospel (D&C 83:4c), and are called outward ordinances (D&C 104:8b,10).

#### 3.2. Questions

1. Why were Adam and Nicodemus told to be baptized?

- Gen.6:62
- John 3:5

2. Why is baptism necessary?

- Mark 1:3
- Acts 2:38; Mat. 5:4
- 1 Peter 3:20-21
- D&C 16:4e

What is our condition without baptism? (Mark 16:15)

3. Why was Christ baptized?

- 2 Nephi 13:7-9
- Mat. 3:43

4. What actions are required before requesting baptism?

- D&C 17:7
- Moroni 6:1-3

5. What mode of baptism should be used?

- D&C 17:21,
- 3 Nephi 5:24-26
- Mat. 3:43
- Acts 8:35-38

6. How old must one be for baptism?

- Gen. 17:11
- Moroni 8:11

- D&C 68:4b; 17:20a

7. What is the strait and narrow gate?

- 2 Nephi 13:23-24, D&C 20
- 3 Nephi 13:11

What is a strait?

8. What follows water baptism?

- Gen. 6:63-64
- 2 Nephi 13:15-17
- D&C 32:2g
- Titus 3:5-7

All old covenants have been caused to be done away in this thing and this a new and everlasting covenant, which was from the beginning. It is because of our dead works that this last covenant has been established. Let us follow Christ's exhortation to Paul, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

### 3.3. Scriptures

#### SCRIPTURES ON BAPTISM OF WATER

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. 6:67; 17:4-6;	Acts 18:8,25; 22:16
Mat. 3:31-33; 9:18-21;21:21-25; 28:18-19	Rom. 6:3-4
Mark 1:3-4;11:30,36; 16:14-15	1 Cor. 1:12-17; 10:1-4
Luke 1:75-78; 3:3,12,17-18;	Gal. 3:26-29
Luke 7:28;12:58; 20:28	Eph. 4:5
John 1:34; 3:22; 4:1-3	Col. 2:12
Acts 1:22; 2:41; 8:12-13,16,35-38;17-18	1 Pet. 3:20-21
Acts 10:37,47-48; 13:24; 16:15,33;	
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
1 N. 3:11-12,73	Alma 16:138; 21:142,186; 29:55
2 N. 6:48-49;13:6-8,14	Mor. 1:65; 3:30; 4:86,95
Mos. 9:41-50,54,176-180;	3 N. 1:26-27; 3:68-70; 9:11-13, 92;
Mos. 11:94-96,107-109,121,129,147	3 N. 5:21-28,34-35, 39-40,44-47
Hel. 2:22-24,79-81; 5:110-116	3 N. 8:32,40,43,62; 12:14; 13:29
Alma 2:4-6; 3:4,108; 4:2; 5:25-27	Eth. 1:115
Alma 6:7,11; 7:41; 10:102-104; 12:178	Mor. 6:1-4; 8:5,11-16,20-29
<u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u>	
Sec. 16:2a-b,4e-g,6c-d	Sec. 49:2g; 68:1f-g;
Sec. 17:5b-d, 7, 21	Sec. 76:5b; 83:4c,12a;
Sec. 39:2,5c; 42:2b;	Sec. 104:10; 105:11b-c

**SCRIPTURES ON BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT**

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. (6:68-69)(53-55)(7:13)(8:11)	Acts ( 1:5)(2:38)
Mat.(3:38,40-45)(5:4)(20:21-23)(21:21-25)	Acts (11:16)(19:3-6)
Mark ( 1:6-9)(10:38-40)	1 Cor. 12:13
Luke 12:59; ( 3:23,28-29)	Heb. ( 6:1-3)
John (1:25-28,31-32,34)	
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
1 N. ( 3:74)	4 N. ( 1:2)
2 N. 13:17, (10,15-16,18,24)	Mormon ( 3:33)
3 N. 4:50; 9:15, (14)(12:10)(13:30)(14:3)	Ether 5:15
<u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u>	
Sec.(17:8,18) (18:4) (32:2g)(34:2c)	Sec. (55:1b)(68:4a-b)
Sec. (36:1k-l) (39:3c,6) 49:2h;	Sec. 76:5c; (83:10c)

## 4. Step 4: Laying on of Hands

### 4.1. Summary

The fourth principle of the gospel is the LAYING ON OF HANDS. (Heb. 6:1-3) We need God's help in our lives if we are to be delivered from our natural selfish tendencies and overcome the weaknesses and ills we are subject to. A stream can rise no higher than its source. We need those heavenly blessings which God has set in His church that lift us up and make us "New Creatures in Christ"; that protect us, guide us, heal us, and give us direction. The manner which God has designed to bestow these gifts and blessings upon us is through the LAYING ON OF HANDS.

### 4.2. Questions

1. Why is the gift of the Holy Ghost essential? How does it help us?

- Mos. 11:186-188
- John 16:13

2. How is the Holy Ghost conferred?

- Acts 8:14-23
- Moroni 2

By whom?

- D&C 49:2g-h

3. How does our Heavenly Father bless and help our little children?

- Mat. 19:14-15
- D&C 17:19

4. How are adults given spiritual blessings and guidance?

- D&C 125:3

5. How do we receive God's help when we are sick?

- D&C 42:12d
- James 5:14-15
- Mark 6:7
- D&C 125:15c

6. How does God give authority to priesthood to minister in His name?

- Alma 4:1
- Acts 6:5-6
- D&C 42:4
- 3 Nephi 8:70-71

The fourth step in the Family Steps Toward Zion is understanding and utilizing the gifts and blessings which come through the LAYING ON OF HANDS. As we have seen, these come through authoritatively administered ordinances in his church. The LAYING ON OF HANDS is the channel through which the Holy Ghost is given to be an abiding comforter. It is only as we trace this channel back to God, through men who have been given authority by the LAYING ON OF HANDS in his church, that we can be sure that they then have power to bestow these blessings upon us.

### 4.3. Scriptures

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Num. 27:18-23	Acts 8:14-23
Mat. 9:24	Heb. 6:2
Mark 5:19; 6:14; 16:19	1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22;
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
Alma 4:1; 16:116-117	Mormon 4:87
3 Nephi 8:70-72	Moroni 2
<u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u>	
Sec. 17:8-12,18; 23:4; 24:2c	Sec.104:31f; 117:3-4
Sec. 32:3c; 34:2c; 49:2g-h;	Sec. 123:27;
Sec. 52:3c; 53:2b; 55:1b-d	Sec. 125:3,15c
Sec. 68:4a-c; 76:5b-d	Sec. 127:2d

## 5. Step 5: Resurrection

### 5.1. Summary

The first four principles of the doctrine of Christ are matters of choice as we live our life in this probationary state. We are agents unto ourselves, and when we hear the word we may choose to believe and have Faith. Because of our faith we may choose to Repent, receive the Baptism of water, and the gift of the Holy Ghost through the Laying on of Hands. As we live our lives we may choose to receive other blessings through the laying on of hands. When death occurs and we pass over to the other side there remains the last two principles: Resurrection and Eternal Judgment. The choice is no longer ours.

### 5.2. Questions

1. If a man die shall he live again? (Job 14:14)

- Job 19:25-26
- Isaiah 26:19

2. Where does a man go when he dies?

- Alma 19:42-47
- Ecl. 12:7

3. What is the Resurrection?

- Alma 8:98-100
- Alma 19:64
- D&C 85:4a-b

4. How is the Resurrection brought to pass?

- 2 Nephi 6:10-15
- 2 Nephi 7:43

5. Who participates in the Resurrection?

- 1 Cor. 15:20-22
- 2 Nephi 6:32
- John 5:28-29

6. What is the first Resurrection?

- D&C 85:26d-28
- D&C 76:5-6
- Mosiah 8:55-60

7. What is the second Resurrection?

- D&C 85:29-30
- D&C 76:7
- Rev. 20:5

8. What is the state of man without the Resurrection?

- 2 Nephi 6:16-21
- Mosiah 8:53
- 2 Nephi 8:12

9. What is the purpose of the Resurrection?

- 2 Nephi 6:44-47
- Alma 8:102-107

God created Adam and by Adam came the fall of man. Because man fell, God sent his son, Jesus Christ, into the World. Because of Christ, came the Resurrection of man. Because of the redemption of man, we are all brought back into the presence of God. This is wherein all men are redeemed, because the death of Christ brings to pass the Resurrection, which is redemption from endless sleep. We are awakened from this endless sleep by the power of God when the trumpet sounds. Then all will come forth and stand before His bar, being loosed from the temporal death. Then comes the judgment of the Holy One upon us. (Mn. 4:71-74)

**5.3. Scriptures**

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. 7:69	Acts 17:18,31-3;23:6-7; 24:14-15,21
	Rom. 1:4; 4:24-25; 6:1-10; 7:4; 8:11; 10:9
	1 Cor. 16:14; 15
Mat. 10:37; 11:5; 16:22; 17:22; 19:28;	2 Cor. 1:9-10; 4:14
Mat. 10:39-41;17:22; 22:23,28-31; 27:55-57	Gal. 1:1
Mark 8:41-43;12:22,27,29-32	Eph. 1:19-20; 2:4-6
Luke 3:7; 7:22; 9:22,30-31; 14:14;	Phil. 3:10-11
Luke 29:27,33-38	Col. 2:12
John 5:21,26-29; 6:40, 44-54;11:23-27	1 Thes. 1:10
John 12:1,9,17	2 Tim. 2:8,18
Acts 1:22; 2:24,31-3; 23:15,26; 4:1-2,10,	1 Pet. 1:3-4,21; 3:21
Acts 33; 5:30; 10:39-41; 13:29-39;	Rev. 20
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
2 N. 1:74-76; 6:10-16,27-35, 45-48	Alma 13:13,53; 14:85-87; 15:32-34,49;
2 N.7:42-44; 11:61	Alma 16:196-197; 17:25-26; 19
Jac. 3:16-18; 4:12-14	Hel. 5:68-74
Mos. 8:13-14, 79-84;54-62; 9:28-29,39-40	3 N. 7:1-2; 11:30-33
Mos. 11:105-107	Mn. 3:27-29; 4:70-74
Alma 2:20-21;3:31; 8:95-107;	Mi. 7:46-48
Alma 9:14,19-21, 34-46;11:29-31;	
<u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u>	
Sec. 28:12	Sec. 76:3-7

