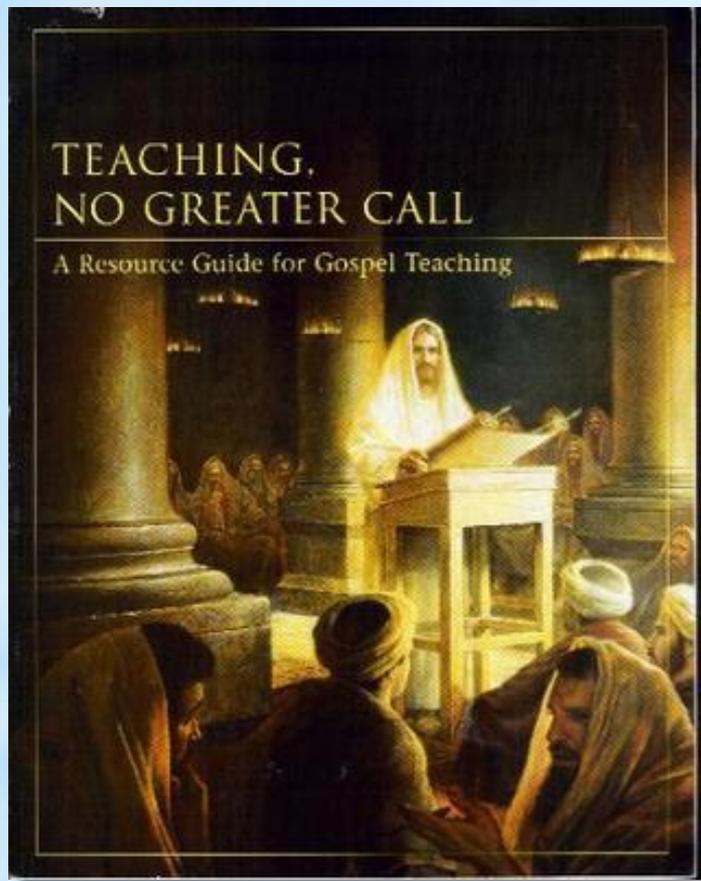


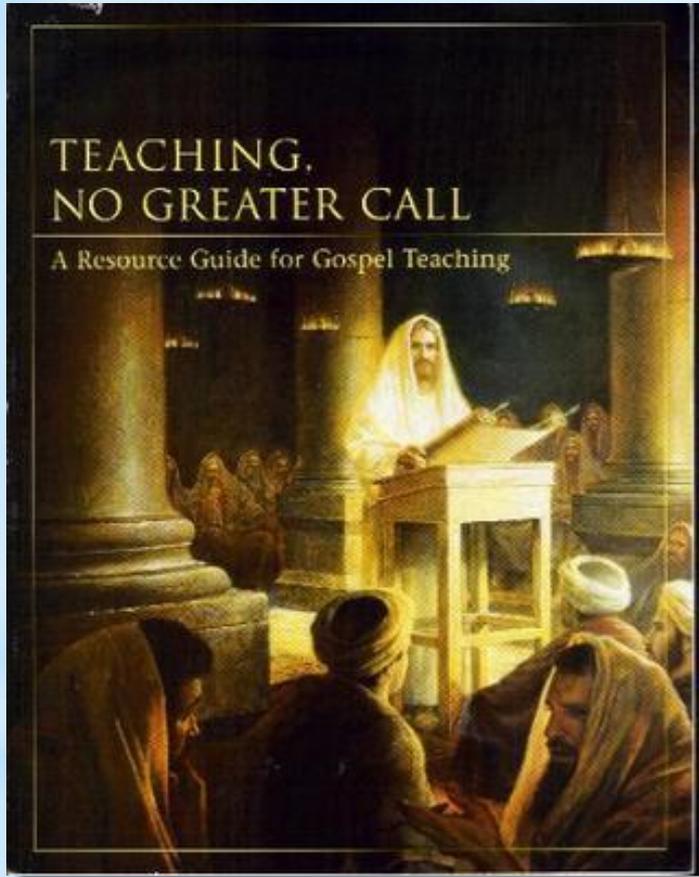
# Teaching, No Greater Call: A Resource Guide for Gospel Teaching

Teaching the Gospel Course



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# Lesson 5: Invite Diligent Learning

Teaching the Gospel Course

# *Purpose*

To help you understand that individuals are responsible to learn the gospel; to help them see how you as teachers can help others fulfill that responsibility.

Today's lesson will start with a  
Reader Theater Presentation.

***Alma 32:27-28 ,***  
***Alma 32:33, 38, 41.***

These scripture references correspond with the teachings of Alma that will be used in this presentation..

The purpose of this presentation is  
to examine the responsibility  
individuals have to learn the gospel.

## *Narrator:*

As Alma and his brethren were preaching among an apostate people called the Zoramites, they entered one of the Zoramites' synagogues. There they heard the Zoramites declare that "there [would] be no Christ".

After hearing this false teaching, Alma and his brethren separated to preach the word of God and testify of Christ. A great multitude of Zoramites approached Alma, and one of these Zoramites spoke to him.