Sec. 36:12c-g	Sec. 85:4-6
Sec.42:12e-f	Sec. 107:30
Sec. 45:10a	Sec. 108:10c-d
Sec. 63:5b-c, 13	Sec. 110:12

## 6. Step 6: Eternal Judgment

### 6.1. Summary

God's wonderful plan of salvation was implemented through our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us back to him. We are commanded to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. In doing so, we become sanctified and able to stand in God's presence. We shall all stand before Christ on the day of judgment to be judged according to our works. If our desires and works are righteous, we shall enter into the joy and kingdom of our God and Christ. (Enos 1:46)

### 6.2. Questions

1. What is the nature of God the Father?

- Alma 21:18
- Gen. 6:60

2. What is the purpose of Christ the Son?

- 2 N. 1:71-75
- D&C 45:1c

3. How do the justice of God and the mercy of Christ work together?

- Alma 19:93-97,104-106
- Mos. 8:28-32
- Rom. 5:12-21

4. Why is there punishment for sin?

- 2 N. 1:88-93

5. According to what will we be judged?

- 2 N. 12:66
- 3 N. 13:2-3
- 1 N. 4:52-54

By whom?

- John 5:22

6. What does it mean to be damned?

- D&C 83:12a
- Mn. 4:62-65

What does it mean to be saved?

- D&C 16:4e
- D&C 76:5a-e

7. How long are God's judgments?

- D&C 18:2d-e
- D&C 76:7v

8. What are the categories of God's final judgment?

- D&C 85:4b-5c
- 1 N. 4:60-62
- 1 Cor. 15:40-41; 2 N. 6:37-43

9. What is the significance of our desires as related to eternal judgment?

- Alma 16:230-232
- Alma 19:66-67
- (Church History vol. 2, p. 16)

10. It is recommended that you read all of D&C sec. 76 on your own.

Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?

Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, if ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God. Behold, I say, Is there one among you who is not stripped of envy?

And again I say unto you, Is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions?

Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent, or he cannot be saved; Yea, even wo unto all ye workers of iniquity; repent, repent, for the Lord God hath spoken it.

Behold, he sendeth an invitation to all men; for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith, Repent, and I will receive you. Alma 3:48,52,54-57

**6.3. Scriptures**

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. 6:64; 7:64,74	Acts 10:42; 17:31
Job 34:12; 37:23	Rom. 1:20-32; 2:1-11,16;
Ps. 1:5; 9:7-8,16; 35:24; 72:2;	Rom. 3:6-7; 5; 14:10
Ps. 94:15-16; 96:10,13; 97:2;	1 Cor. 4:4-5
Ps. 98:9; 99:4; 119:39,62,71,160	2 Cor. 5:10
Pro. 16:10; 17:23;19:28	1 Tim. 5:23
Ecl. 3:17; 12:14	2 Tim. 4:1,8
Isa. 30:18; 33:22;11:3-4	Heb. 6:2; 9:27; 10:30
Eze. 33:20	Jas. 2:13
Mat. 7:2-3, 31-37	1 Pet.4:5-6
Mark 3:24; 6:11-12	2 Pet.2:3,9; 3:7
Luke 3:9; 6:30	Jude 6, 15
John 5:22,28-30; 8:15-16; 9:39;12:47-48	Rev. 14:7; 16:7; 19:2
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
1 N. 3:33-35; 4:52-63	Alma 14:39-41;16:197; 17:9-19;

Jac. 4:18	Alma 19:56,66-70,78-80, 97-106; 28:24
WofM. 1:13-17	3 N. 11:32-33; 12:26-35; 13:1-3,43-48
Mos. 1:64,105-106, 116-117, 125-129;	Hel. 3:63; 5:84-86
Mos. 8:71,81-89; 11:196-198, 13:16	Mn. 1:83-89; 3:18-33
Alma 3:31-45; 7:18-20; 8:98,104;	Eth. 5:39
Alma 9:14,21,26-32,46;10:51;	Mor. 7:17; 8:24; 10:31

### DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

Sec. 3:3	Sec. 76:5o-p,7u-v
Sec. 17:3; 18:1-2f;	Sec. 81:1c-e
Sec. 36:11a-c	Sec. 85:8,23,25,28-29,31
Sec. 41:3e; 60:4a-c	Sec. 98:10f; 108:7b-d
Sec. 70:1b-c; 75:3f-h	Sec. 113:5; 114:1-2

## 7. Step 7: Prayer

### 7.1. Summary

The poet has said that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of", and surely this is true. The scriptures are filled with the answered prayers of God's servants and people which have stopped the mouths of lions, healed the sick and moved the cause of righteousness in men's lives. The Lord has said that "men ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1). Prayer is so important. But how do we pray and what do we pray for? We should be like the disciple of the Lord who said "Lord teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1). Let us search the Holy Scriptures, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, so that our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, might "teach us to pray."

### 7.2. Questions

1. Who do we pray to and in whose name do we pray?
  - 2 N. 14:12
  - John 16:23-24
2. Does God hear our prayers?
  - James 1:5-7
  - Alma 16:177-183
3. When should we pray?
  - Alma 16:219-222
  - Dan. 6:10
4. Why should our hearts be drawn out in prayer continually?
  - Mosiah 2:49
  - Isa. 55:7-9
  - Phil. 4:6-8
5. What should we pray about?
  - D&C 5:1d-f
  - Mor. 7:52,53
  - Alma 16:219-222
6. What is the relationship between prayer and temptation?
  - 3 N. 8:47,51
  - Alma 10:27,28
7. Should families meet together in prayer?
  - D&C 17:10a-b
  - 3 N. 8:52
  - Deut. 11:18-21

8. What does the parable of the widow and the unjust judge teach us?

- Luke 18:1-8
- D&C 98:11

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. Mat. 6:10-15

### 7.3. Scriptures

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. 20:18	Luke 9:18; 21:36
Ps. 17:1; 109:4	John 17
Mat. 5:4,6; 6:5-16; 14:19	Rom. 1:9,10
Mat. 23:11; 26:36-41	Rev. 8:4
Mark 9:26; 11:26-28	
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
1 N. 1:4; 2:28; 5:172,210	Hel. 2:31
2 N. 6:103; 11:43; 14:11-12;15:15	3 N. 5:90,99; 8:47;
Jac. 2:49	3 N. 9:10,38;12:14
Enos 1:17	4 N. 1:13
Mos. 11:10,149,167-168,183,185	WofM 2:50
Alma 7:40; 8:33; 10:28; 12:5,146	Mor. 4:3; 6:5-6; 7:8,53
Alma 16:187,219-222; 21:2	Mor. 8:29; 10:4,5
<u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u>	
Sec. 3:1e; 32:3e; 75:2c	Sec. 98:11b; 105:5c
Sec. 108A:5c (Introduction in most versions)	Sec. 24:3b; 46:3c; 83:9b; 52:4c
Sec. 17:6e, 10b; 18:6a	Sec. (126:1) Prayers of the Prophets
Sec. 30:4c; 64:16a; 68:4c	Sec. (19:2) Prayers of the Prophets

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## 8. Step 8: Keep the Sabbath

### 8.1. Summary

From the beginning, the Lord set aside a day each week for a particular purpose. Keeping the Sabbath holy is one of His Commandments and as such is found in all three of the Holy Books of the Church. Since the Doctrine and Covenants Sec. 68:4d tells us that the Saints in Zion shall keep the Sabbath, then a necessary step in our Family Steps to Zion is to learn the meaning and proper use of the Sabbath.

### 8.2. Questions

1. What is the origin of the Sabbath?

- Gen. 2:1-3
- Ex. 20:8-11

2. Why do we as a Church observe the first day of the week instead of the seventh?

- Mark 16:8; Acts 20:7
- D&C 119:7a-b

3. Should we engage in commerce on the Sabbath? (Buying and Selling)

- Neh. 13:15-21
- D&C 59:2f-3

4. Since the Sabbath is a day of rest, is it all right for you to hire others to work for you while you rest?

- Ex. 20:8-11

5. When Jesus said that "The Sabbath was made for Man, not Man for the Sabbath," did he mean that we are free to do our own thing on the Sabbath?

- Mark 2:25-26
- Isa. 58:13-14

6. What should be our custom on the Lord's day?

- Luke 4:16;
- D&C 59:2f-3a
- Mat. 12:8-11

It is not our intent to set ourselves up as a judge and say to you that this thing, or that activity is not proper for the Sabbath. It is our desire that you should search the Scriptures and use them as a measuring stick against your own life. The Lord is pleased to bless us as we seek to obey him and draw nigh unto him. If we seek to keep the Sabbath day and delight in his day (Isa. 56:6,7), how great will be our joy with him in eternity.