## Zoramite:

Behold, what shall these my brethren do, for they are despised of all men because of their poverty, yea, and more especially by our priests; for they have cast us out of our synagogues which we have labored abundantly to build with our own hands; and they have cast us out because of our exceeding poverty; and we have no place to worship our God; and behold, what shall we do?

## **Narrator:**

And now when Alma heard this, he turned him about, his face immediately towards him, and he beheld with great joy; for he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the word.

# **The Individual's Responsibility**

Be in a preparation to hear the word (be teachable).

Let's go back to the Readers'  
Theater Presentation

## **Narrator:**

Seeing that the Zoramites were in a preparation to hear the word of God, Alma taught them how to truly receive the word and gain a testimony of its truth.

**Alma:**

But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words.

## Alma:

Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me.

**Alma:**

And now, behold, because ye have tried the experiment, and planted the seed, and it swelleth and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow, ye must needs know that the seed is good.

# The Individual's Responsibility

Be in a preparation to hear the word (be teachable).

Give Place for the word.

Let's go back to the Readers'  
Theater Presentation

## **Narrator:**

Toward the end of his discourse Alma explained to the Zoramites that after they gained a testimony of the word, there would remain more to do. In giving this explanation, he compared the word to a tree that has grown from a seed.

## *Alma:*

But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life.

# The Individual's Responsibility

Be in a preparation to hear the word  
(be teachable).

Give Place for the word.

Nourish the word.

That ends our Reader's Theater part  
of the lesson.

Thank you to our cast of characters

As the Narrator . . . . . Jordon Hill

As the Zoramite . . . . . Jordon Hill

As Alma . . . . . Jordon Hill

Alma taught the Zoramites that they were individually responsible to learn the gospel.

We are all individually responsible to  
learn the gospel.

Individuals who are just beginning to accept this responsibility are “in a preparation to hear the word” (Alma 32:6).

Others are experimenting on the word and giving place for the word to be planted in their hearts (see [Alma 32:27-28](#)).

Still others are already nourishing the word with faith, diligence, and patience (see [Alma 32:41](#)).

**Individuals learn the gospel  
through their faith, diligence, and  
patience.**

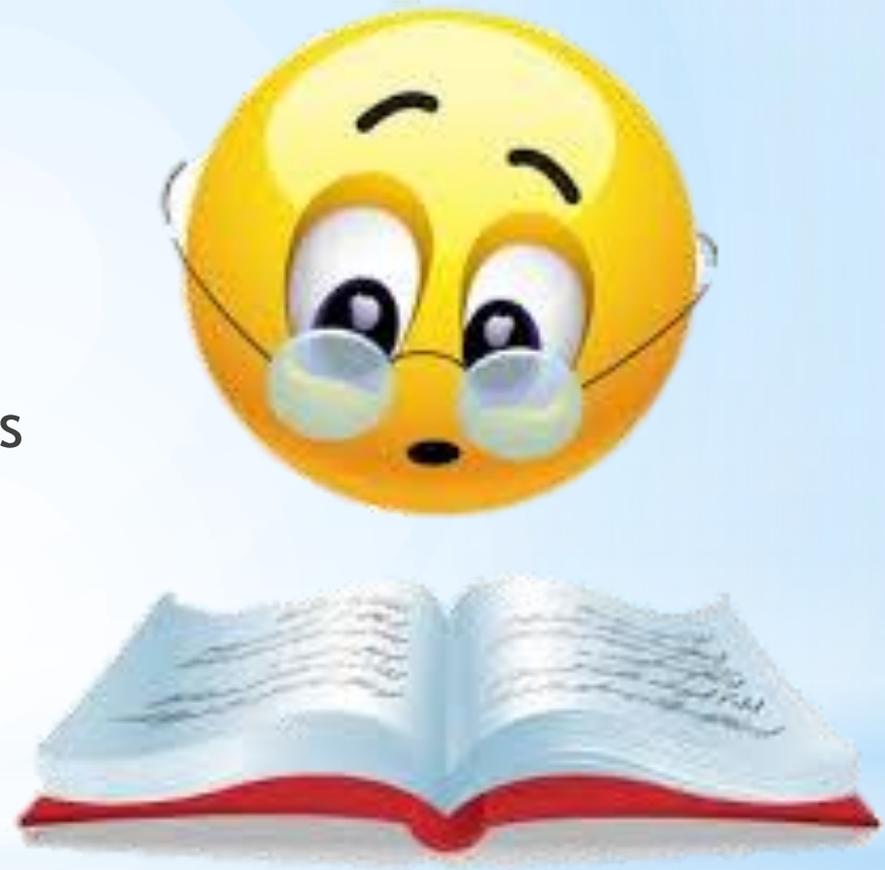
What are some  
specific things  
people can do to  
“nourish the  
word”?



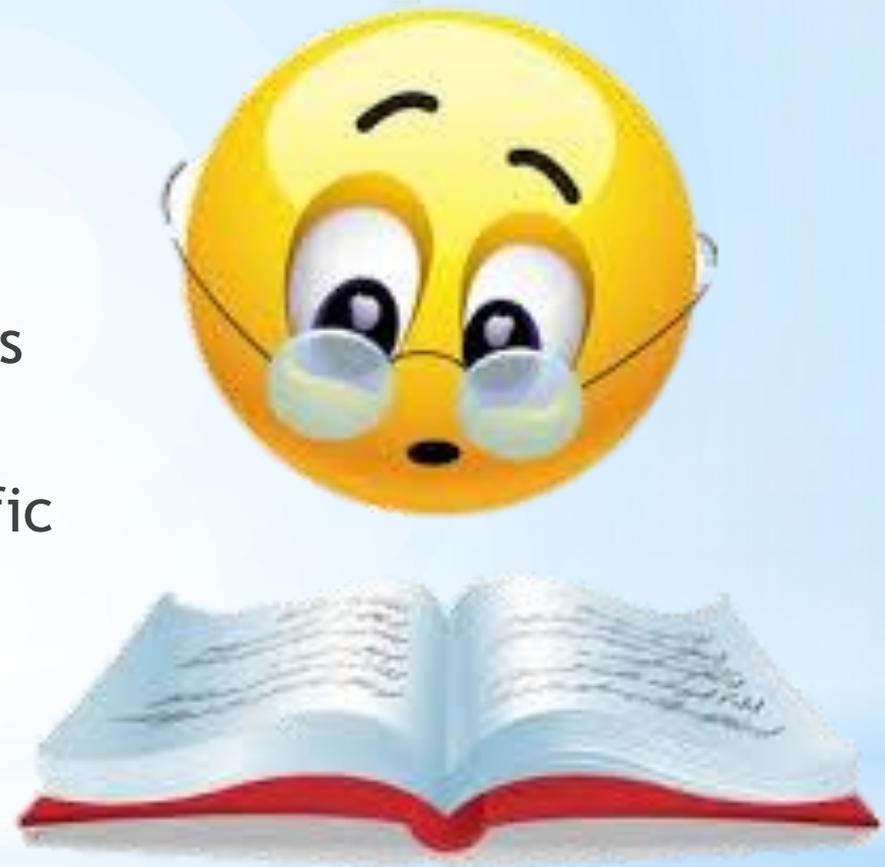


Here is a partial  
list of some  
things people can  
do to “nourish  
the Word”?

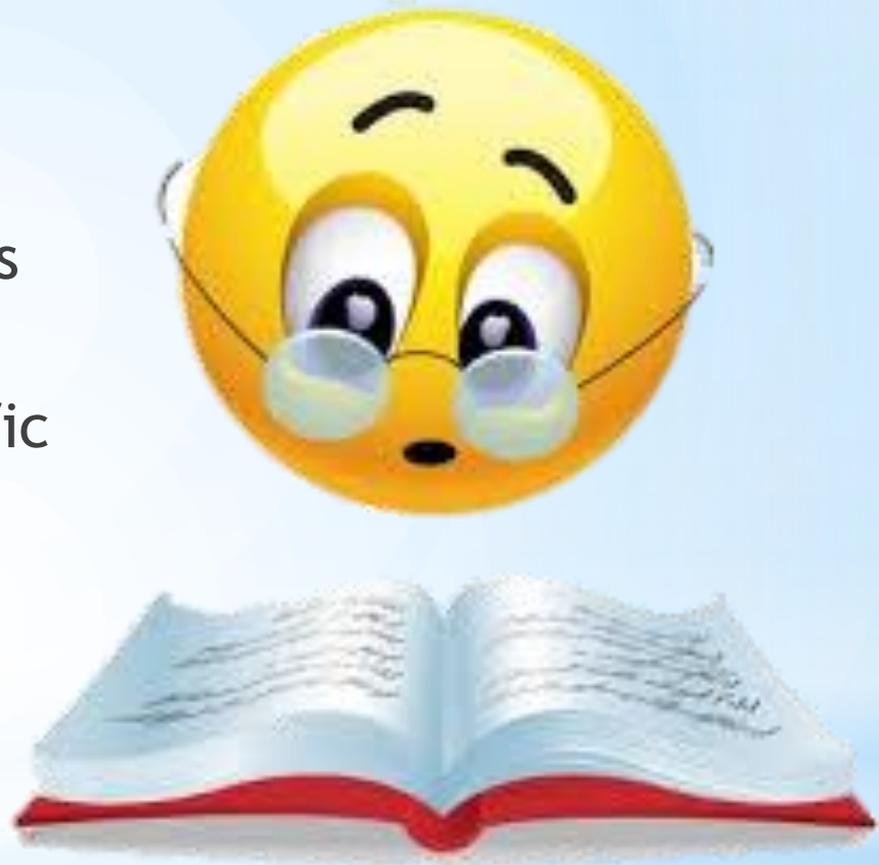
a. Study and ponder the scriptures daily.