**8.3. Scriptures**

<u>INSPIRED VERSION</u>	
Gen. 2:1-3	Jer. 17:19-27
Ex. 16:22-30	Mat. 12:1-11
Ex. 20:8-11	Mat. 24:17
Ex. 31:13-17	Mark 1:19
Ex. 35:1-3	Mark2:21-3:6 See also Mat. 12:1-11.
Lev. 19:3	Mark 6:2
Lev. 19:30	Mark 13:19 See also Mat. 24:17.
Lev. 23:3, 32	Luke 4:16
Lev. 26:2	Luke 6:1-10 See also Mat. 12:1-11 and Mark 2:21-3:6.
Deut. 5:12-15	Luke 13:10-16
Neh. 10:31	Luke 14:1-5
Neh. 13:15-21	John 5:8-16
Isa. 56:2-7	John 7:23-24
Isa. 58:13-14	
<u>BOOK OF MORMON</u>	
Jar. 1:11	Mos.9:56-58
Mos. 7:116-118	
<u>DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS</u>	
Sec. 59:2f-5d	Sec. 119:7
Sec. 68:4d	

## 9. Step 9: Stewardship

### 9.1. Summary

"Verily, verily I say unto you, Ye are little children, and ye have not as yet understood how great blessings the Father has in his own hands, and prepared for you; and ye cannot bear all things now; nevertheless be of good cheer, for I will lead you along; the kingdom is yours and the blessings thereof are yours; and the riches of eternity are yours; and he who receiveth all things, with thankfulness, shall be made glorious, and the things of this earth shall be added unto him, even an hundred fold, yea, more; wherefore do the things which I have commanded you, saith your Redeemer, even the Son Ahman, who prepareth all things before He taketh you; for ye are the church of the Firstborn, and He will take you up in the cloud, and appoint every man his portion" (D&C 77:4a-d).

In the church today, we are living under a lesser law, even the law of tithing. Under this law we give one tenth of all we possess, and then one tenth of our annual increase each year following. Today we need to be obedient to this law.

However, we need to look forward and prepare ourselves, that we might be obedient to the greater law, that of stewardship, a law of total commitment, thus the following is given, that we may come to a knowledge and understanding of this law. The Father is the beginning and the end. By His Only Begotten He created all things, in the beginning He created the heaven and the earth. (Gen. 1:2,3)

### 9.2. Questions

1. To whom do all things belong?

- Ps. 24:1
- D&C 101:2d

In section 101:2d the Lord goes on to say that it is His purpose to provide for His Saints, but to be done in His own way.

2. What does the Lord require of the Saints regarding their possessions?

- D&C 42:9b
- D&C 72:1c

3. Why are we to give an account of our stewardship?

- D&C 101:2b-g
- D&C 72:1c,d

4. What are we made accountable for?

- D&C 101:2c
- 1 Cor. 12:4-11
- James 2:20-23

We are told that we should be equal in temporal things, and this willingly, or the manifestations of the Spirit shall be withheld from us. (D&C 70:3d)

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5. Why are we to be made equal?

- D&C 49:3e
- D&C 77:1f,g

6. How are we to be made equal?

- D&C 51:1b
- 2 Cor. 8:13-15
- D&C 81:4e

In Mosiah 11:153-155 and Alma 1:37-39 we find examples of how a people became equal, and because of this equality they did abound in the grace of God.

The next question we might ask is, How shall the Lord bring these things about? In Sec. 51:4a He tells the Bishop to appoint a storehouse unto the church and for all things (surplus) to be kept in the hands of the Bishop.

7. What does He mean to "appoint a storehouse"?

- D&C 58:7d
- D&C 42:14b

8. Why is the surplus to be kept in the hands of the Bishop?

- D&C 42:10b,c
- D&C 82:2

9. What shall be the results if we do or do not keep this law of stewardship?

- 3 Nephi 11:13
- D&C 101:2g

10. What further information do we have concerning our accounting and surplus?

- D&C 72:3e
- D&C 42:8c
- D&C 70:3a-c
- D&C 77:1c-g
- D&C 64:5a

And they did impart of their substance every man according to that which he had, to the poor, and the needy, and the sick, and the afflicted (Alma 1:40)

He that sendeth up treasures unto the land of Zion, shall receive an inheritance in this world, and his works shall follow him; and also a reward in the world to come (D&C 63:13b).

And he that is a faithful and wise steward shall inherit all things (D&C 77:4e).

### 9.3. Scriptures

## Stewardship Primer

### 1. God's Ownership

- God created all – Gen. 1:2 / John 1:1 / II Nephi 1:95 / D&C 17:4a
- All things belong to God – Psalms 24:1 ; 50:10 / D&C 101:2c
- “God is the supreme owner of life and all material things. It is impossible to think straight and not trace this ownership to him as both the Creator and Giver of all things...”  
- *Priesthood Manual, pg 68*

### 2. Man's Stewardship

- We are agents – Gen.7:40 / D&C 28:9b / II Nephi 1:99,116-120
- Stewardship is always voluntary—an act of obedience through agency
- Stewardship is never a test of our faith, but is an act of our faith
- D&C 147:5a – Our response to the ministry of Jesus
- “What Stewardship is NOT – It is not just about money. Stewardship is the sum total of man's attitude and reaction toward the Divine Creator and His creation. Man is the responsible servant entrusted with and commissioned to rightly handle all things that God's gives to his care and keeping.” - *This is Stewardship*

### 3. Purposes of the Financial Law

- D&C 28:9 – To God all things are spiritual
- Matt. 6:19-22 – The spiritual basis of the Financial Law
- Where your treasure is, there will be your heart

### 4. Accountability

- Give an account of thy stewardship – Luke 16:1,2 / Rom. 13:6,7 / Heb. 7:4-6 / D&C 129:8 ; 69:2 ; 101:2
- Matt. 24:55 – The Lord WILL return (in this life or the next)
- D&C 72:1 – Required of every steward to render an account
- D&C 118:4c – Don't deceive yourself
- Matt. 25:14-31 / Luke 19:12-25 - God will judge
- We CAN fulfill our accountability to the Lord – I Nephi 1:65

### 5. Tithing

- The Tithe involves paying one tenth of your net worth and afterward paying one tenth of your increase annually after deducting your necessary living expenses.
- Deut. 14:22 – Tithe all the increase of thy seed
- Prov. 3:9 – Honor the Lord with the first fruits of your increase
- Gen. 14:37-39 ; 14:20 ; 28:20-22
- D&C 64:5a ; 114:7 – More reasons to tithe
- D&C 106:1 / Mal. 3:8-10 / III Nephi 11:11,13 / Alma 10:8
- Should still be conducted in our current scattered condition – D&C 114 (Oct 1861) / RLDS Church History vol 3, pages 453-454

### 6. Budgeting Basics

- I Tim. 3:4 – Be one that rules (manages) your own house well
- I Tim. 6:7 – God owns everything
- Luke 14:28-31 – Think ahead and avoid problems
- Proverbs 24:3,4 – Keep good records
- Proverbs 14:15,16 – Get educated
- D&C 72:1c – Render an account
- Start with your current situation – determine how much you make, how much you owe, and how much you usually spend
- Next, you must begin to develop a spending plan – this should include analyzing every area of your current spending and identifying problems
- The most important step is for you to pray about your budget – ask for God's direction so that His will may be reflected in your finances
- Lastly, follow through with your plan and stick to it

### 7. The Love of Money

- I Tim 6:10 – The *love* of money is the root of all evil
- Mark 10:15-21 – The rich young ruler; where did he place his trust?

### 8. Money is Just a Tool

- Money is neutral; what is important is our attitude towards it
- Money can be a powerful external indicator of our internal attitudes and desires (Proverbs 23:7)
- Jacob 2:23,24 – Seek for riches to fulfill God's desires

### 9. Other Concepts

- Consecration of Surplus – D&C 106:2 ; 18:5 ; 42:8 ; 70:2
- Surplus is that part of a man's possessions, whether moneys or properties, of which he has no present or immediate need
- Storehouse – D&C 42:14 ; 77:1 ; 51:4
- To supply for the poor and needy, provide inheritances for those unable to provide their own, give assistance to men in business, provide security for the church
- Inheritance – D&C 45:12 ; 48:2 ; 51:1 ; 57:1,3,4 ; 58:7-11 ; 70:4 ; 72:4 ; 82:1,2 ; 87:7 ; 91:4 ; 93:1 ; 101:4,6,8
- Those things needed for a person to earn a living
- Oblation – I Corin. 16:1,2 / D&C 59:2

## 10. Step 10: Family Duties

### 10.1. Summary

The family is the Lord's cornerstone and model of the kingdom. It is the workshop where Zionic principles can be developed according to the guidelines of the scriptures under the direction of the Holy Ghost. Any change from the pattern which God has established will result only in failure, for which there is no remedy except to return to His holy word.

### 10.2. Questions

1. What is God's divine order for husbands and wives?

- 1 Cor. 11:3
- Eph. 5:21-23

For unmarried adults?