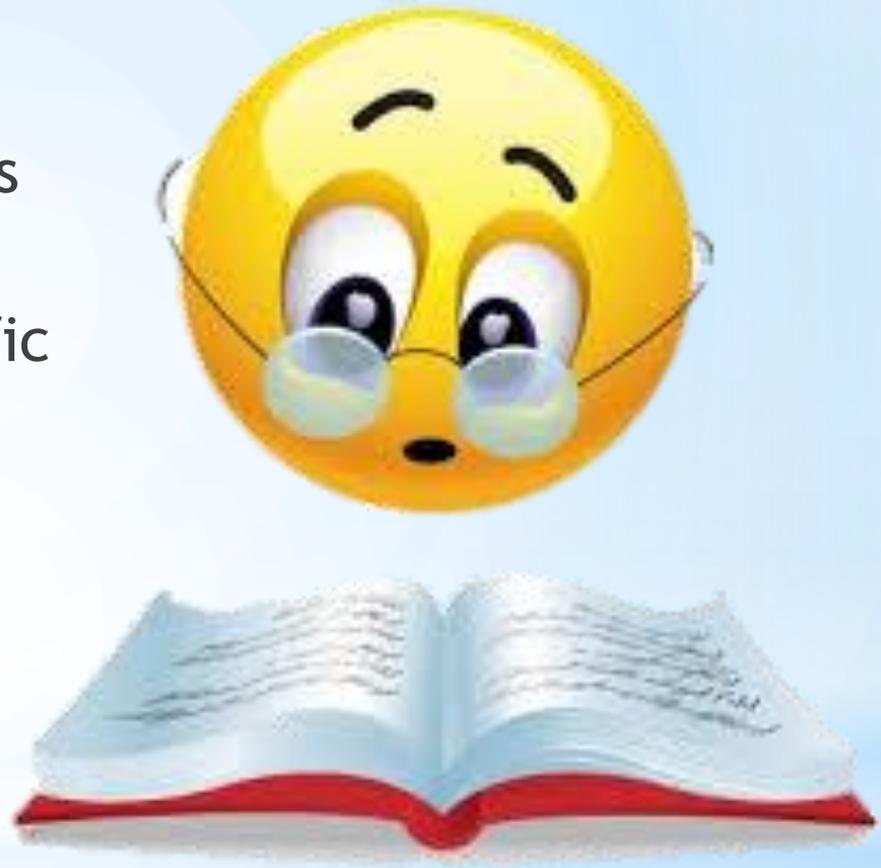
- a. Study and ponder the scriptures daily.
- b. Search the scriptures for specific answers to questions.



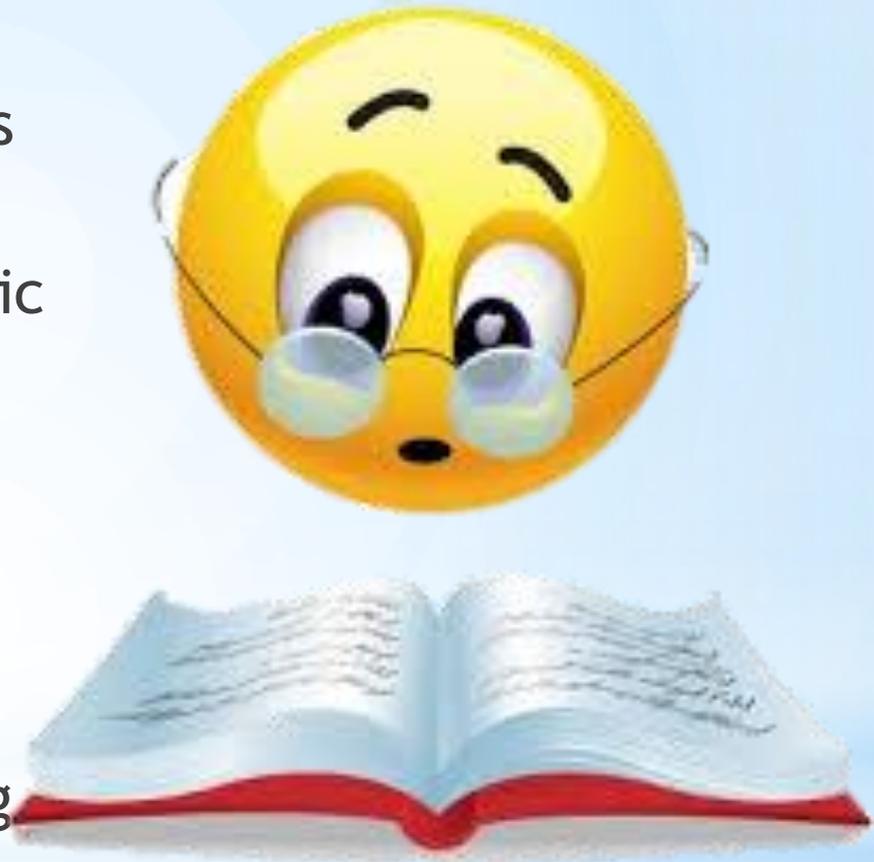
- a. Study and ponder the scriptures daily.
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- c. Study addresses from general conference.