- 1 Tim. 5:5
- D&C 42:20, 82:1-2

2. How should companions act toward one another?

- 1 Pet. 3:1-9
- Eph. 5:24-25
- Jac. 2:55-57

3. What is God's order for children?

- Col. 3:20
- Eph. 6:1-3
- Luke 2:51

4. And for parents?

- Gen. 6:59-65
- Mos. 2:25-27
- Prov. 22:6,15; 29:15

5. Why should families worship together?

- 3 Nephi 8:52
- D&C 17:10b
- Deut. 11:18-23

6. Why should families meet often at church?

- Alma 4:6
- Moroni 6:6
- Col. 3:16

7. What should be taught in the family concerning:

## a) Our duties

- Eccl. 12:13

## b) Love

- 1 John 4:7-11, 19-20
- Matt. 22:33-39
- D&C 42:12e

## c) The doctrine of Christ

- D&C 68:4a-g
- Gen. 6:57-62
- Alma 17:66-70

## d) Charity, virtues

- 1 Pet. 4:8
- Phil. 4:8
- Moroni 7:47-53
- 2 Pet. 1:4-9

## e) Forgiveness

- D&C 64:2c-e
- Mat. 18:21-34

## f) Appearance

- D&C 42:12a; 119:3c
- 1 Pet. 3:3-4
- Isa. 3:16-24

## g) Idleness

- D&C 56:5c; 58:6c-f; 85:19a
- Mat. 12:31

## h) Backbiting

- D&C 42:7f
- James 3:1-10

## i) Being valiant in testimony

- D&C 76:6g
- Matt. 10:28-29
- Pro. 11:30

O, my people, come up Higher,  
Heed the Spirit's voice today.  
Love the Lord and one another  
And I'll answer when you pray.

Consecrate each passing hour  
Sacred Duties to attend,  
And I'll come to you in power  
And be with you to the end.

## 11. Appendix

### 11.1. Appendix A – Program History

The "Family Steps Toward Zion" program came about as a result of a personal experience I had with the Lord in the early nineteen seventies. The experience came as a result of prayer when I asked the Lord the following questions:

1. Why aren't the Priesthood active and fulfilling their calling?
2. Why aren't the Priesthood enthusiastic about their call?
3. Why aren't the Priesthood received well into the homes of the Saints
4. Why aren't the Saints inviting the Priesthood into their homes?

The answer to all of these questions was answered as He enlightened my mind with the "Family Steps Toward Zion" program.

Then revealed was a commitment I was to receive from three groups before the program would be acceptable to Him. Firstly the pastorate, secondly the priesthood, and thirdly the congregation or the families. The pastorate of myself, Jack Hagensen, Ken Briggs and Gary Kuntz passed the first step with total commitment, the second step with 68 priesthood members present December 8, 1979 passed with enthusiasm and on January 13, 1980 a majority of the families at Enoch Hill committed themselves in a beautiful experience that we had together.

Only the first six steps were brought to my mind. These were to be the first six steps toward Zion that each family and each individual needed to take before they could go on to additional steps. They are faith, repentance, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and Eternal Judgment. Also revealed was that additional steps necessary to reach the celestial kingdom would be revealed to the priesthood as they fasted, prayed, and studied the word together. And there would be those moved by the Spirit to write these additional steps and if faithfully followed, these steps would eventually lead us to Zion.

"And also all they who receive this priesthood receiveth me, saith the Lord, for he that receiveth my servants receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth my Father, and he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom." (D&C 83:6e)

The Lord by His Spirit is moving in power among His priesthood and people. As you open your hearts and the doors to your home to the priesthood, God's power will be made manifest in many ways. Many of your family problems will be replaced with the joy and thrill of knowing Jesus Christ has been in your home, and he desires to have permanent residence there. As you establish your family altars, your homes will be set in order, the church then will be unified and Zion will be.

This program will only be as successful as your devotion and commitment to the Lord and His church. Prepare for each visit with fasting and prayer. Each family step is designed for use in family worship, study, or for personal study. You are encouraged to take a few moments each day and go over portions of the text presented by the priesthood and the additional scriptures on the last page of each step.

Three ring binder notebooks are available through your book steward for a nominal cost. When the priesthood make their visit they will leave a copy of the "Family Steps Toward Zion" text presented during that visit and you can place them in your family notebook for future reference. Eventually as

each step is presented and placed in your notebook you will have a tremendous spiritual reservoir to draw on for strength and to keep moving up the steps toward Zion.

This material is presented by the priesthood at Enoch Hill with the desire to stand in the stead of our leader, Jesus Christ, and with the desire to minister to your every need. May the glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. If mistakes are made they are the mistakes of man and not of God. His work will not be frustrated.

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**11.2. Appendix B – Family Duties**

## FAMILY DUTIES

*"The Priest's duty is to . . . visit the house of each member, and exhort them to . . . attend to all family duties;" D&C 17:10*

*"Therefore he consecrated all their priests and all their teachers. . . therefore they did watch over their people, and did nourish them with things pertaining to righteousness." Mosiah 11:19,20*

*"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man. . ." Ephesians 4:11-13*

The love which God has shown to us through Jesus Christ is so much greater than the love or response we give to Him.

*"Stewardship is the response of my people to the ministry of my Son and is required alike of all those who seek to build the kingdom. . ." D&C 147:5a*

### ZIONIC PROCESS

*". . . Zion, in process of time, was taken up. . ." D&C 36:3d*

Even after the Lord had called His people Zion, Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. God's people were in a growing process, going *". . . on unto perfection."*

When we compare ourselves to the *stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ, we realize at once our humble position and our need for His help and His mercy. But, we must not be discouraged by this realization. We must look to Him, the author and finisher of our faith and begin with new hope our growth towards Him.*

If we are looking to Him we are not looking at others. If we are looking at Him then we are looking upward. When we embrace the truth and look upward *then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness and the earth shall tremble with joy.*

His promise is to us, *". . . I will lead you along. . ."* We must not only cling to the rod of iron but we must press forward while we hold to it if we are to partake of the Tree of Life.

Let us labor together and strengthen one another as we *". . . come up unto the crown prepared. . ."* for us.

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**WE RESPOND . . . . .**

God gives ". . .to all life, and breath, and all things;" (Acts 17:25). He provides for us out of His bounteous love which He has for all His creation. He looks to His people to fulfill the measure of their Creation and RESPOND by giving to Him their love and obedience.

*"We love Him because He first loved us." We respond* by using the breath of life which He gives to us to praise His name. We use the strength of our bodies to serve our fellowmen and bring them to Jesus Christ.

We *consecrate* our material possessions to Him in order that all might share in His abundance. All of life is a *stewardship* for which we must account to Him both in time and in eternity. We must use these gifts *in the manner He has designed*.

What can we give to Him as our offering? We can give a *broken heart and a contrite spirit and a willingness to serve Him in sacrifice*.

Let us look at some areas of Stewardship together and examine our response to Him.

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## STEWARDSHIP - THE LORD'S DAY

God has given the *Sabbath* as a stewardship to us. It is one day in seven which we often call the *Lord's Day*. We, as a people, have other days we set aside such as Mother's Day or Father's Day, etc. On these days we seek to please mother or father and do something for them that is special. Should we not do the same for our Heavenly Father on His day?

Jesus said he sought only to do those things which pleased his father in heaven. God in turn was pleased with him and told him so. Every day was his Father's day for Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear the voice of our Heavenly Father telling us as he did Jesus, He was pleased with us also?

It pleases God when we set aside the Lord's day as a holy day to Him. We go to His house to worship and praise Him and to hear His holy word. We go to fellowship with our brothers and sisters of like precious faith and to worship God in the ordinances of the church.

God commands us to gather together in His house each week. He wants us to learn and grow until every day is the Lord's Day, until every day and every activity of life is dedicated to Him as was the life of His Son, Jesus Christ.

We are also blest with the opportunity to go to the house of the Lord on Wednesday evenings to discuss the welfare of our souls and pray and worship together.

We should feel like David of old when he exclaimed, "*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*" (Psalm 122:1).

It is certain we will give an account to our Heavenly Father of how we use the time He has given us.

### QUESTIONS

1. Why was the Sabbath Day given to us? (D&C 59:2f-3a, 68:4d)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are we supposed to engage in worldly activities on the Lord's Day? (Isaiah 58:13,14)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which priesthood are to counsel us concerning our attendance at the Lord's house? (D&C 17:11a,b)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is attendance optional if we want to please God? (Alma 4:6, Hebrews 10:25, Mosiah 9:58, 4 Nephi 1:13)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. Should we be cheerful in our attitude? (D&C 59:4a, 119:6, 9c.)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

6. Should necessary work be neglected on the Sabbath? (D&C 119:7)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

7. What was Jesus' custom on the Sabbath day? (Luke 4:16)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

8. If we faithfully keep the Sabbath, what will it help us to do? (D&C 59:2f,g; Mosiah 9:56)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

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## STEWARDSHIP - THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

When God looked upon Adam and saw that he didn't have a companion, He said, ". . . *it was not good that the man should be alone.*" God then created Eve and joined her with Adam in the Holy Covenant of marriage. God was pleased with marriage and it was not His desire that any marriage should ever be broken. *Divorce* is the result of *Sin and Hardness of hearts*. It causes heartbreak and tragedy for the man and woman and any children involved. God knew this and said, "*What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.*"

The members need to attend church regularly and the priesthood need to be in the members' homes regularly to teach and counsel. This will enable early detection and solution of marital problems before the marriage is destroyed. Each one must examine himself and ask, "*What could I do to make my marriage and family happier?*" One thing we can do as a family is pray and study together in our homes. We can also attend church together regularly. If we do all we can, God will do His part and bless our marriage and family.

### QUESTIONS

1. What is the Holy Covenant made at marriage? (D&C 111:2a-d)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the grounds for divorce as taught in the scriptures?