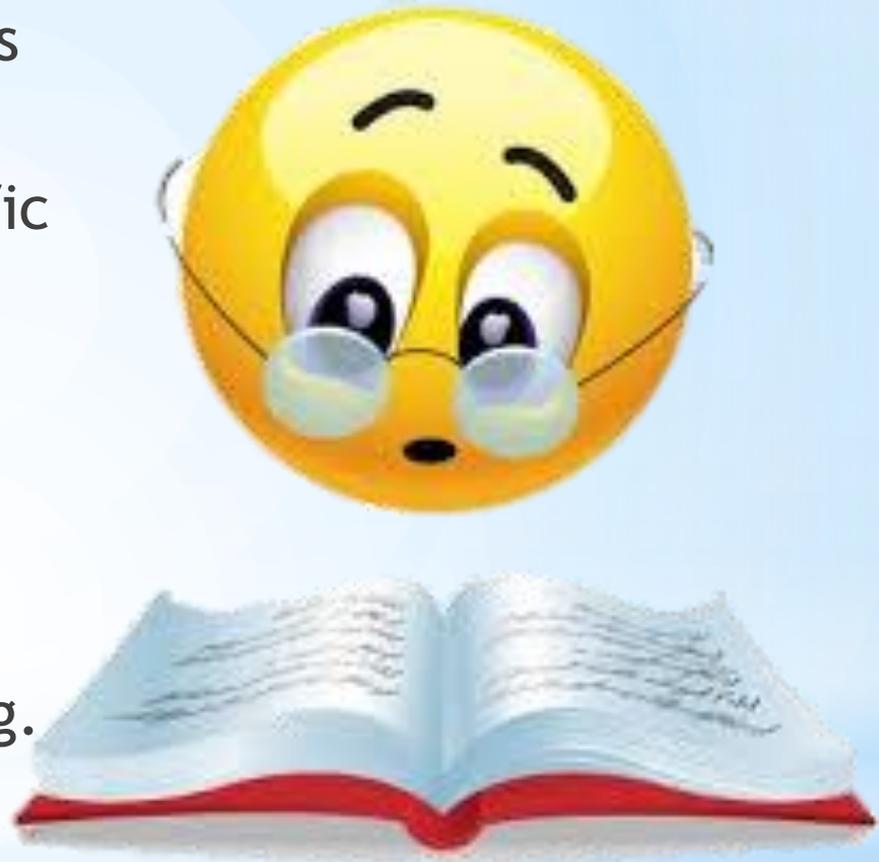
- a. Study and ponder the scriptures daily.
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- c. Study addresses from general conference.
- d. Study articles in Church magazines.



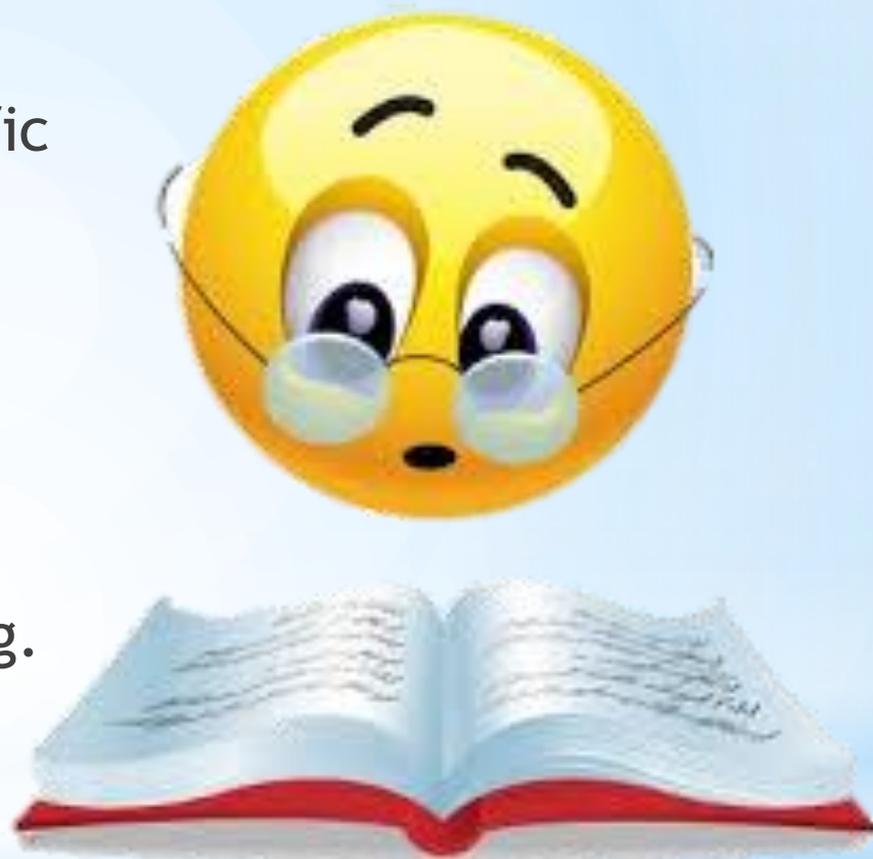
- a. Study and ponder the scriptures daily.
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- c. Study addresses from general conference.
- d. Study articles in Church magazines.
- e. Fast and pray for understanding