(Matt. 5:35,36, 19:3-9, 3 Ne. 5:79,80)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. If we have sinned by improper divorce or remarriage, what can we do? (D&C 42:7e)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

4. If we live in a home that is divided over religion, what is our duty? (1 Cor. 7:12-16, 1 Pet. 3:1-9)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are some scriptural guidelines for the husband and wife?

(Eph. 5:22-25, 1 Cor. 14:34,37, Prov. 31:10-31, Col. 3:18,19, 1 Pet. 3:7)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

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## STEWARDSHIP - CHILDREN

Our children are a precious gift to us from God. They bring us great joy and pleasure as we watch them learn and grow.

It is our responsibility to teach our children the *word of God and the Gospel* so they will have a firm foundation on which to build their lives. The *Word of God* will light up the pathway of their lives.

The parents also have a responsibility to *discipline* their children and teach them *prompt obedience* to the parents' instructions and also *God's laws*.

If we truly love our children, we will take them to God's house to worship regularly and pray with them in our homes that they may grow up in God's way and not depart from it.

### QUESTIONS

1. What should we teach our children? (Genesis 6:61-66, D&C 68:4a-f, Deut. 6:4-9)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. If we teach this to our children faithfully, what is God's promise to us? (Prov. 22:6)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. What should our attitude be towards punishing our children when they sin? (Prov. 13:24, 23:13,14)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

4. If we allow our children to fight and quarrel, who are they serving? (Mosiah 2:25-27)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. If we teach our children and love them, what will be their response to us? (Prov. 31:28)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

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**STEWARDSHIP - THOUGHTS AND WORDS**

Our minds and bodies are "*fearfully and wonderfully made*." God gave to us *intelligence* in the day he created us and gave *agency* to man in the garden of Eden. He wanted man to use his intelligence to make *righteous* choices. God wanted Adam and us to choose to serve Him.

Our *actions and words* arise from our *thoughts*. Out of our hearts or minds come the issues of life. One of the hardest tasks we have is to keep a watch on our *words or our tongue*. But, if we watch our *thoughts*, it will be easier to guard our *tongues*.

Our minds need to be turned to our Heavenly Father in all things. If we *meditate upon His word* and His law, then our words and our thoughts will become like His. Then the words we speak will be a blessing to all who hear us and they will give glory to the God whom we serve.

### QUESTIONS

1. Will we give an account to God for our thoughts? (Mosiah 2:49, Alma 9:22-24, D&C 85:19a)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. Will we give an account to God for our words? (Matt. 12:31)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why are our thoughts so important? (Prov. 23:7, Mark 7:20,21)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

4. How does God feel about lust? (Matt. 5:30,31)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is it difficult to control what we say? (James 3:1-18)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

6. What seven things does God hate? (Prov. 6:16-19)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What should we think about? (Phil. 4:8, Alma 17:69)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

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## STEWARDSHIP - OUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES

As children of Zion, we look forward to a time of peace and harmony, a time when God's kingdom will fill the earth.

There will no longer be any enmity between us and the lion will lay down with the lamb, and nothing will be hurt or destroyed in all the land.

Today, waste and destruction are widespread. Not only is the earth's resources being wasted and misused but people everywhere are wasting and misusing their bodies with drugs, alcohol, and eating habits.

Often, those who suffer, willingly go against the advice and wisdom of doctors and scientists who have studied the human body and its needs.

It is a shame when mankind suffers due to designing men whose greatest concern is making a greater profit.

It is a greater shame to go against the advice and wisdom of our Heavenly Father who created our bodies and knows what is best for us.

We should anxiously seek His wisdom and follow it to the best of our abilities. When we do as He desires, He immediately blesses us and calls us ever upward to Him.

The great blessings promised to us only come if we obey Him. If we do not obey or follow His advise, He is not bound to help us.

Let us look at some scriptures and questions concerning the STEWARDSHIP of our bodies and begin to joyfully and willingly follow God's instructions to us.

### QUESTIONS

1. Who created men? (Gen. 1:27-29, Psalm 100:3, 119:73, Isaiah 29:28)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. What principle is found in D&C 77:4a,b?

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are our bodies likened unto in 1 Cor. 3:16,17 and 2 Cor. 6:16?

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are we STEWARDS over our own bodies? (1 Cor. 6:19,20, Mosiah 2:37)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. What defiles a man or woman? (Matt. 15:9,10, 16-19)

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Answer \_\_\_\_\_

6. What sanctifies our food? (1 Tim. 4:1-5)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why must we choose our food carefully? (Mormon 4:38, D&C 86:1a, 2 Tim. 3:1-4)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

8. What about alcohol and tobacco? (D&C 86:1b-d, Prov. 20:1, 23:29-35)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and other caffeinated soft drinks good for us? (D&C 86:1a,e) (also see appendix)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

10. What do the scriptures teach us concerning meat?

A. D&C 49:3d,e, 1 Tim 4:1-4

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

B. D&C 86:2b, 59:5a, Prov. 29:30

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

C. Gen. 9:9-11, Psalm 50:10-12, D&C 49:3f

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

D. Isaiah 11:6-9

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

11. What counsel has God given us concerning sleep? (D&C 85:38b, 119:9a,b)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

12. Should we fast? (Alma 4:6, Matt. 6:17, 9:15-17, D&C 85:21a)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is there different ways of fasting? (D&C 59:3, Isa. 58:3-7, Exodus 35:27,28, Matt. 4:1,2)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

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14. What should we do if we become sick? (James 5:14, D&C 42:12c-f, 13, 119:9c)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

15. What are the wonderful promises made in D&C 86:3c,d?

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

16. Read the following scriptures on clothing and cleanliness. What principles do they teach? (D&C 42:12a, 119:3c, 1 Tim. 2:9,10, 1 Peter 3:3,4)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

17. Is cheerfulness important? (D&C 59:4a, 119:3a,b,9c, 2 Cor. 4:6,7)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

18. Read Romans 12:1.

There are many good books and articles written about the "Word of Wisdom" and some are available at Herald House. We have included some information in the small appendix which follows. It includes an article written by Joseph Smith Jr. about the Word of Wisdom.

The following article is from the "Times and Seasons", volume 3, pages 799-801. It is written by Joseph Smith Jr. and is in part about a sermon preached by Pres. Hyrum Smith. But he also speaks first person at times and we have emphasized parts. This was written June 1, 1842 at Nauvoo, Illinois. It is entitled:

### **The Word of Wisdom**

We had a very instructive, impressive, and salutary discourse delivered us in the City of Nauvoo, last Sabbath on the above subject, to a large and attentive congregation, by Pres't Hyrum Smith.

He stated "that there were many of the commands of God that seemed to be overlooked by this generation, and he was fearful that many of the Latter Day Saints in this respect were following their old traditions, and former practices of spiritualizing the word of God, and through a vain philosophy departing from the pure principles of eternal truth which God had given by revelation for the salvation of the human family; but, that every word of God is of importance, whether it be the word contained in the Bible, in the Book of Mormon, or in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, for 'man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.' The principles that are taught in the Bible are pure, and ought to be adhered to; and if people adhere to that teaching it will prove their salvation. The principles that are taught in the Book of Mormon are also pure, and holy and righteous, and will if followed lead men to God. And the principles that are taught in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, are from God, they are principles of righteousness;--they are given for a blessing to the human family, and the salvation, temporal and spiritual, of his saints; and that man who wantonly departs from any of the revelations of Jehovah, and treats lightly the word of God, whether contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, the Book of Mormon, or the Bible, is void of understanding: he is not wise concerning the doings of the Lord, the plan of salvation, the past dealings, present designs, or future purposes of the Almighty. The God of the armies of Israel is a wise God, he comprehended the end from beginning, and adapted his plans, his designs and teaching, to the peculiar wants, the

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local situation, the exigencies of mankind; and the present and future good of the human family; and every thing he has deigned to notice by way of instruction to the children of men, is given by infinite wisdom; by the intelligence of Jehovah; and if obeyed, when his designs shall be fully unraveled, it will be seen that there was wisdom in it beyond the comprehension of man in his present state.

When God first made man upon the earth, he was a different being entirely to what he now is; his body was strong, athletic, robust, and healthy; his days were prolonged upon the earth; he lived nearly one thousand years, his mind was vigorous and active, and his intellectual faculties clear and comprehensive, but he has become degenerated; his life has dwindled to a span; disease preys upon his system; his body is enervated and feeble; and his mental and intellectual faculties are impaired, and weakened; and man is not now that dignified, noble, majestic, honorable, and mighty being that he was when he first proceeded from the hands of his maker.

The Lord has in his wise designs revealed unto us his will; he has made known unto us his future purposes; he has told us as he did his ancient prophets that the 'earth shall be redeemed--that the curse shall be removed from it--that the wolf and the lamb shall lie down together--that the lion shall eat straw like the ox;--and that they shall not hurt nor destroy--that the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters covers the sea'--that man's days shall be as 'the days of a tree,' that he shall again live one thousand years on the earth--this is the 'time of the restoration of all things,' and this has got to be brought about by the wisdom and power of God, and the wisdom, obedience and faith of man combined.

Every thing has become degenerated from what it was in its primitive state; 'God made man pure, but he has found out many inventions:' his vices have become innumerable, and his diseases multiplied; his taste has become vitiated, and his judgment impaired; he has fallen--fallen--fallen, from that dignified state that he once occupied on the earth; and it needs a restorative that man has not in his possession --wisdom which is beyond the reach of human intellect;--and power which human philosophy, talent and ingenuity cannot control. God only is acquainted with the fountain of action, and the main springs of human events; he knows where disease is seated, and what is the cause of it;--he is also acquainted with the spring of health; the balm of Gilead--of life; he knows what course to pursue to restore mankind to their pristine excellency and primitive vigor, and health; and he has appointed the word of wisdom as one of the engines to bring about this thing, to remove the beastly appetites, the murderous disposition and the vitiated taste of man; to restore his body to health, and vigor, promote peace between him and the brute creation, and as one of the littlewheels in God's designs, to help to regulate the great machinery, which shall eventually revolutionize the earth, and bring about the restoration of all things, and when they are restored he will plant 'the tree of life, whose leaves shall be for the healing of the nations.'

The Lord has told us what is good for us to eat, and to drink, and what is pernicious; but some of our wise philosophers, and some of our elders too, pay no regard to it; they think it too little, too foolish, for wise men to regard--*fools!* where is their wisdom, philosophy and intelligence? from whence did they obtain their superior light? Their capacity, and their power of reasoning was given them by the great Jehovah: if they have any wisdom they obtained it from him: and have they grown so much wiser than God that they are going to instruct him in the path of duty, and to tell him what is wise, and what is foolish. They think it too small for him to condescend to tell men what will be nutritious or what will be unhealthy. Who made the corn, the wheat, the rye, and all the vegetable substances? and who was it that organized man, and constituted him as he is found? who made his stomach, and his digestive organs, and prepared proper nutriment for his system,

that the juices of his body might be supplied; and his form be invigorated by that kind of food which the laws of nature, and the laws of God has said would be good for man? And has God made his food, and provided it for the use of man; and shall he be ashamed to speak of the work of his hands: has he become so fantastical, so foolish, so weak and effeminate, that it has become impolitic for him to tell what is the best distribution to make of the work of his hands? Oh shame! let it not be heard among the saints; let that man who inculcates such principles hide his face. We are told by some that circumstances alter the revelations of God--tell me what circumstances would alter the ten commandments? they were given by revelation--given as a law to the children of Israel;--who has a right to alter that law? Some think that they are too small for us to notice. they are not too small for God to notice, and have we got so high, so bloated out, that we cannot condescend to notice things that God has ordained for our benefit? or have we got so weak that we are not fit to be called saints? for the word of wisdom is adapted to the capacity of all that 'are or *can be called saints*.' Listen not to the teaching of any man, or any elder who says the word of wisdom is of no moment; for such a man will eventually be overthrown. These are principles that I have always acted upon; that I have always practiced; and they are what my family practices; they are what Brother Hyrum has always contended for, and what I now contend for; and I know that nothing but an unwavering, undeviating course can save a man in the kingdom of God.

The Lord has told us that 'Strong drinks are not good,' who is it that will say they are? when the Lord says they are not.. That man who says 'I can drink wine or strong drink, and it not hurt me,' is not wise. But some will say, 'I know that it did me good, for I was fatigued, and feeble, on a certain occasion, and it revived me, and I was invigorated thereby, and that is sufficient proof for me:' It may be for you, but it would not be for a wise man, for every spirit of this kind will only produce a greater languor when its effects cease to operate upon the human body. But you know that you are benefited, yes, so does the man who has mortgaged his property, know that he is relieved from his present embarrassments; but his temporary relief only binds the chords of bondage more severely around him. The Lord has not ordained strong drink for the belly; 'but for the washing of your bodies.' And again 'tobacco is not for the body, neither for the belly; and it is not good for man; but as an herb for bruises, and all sick cattle, to be used with judgment and skill.' Tobacco is a nauseous, stinking, abominable thing, and I am surprised that any human being should think of using it--for an elder especially to eat, or smoke it, is a disgrace to him;--he is not fit for the office, he ought first to learn to keep the word of wisdom, and then to teach others. God will not prosper the man who uses it. And again 'hot drinks are not for the body, or belly;' there are many who wonder what this can mean; whether it refers to tea, or coffee, or not. I say it does refer to tea, and coffee. Why is it that we are frequently so dull and languid? it is because we break the word of wisdom, disease preys upon our system, our understandings are darkened, and we do not comprehend the things of God; the devil takes advantage of us, and we fall into temptation. Not only are they injurious in their tendency, and baneful in their effects, but the importation of foreign products might be the means of thousands of our people being poisoned at a future time, through the advantage that an enemy might take of us, if we made a use of these things that are thus spoken of as being evil; and be it remembered--that this instruction is given 'in consequence of evils that do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men.'

'And again, verily I say unto you, all wholesome herbs God hath ordained for the constitution, nature and use of man. Every herb in the season thereof, and every fruit in the season thereof. All these to be used with prudence and thanksgiving. Yea, flesh also of beasts and of the fowls of the air, I the Lord hath ordained for the use of man with thanksgiving. Nevertheless, they are to be used sparingly; and it is pleasing unto me, that they should not be used only in times of winter or of cold, or of famine. All grain is ordained for the use of man, and of beasts, to be the staff of life,

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not only for man, but for the beasts of the field, and the fowls of heaven, and all wild animals that run or creep on the earth; and these hath God made for the use of man only in times of famine, and excess of hunger.'

Let men attend to these instructions, let them use the things ordained of God; let them be sparing of the life of animals; 'it is pleasing saith the Lord that flesh be used only in times of winter, or of famine'--and why to be used in famine? because all domesticated animals would naturally die, and may as well be made use of by man, as not.

"All grain is good for the food of man, as also the fruit of the vine, that which yieldeth fruit, whether in the ground or above the ground Nevertheless wheat for man, and corn for the ox, and oats for the horse, and rye for the fowls, and for swine, and for all beasts of the field, and barley for all useful animals, and for mild drinks; as also other grain. And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their naval, and marrow to their bones and shall find wisdom, and great treasures of knowledge even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint; and I the Lord give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.'

Let these things be adhered to; let the saints be wise; let us lay aside our folly and abide by the commandments of God; so shall we be blessed of the great Jehovah in time and in eternity; we shall be healthy, strong and vigorous: we shall be enabled to resist disease; and wisdom will crown our councils, and our bodies will become strong and powerful, our progeny will become mighty, and will rise up and call us blessed; the daughters of Jesus will be beautiful, and her sons the joy of the whole earth; we shall prepare ourselves for the purposes of Jehovah for the kingdom of God for the appearance of Jesus in his glory; "out of Zion the perfection of beauty," God will shine; Zion will be exalted, and become the praise of the whole earth."

Thus spake the man of God, fired with heavenly holy zeal, for the welfare of the saints of the most high, who were assembled around him, in breathless silence, listening to the gracious words that fell from his lips, which we feel ourselves utterly incapable of doing justice to, in this brief sketch; and can only say that with boldness and firmness he expatiated freely and fully upon those principles opposing vice and error in its various forms; we are persuaded that his instructions will be indelibly engraven on the memories of thousands who listened to his discourse. Firm and unwavering in his principles, he has ever been the advocate of sterling integrity, righteousness and truth, and when we saw him exerting all his energies to impress upon the minds of the audience the importance of the thing that he advocated, it reminded us of the sayings of one of the ancient servants of God. "I will declare thy righteousness in the great congregation.' OMEGA.

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## STEWARDSHIP - TEMPORAL POSSESSIONS

Our Heavenly Father created the earth and all things that are in the earth. He has entrusted the earth into the care of man but He is still the owner of all things. This makes us all stewards unto Him, and we will all give an account to Him of this *STEWARDSHIP*.

Parents are entrusted with children to love, teach and care for. They are wonderful gifts from God. Adults are given many possessions such as homes, cars, furniture and money. These all come from our Heavenly Father and He asks us to use them and care for them according to His plan. God provides the very breath we breathe and life itself that we may labor together for Him.

Children are in turn, entrusted with clothes, books, toys, musical instruments and money and they must take care of all these as their *STEWARDSHIP*.

God wants us to know and understand that *all things belong to Him* and we must learn to share what he has given us so everyone may have enough to live and enjoy life. When everyone has all they need for a happy and joyful life then they are *equal in temporal things*. This pleases God and He in turn blesses His people with an *abundance of spiritual blessings* and their lives are full and complete.

*Zion* will be like that--everyone having plenty and no one being poor or needy. Just think how much we as a church would have to share with others if we the members were giving all our *surplus* to the church to help others.

Our Heavenly Father wants us to *grow* by understanding His *celestial law* and then be ready to apply this law in our lives at every opportunity.

God shows to us His great plan for *Zion* in His wonderful *scriptures* and asks us to learn the plan by *study and faith*. He then gives us the steps to take to use His plan for the *building of Zion*.

What are those steps? When we actually begin to build the city we will do the following:

1. We will lay down *all* our possessions at the feet of the Bishop, thereby returning them to God.
2. We will be given back what we *need* for ourselves and our family.
3. We will be given a job or *stewardship* or placed in a *stewardship order*.
4. We will have a place to live according to our *needs* or the size of our family.

This is the true *equality* that God desires for us. When we do this, He will bless us with great *spiritual blessings*.

God has also told us how we may remain equal. When we work at our *stewardship* we will have more than we *need* for ourselves and our families. This is *surplus* and we give it to the *storehouse* regularly thereby remaining *equal* with each other. This process is called *total consecration*.

THIS IS QUITE A BIG STEP FOR US TO TAKE! We need to *grow* to the point where we are ready to do this. God wants to help us grow and get ready for this total consecration, so he gives us the opportunity to *grow and learn* by filing our *tithing statements and paying our tithes*.