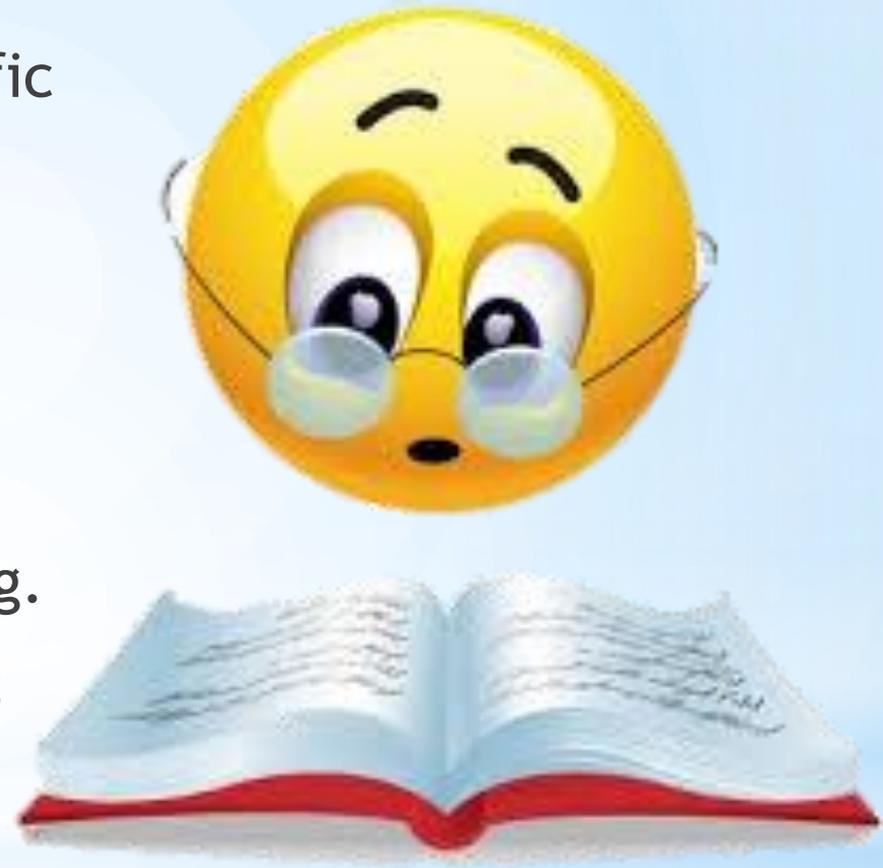
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- f. Seek understanding while doing temple work.



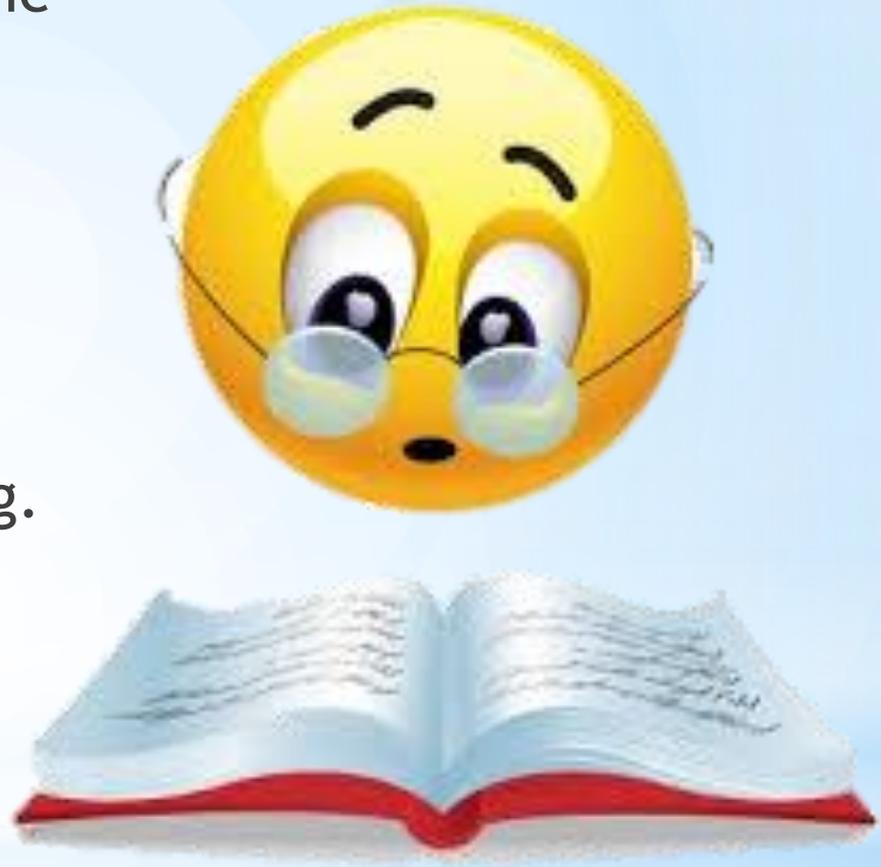
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- g. Discuss gospel principles with family members and friends.