It can be explained this way: When we *file* our first tithing statement we are beginning to acknowledge that our Heavenly Father has given us all that we have. To prove we believe this, we *return* to Him 1/10 in the form of tithes. Then instead of giving *all our surplus*, we give Him 1/10 of our *Surplus or Increase* on a regular basis. This isn't much for Him to ask of us but it does help us to *learn and grow and prepare* for the building of the *Holy City--God's Kingdom* here in Independence.

If God looked at our record of paying and filing our tithes so far, do you think he would say we are ready to begin building His city?

*Tithing* is not a hard job but a wonderful opportunity of telling our Heavenly Father--*We want to learn and grow and be prepared to help build ZION!*

If we do not file and pay our 1/10 we will never learn or be able to give our *all*, will we?

Tithing is the *law of God* to us. Can we willingly break God's laws and expect to live in Zion or in the world to come with Him? No! We cannot.

Let us REPENT and begin to keep all God's laws.

Here are some questions to answer from the *Scriptures*.

1. Do the scriptures teach us equality? (D&C 77:1c-f, 70:3d, 51:1b, Mosiah 11:153-155, 4 Nephi 1:1-4, Gen. 7:23, Acts 2:44,45, 4:34-37, 2 Cor. 8:14)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

(On your own, look up the following also: D&C 49:3, 101:2f, Jacob 2:22-24, Mosiah 11:7, Alma 1:37-47, 2:19-22, 3 Nephi 12:11,12, Rules and Resolutions 783:16, Evening and Morning Star page 130 "Faith of the Church".)

2. Who owns all things? (Psalm 24:1, D&C 101:2d, 10b, Mosiah 1:53-61, 2:37)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

(On your own, look up Exodus 9:29, 19:5, Psalm 50:10-12, Psalm 89:11)

3. When we give a gift to God, what should our attitude be? (1 Chron. 29:11-16, Mosiah 2:28-37)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

(On your own, read the words of hymn numbers 423 and 424)

4. Is simply acknowledging that "all things belong to God" enough? (Matt. 25:13-31, especially verses 24-27, D&C 81:4d-g)

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Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. By what law will Zion be built? (D&C 102:2c)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the benefits of keeping the Celestial Law? (D&C 43:3a,b, 85:5,8, Genesis 9:21-23)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who will dwell with God the Father in eternity and where will they dwell? (D&C 85:4, 76:5 especially verse "J").

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

8. How will the saints possess the land of Zion? (D&C 102:8b)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

9. In D&C 102:8b the Lord says "...laws of consecration which I have given..." Let's look at this law in the scriptures:

A. What was the first step? (D&C 72:3e, 58:7a-c, Acts 4:34, 5)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

B. What was the second step? (D&C 4:9)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

C. What was the continuing third step? (D&C 42:10, 14b, 51:4a, 70:2b)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

For further study on step "A", see D&C 106:1a, 2a, Church History vol. 1, page 300, Evening and Morning Star page 46 "To The Saints", page 61 "Let Every Man Learn His Duty", page 130 "Faith of the Church".

For further study on step "B", see D&C 57:3,6, 72:4a, Church History vol. 1, page 306, 307, 381, 300, Evening and Morning Star page 46, 61, Rules and Resolutions 851:6, 977:3.

For further study on step "C", see D&C 81:4f,g, 87:7, 106:1a, 2a, Rules and Resolutions 851:12.

10. Does being equal mean everyone will have a one bedroom home or all wear the same clothes? (D&C 51:1a,b)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

11. Was the understanding of the early leaders of our church concerning consecration comparable to what has been presented in steps A, B, and C above? (Church History vol. 1, pages 300, 301, Joseph Smith Jr's "Lectures on Faith" #6, Evening and Morning Star page 54 "Zion", page 61 "Let Every Man Learn His duty", page 9 third paragraph, pp 110, 111 and page 130 first five paragraphs.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

12. Did Zion fail in 1833 because the people "MISUNDERSTOOD" or because they "DISOBEYED"? (D&C 83:8, 87:8b, 94:5f,g, 97:4, 98:3, 98:5k-m, 98:10c, 100:1b, 102:2,3a)

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

13. Will we have a "new law" to replace D&C 42 in the future? (D&C 122:6a-a, 129:8, Church History vol. 1 pages 259, 260.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

Do you see now why we must begin to keep the law of tithing—to teach and prepare us for the greater law of total consecration? (D&C 102:3c)

Is our unwillingness to keep the financial law holding back Zion? (Mosiah 11:166)

If our prophet asked us for an even greater commitment, would

### 11.3. Appendix C – Lord Teach Us to Pray

#### GENERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT PRAYER

1. Prayer is reaching out and up to God with our hearts, minds and spirits.
2. The need for prayer arises out of a great longing to be one with Him and with each other.
3. We must pray always and not faint.
4. Our prayers should be about everything that concerns us.
5. Family altars help to consecrate our homes to God.

"The priest's duty is to...visit the house of each member, and EXHORT THEM TO PRAY vocally and in secret, and ATTEND TO ALL FAMILY DUTIES;" (Doctrine and Covenants 17:10a,b)

"For if ye would hearken unto the spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. But behold I say unto you, that ye must pray always, and not faint...." (Book of Mormon 2 Nephi 14:11,12)

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:17,18)

**PRAYER IS**

We might compare prayer with our Heavenly Father as children communicating with an earthly father, who loves them and they in turn love him. Children rush to their fathers with joy and excitement to share something in their lives with him. He patiently and willingly listens and shares their joy and happiness with them.

At other times, children approach their father slowly and with solemnity. It might be to confess sin or wrongdoing and express sorrow at having failed him or disobeyed him. He listens seriously and reaffirms his love for his children and sends them forth renewed and cleansed.

Their approach might be with the broken heart of sorrow that tragedy has entered their lives. He helps them to put sorrow and suffering in its proper place, as an instrument to help them grow and develop. A loving earthly father would comfort them and strengthen them and they would rest assured of his love, concern and watchcare. An infinite, loving and merciful Heavenly Father would not do less.

The Doctrine and Covenants tells us, as we try to serve Him in righteousness, even our songs that we sing to Him are prayers. The scriptures also tell us again and again to pray unceasingly. We know then that prayer, in a larger sense, is an attitude of living. Our lives can be a sweet savor unto God. We can pray always or unceasingly by keeping our lives attuned to hear His voice. We will not engage in any activity in which we could not ask Him to join us there or where we would not feel free to call His name.

He desires that we share our lives with Him through prayer. Rev. 5:6-8 tells us the prayers of His saints are kept in golden vials near his throne. Our prayers are precious unto Him.

**STUDY NOTES**

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**QUESTIONS ON "PRAYER IS"**

1. Why does God love us? (1 John 4:7, 8 & 16)

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2. How do we know that God loves us? (John 3:16, 1 John 4:9)

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3. Why do we love God? (1 John 4:19)

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4. What must our attitude be towards God and His kingdom? (Mark 10:13, 3 Nephi 5:39,40)

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5. If we confess our sins and repent of them, what will God do? (1 John 1:9)

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6. How is true repentance shown? (D&C 58:9d, Proverbs 28:13)

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7. What is the purpose of chastening? (Heb. 12:6,7; James 1:3, D&C 98:1,2)

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8. If we live Godly lives, will we escape persecution? (2 Tim. 3:12)

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9. Complete this statement: "The song of the righteous is....." D&C 24:3b)

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10. What should our daily heart attitude be? (Alma 16:222)

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11. Why shouldn't we engage in idle words or thoughts? (Matt. 12:31, D&C 85:19a)

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12. Where does God keep the prayers of the Saints? (Rev. 5:8)

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**WHY DO WE PRAY?**

If we truly love God, we will want to talk with Him and walk with Him. His wisdom and knowledge are so much greater than ours. We should counsel the Lord in all our doings and He will direct our paths.

Soldiers on the front lines always try to maintain a line of communication with their headquarters. Sales representatives are always calling their factories for counsel, advice and progress reports.

A guide must be kept either in sight or in talking distance to guide us. If we truly acknowledge God our Father as our leader and as our guide or Giver of Insight, we will keep Him and His will "in sight" or in "talking distance."

Answers to our prayers may come to us even as we are praying. Or if we pause a few moments after prayer and meditate upon that which we have asked or upon the choices open to us, the correct choice or answer may be impressed upon us. At times our bosoms may burn with God's acknowledgment. Try that way or choice. Move out in faith if the choice is according to His principles given us in His Holy Word. It is not right that He should have to command us rather than lead us in everything we do in our lives. We should be anxiously engaged in building His kingdom, even Zion.

**STUDY NOTES**

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**QUESTIONS ON "WHY WE PRAY"**

1. If we truly love God, what will we do? (John 14:15, 21 & 23)

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2. What do the scriptures say about our thoughts as compared to God's thoughts? (Isaiah 55:8,9)

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3. What was the counsel of God to Oliver Cowdery in D&C 9:3?

4. What should our attitude be towards God's work? (D&C 58:6d)

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5. Should we always wait for God's commandment before acting? (D&C 58:6c)

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6. When the early restoration elders approached God in prayer, asking His will for them, what did He tell them? (D&C 6:3, 10:3, 11:3, and 12:3)

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7. What do you think the "good cause" is that we should be actively engaged in?

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**WHEN TO PRAY**

We should always start our day with prayer upon arising or soon after, asking God to go forth with us and join us in our daily activities. We should pause near the middle of our day thanking Him for walking with us. We should pray also at the end of our day before retiring, asking God to watch over us as we rest. This is not all. Our hearts should be drawn out to Him continually in the attitude of prayer.

We should only engage in those activities at which we would feel free to ask God to join us. The scriptures tell us that we should pray always and not faint (give up). God will surely bless us as we walk in close harmony with His will.

**STUDY NOTES**

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**QUESTIONS ON "WHEN TO PRAY"**

1. What can we learn about prayer from the parable of the widow and the unjust judge? (Luke 18:1-6)

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2. Basically, how many times a day should we pray? (Alma 16:219)

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3. When can we pray and expect to be heard? (Alma 16:177-182)

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4. In whose name should we pray? (3 Nephi 8:51,52; John 16:23,24)

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5. What might we accompany our prayers with? (Alma 4:6)

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6. Before we perform any task for the Lord, what should we do? (2 Nephi 14:12)

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7. If we ask God to bless our sleep, what else might we do to insure that He will? (D&C 85:38b, 119:9)

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8. On your own, read the first six chapters of the Book of Daniel and see if you can discover the reason for the excellent spirit that was in him.

**WHAT TO PRAY ABOUT**

Our prayers should concern everything that concerns us. All things are made holy by consecration unto God. This helps prevent us from having areas in our lives that we exclude God from.

God is concerned about everything in our lives. He is concerned about our jobs and our schooling and our homes, of course. But He is also watchful and concerned about all the little things of life. He will bless you in your housework or yardwork or other duties. He will walk beside you in the classrooms, at play or on the job.

A little child prays simply and humbly and may even ask God to watch over her doll and playthings. God hears and responds to this prayer.

We may be making a major decision in our lives as to work or our home or vocation or marital partner. He desires that we counsel with him that he may lead and guide us according to His greater understanding and wisdom.

The scriptures tell us that God feeds and cares for the ravens and the sparrows as they are also living souls. God has an investment in them as their creator. He sees to their needs and their songs praise him continually. He notices and cares if one of them falls to the ground. We are also told, by Him, that we are of much more value to Him than the sparrows. He even notices when a hair from our head falls to the ground. Isn't this a wonderful closeness with God? We must always remember His eye is upon us and He will watch over us and provide for us if we are not of little faith. May we consecrate ourselves and all that we have to Him according to His plan for us.

**STUDY NOTES**

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**QUESTIONS ON "WHAT TO PRAY ABOUT"**

1. Is God concerned about His creation? (Ps. 147:8-9; 2 Nephi 11:96)

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2. Are souls valuable to God? (D&C 16:3c)

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3. What does Alma suggest we pray about? (Alma 16:219-222)\_\_\_\_\_

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4. What should be our first concern? (Matt. 6:38)\_\_\_\_\_

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5. What part does faith play in prayer? (James 1:5-7)\_\_\_\_\_

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6. What 3 things did Enos pray about? (Enos 1:1-22)\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Will prayers help the sick? (James 5:15)\_\_\_\_\_

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8. What is the relationship of prayer to temptation? (3 Nephi 8:47,50)\_\_\_\_\_

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9. On your own, compare the prayer of the Publican with the prayer of the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14.

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## FAMILY ALTARS

We must develop Zionics lives to have Zionics homes. We also need to develop Zionics homes to build the city of Zion. One way to help develop our homes is to consecrate them to the Lord and then have a Family Altar or Family Worship each day.

Family or Home worship may be very simple and for the person alone, may consist of scripture reading and prayer. The reading might also be taken from the Daily Bread or other good books.

If there are children or others to share in the worship, each one should have the opportunity to take their turn at planning and conducting it. The small child may tell a scripture story from memory or from a picture or may want to sing a song(s) that he has learned. Songs are appropriate at any worship.

You may want to vary your worships as you are led by God's Spirit. Painting or clay modeling may prove rewarding. The setting may be varied as weather permits.

The Home Worship may also be used as a time for every one to present their problems and viewpoints and to discuss them. This discussion should be led and directed, by the one leading, towards the scriptures and towards God's answers to our problems.

The child learns to pray as he kneels and listens to the prayers of others. They learn a reverence for the word of God as we turn to it for the answers of today. Children learn to love the church hymns as they sing and lead them at Family Worship. If you have your worships faithfully with your children, rest assured that they too will one day have their own worships in their homes.

We should also pray over all our food, asking God's blessing upon it as we try to eat good nourishing foods. Each family should read the scriptures concerning food and pray for an understanding from God. Then follow this understanding as God leads. The prayer over our food helps to strengthen the faith of those who hear and also teaches them to pray.

We each must go, at times, to our own secret places or closets and pour out our hearts to God concerning our deepest personal feelings and needs.

### STUDY NOTES

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### QUESTIONS ON "FAMILY ALTARS"

1. What does Christ command us in 3 Nephi 8:52? See also Alma 16:219.

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2. What will goodly parents do? (1 Nephi 1:1)\_\_\_\_\_

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3. What must we teach our children? (Gen. 6:61; Mos. 1:4-6)\_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the plan of salvation briefly? (Gen. 6:57-63)\_\_\_\_\_

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5. Describe the parental responsibility in D&C 68:4a-f\_\_\_\_\_

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6. What must we teach our children concerning contention? (Mos. 2:25-27)

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**ANSWERS TO PRAYER**

Some people have felt that God has not answered their prayer. If we always ask that God's will be done, in our prayers, He sometimes withholds what we ask for, knowing what is best for us. He also says "no" at times. Many times He begins to answer our prayers and we soon have our answers even though we may fail to recognize it when it comes.

God answers us sometimes out of heaven with His own voice or the voice of His servants, it is the same. Many will bear testimony of this in their lives. At other times, it is the still small inner voice of the Spirit that answers us. We may be led to the scriptures to find our answer.

If we have an important decision to make in our lives, here is one way of making it. Take the question to the Lord and ask Him to help you make it. (This is preferred over asking Him to make it for you.) Study out the decisions in your mind. You will find fasting helpful in your seeking. If you are truly open to an answer and would follow God's leading, then He can cause your bosom to burn within you towards the correct choice. Or He may let you make the decision with the assurance you are making the right one. Go ahead then and make it. He will bless you and help you if you trust in Him. His leading will always be in accordance with scriptural principles.

Consider this also: at times it may not matter which choice we make, both or several being within God's will.

Some have said, "I don't know how to pray." We should approach our Lord and ask as did His disciples of old, "teach us to pray." It is His Spirit that teaches us to pray. It is the evil one who teaches us that we must not pray. Go to God on your knees and ask that His Spirit guide you in prayer.

Your prayers need not be long, only sincere. Look at the prayer of the publican in the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke. It contained only seven words yet the scriptures say that he was justified. In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, Peter prays three words and the Lord answers his prayer.

If at times, we feel that the Lord is slow to answer our prayers, it may be an indication of the need of repentance.

**STUDY NOTES**

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**QUESTIONS ON "ANSWERS TO PRAYER"**

1. What was Peter's short prayer? (Matt. 14:25)\_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is one of the reasons that we don't receive the blessings we need? (James 4:2,3)

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3. What does it mean to ask amiss? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the role of faith in answered prayer? (James 1:6) \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Again, what does the parable of the widow and the unjust judge teach us? (Luke 18:1-5)

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6. Does God want to bless us and answer our prayers? (Luke 11:10-14)

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7. What does D&C 98:3 tell us about answers to prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN We should respect and honor our father and mother. If we acknowledge someone as our father, we must allow him rights in our lives; the right to give rules and laws which we must obey. Rights to chasten us for our own good. The right to direct our lives out of his greater understanding of what is best for us. We realize that we are but children before Him and need to grow in grace and love. This is our request, that He listen to our prayer. We are calling His name.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME We are only stating that which is true. He alone is holy. We have no righteousness of our own, only His which He gives to us. This reinforces our belief of being His child.

THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH, AS IT IS DONE IN HEAVEN We now express the greatest desire of our hearts; that He might be acknowledged supreme ruler over every heart and soul, not just our own. We show forth our belief, that if we bring forth and establish the cause of Zion (His kingdom - D&C 102:9b), we are hastening the time that His kingdom will fill the whole earth. This also must be a part of our prayer, to say to God, "Your will and not mine be done."

GIVE US THIS DAY, OUR DAILY BREAD Our faith assures us, as we view His magnificent creation, even as He provides for all His lesser creatures, He will provide for us if we trust Him. He sustains the sparrow, the lily and all things which He has created. He gives us even our breath that we might labor with Him and with others for our food and shelter. If we acknowledge that He gives us our material blessings, we in turn are willing to use them in the manner He has designed.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US We all have our shortcomings and our failings, otherwise, this phrase would be "forgive us when we trespass." We must all come before God repentant, knowing He always answers the prayer of true repentance. This speaks of action on our part, as we in turn show mercy and love, God's love, to others. We are sometimes the "those" and sometimes the "us". Let us always strive towards reconciliation and be long-suffering and slow to anger or take offense.

SUFFER US NOT TO BE LED INTO TEMPTATION We are like sheep and He is our shepherd. He knows the paths, the hills and the valleys. We trust Him to lead us in the green pastures. We then pray "nevertheless, THY will be done", in our lives. We are weak but He is able to lead us in higher paths.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL He is our strength. If He is with us who will we fear? He is our deliverer from sin and evil. We cannot stand alone, of ourselves; we will fail.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN. Would our prayer be complete without this praise and acknowledgment? He is our blessed King and we are His willing subjects. All things are His eternally. Amen.