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- h. Follow the guidance of the Spirit.



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- e. Fast and pray for understanding.
- f. Seek understanding while doing temple work.
- g. Discuss gospel principles with family members and friends.
- h. Follow the guidance of the Spirit.
- i. Strive faithfully to obey the commandments.





What blessings  
have come to you  
as a result of  
your diligent  
efforts to learn  
the gospel?

**Teachers should help individuals exercise their agency to learn and live the gospel.**

Remember that God has given us agency—the power to choose good or evil (see [D&C 29:35](#)).

Elder James E. Faust, in the October 1987 General Conference made the following Statement:



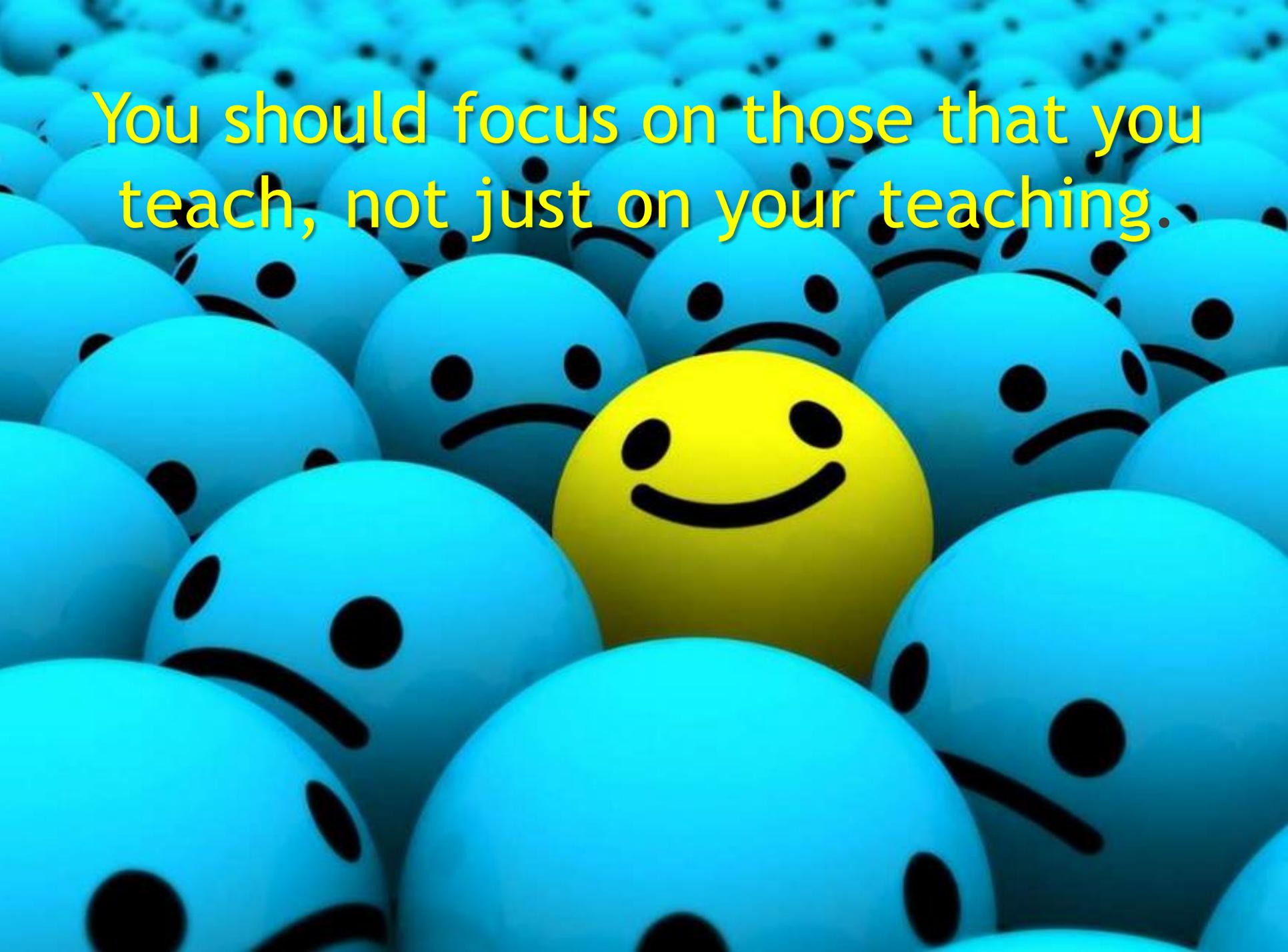
\* Click above to start video

[Click here if video doesn't start](#)

What difference does it make in our teaching to realize that individuals have agency and are responsible for their own learning?



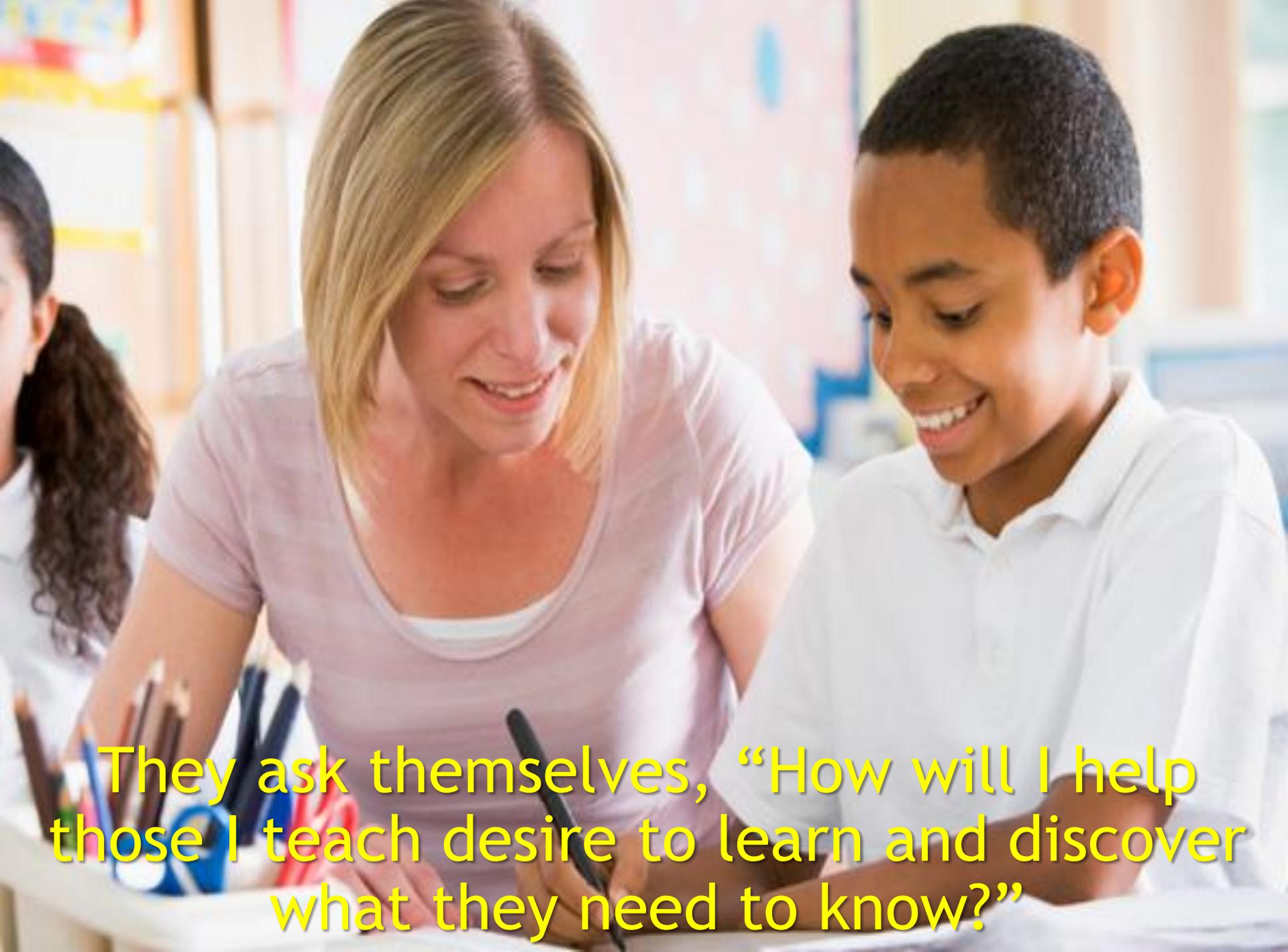
You should focus on those that you teach, not just on your teaching.



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a grey blazer, stands in front of a green chalkboard. She has a serious, focused expression and is pointing with a black chalk stick at the word 'their' on the board. The words 'there', 'their', and 'they're' are written in white chalk on the board, stacked vertically. Her left hand is on her hip.

there  
their  
they're

Effective gospel teachers do not merely think about what they will teach.



They ask themselves, “How will I help those I teach desire to learn and discover what they need to know?”



In doing so, teachers respect the agency of those they teach and help them find joy in accepting their responsibility to learn.

As we strive to help others accept their responsibility to learn the gospel, we should invite and encourage them rather than push them.





We should ponder  
and pray about our  
plans to help each  
person we teach.

We should not do anything that could detract from others' desire to learn the gospel.

**AVOIDING DISTRACTIONS**

What are some things teachers might do that could detract from people's desire to learn the gospel?





Here is a partial list of things that a teacher might do that detract from people's desire to learn the gospel.

\*a. Read lessons to them from the manual.



- \* a. Read lessons to them from the manual.
- \* b. Spend most of the lesson time lecturing.





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- \* c. Try to impress them with knowledge or teaching skills.



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- \* d. Criticize or treat lightly their questions and comments.



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- \* c. Try to impress them with knowledge or teaching skills.
- \* d. Criticize or treat lightly their questions and comments.
- \* e. Make comments or ask questions that might undermine their faith.

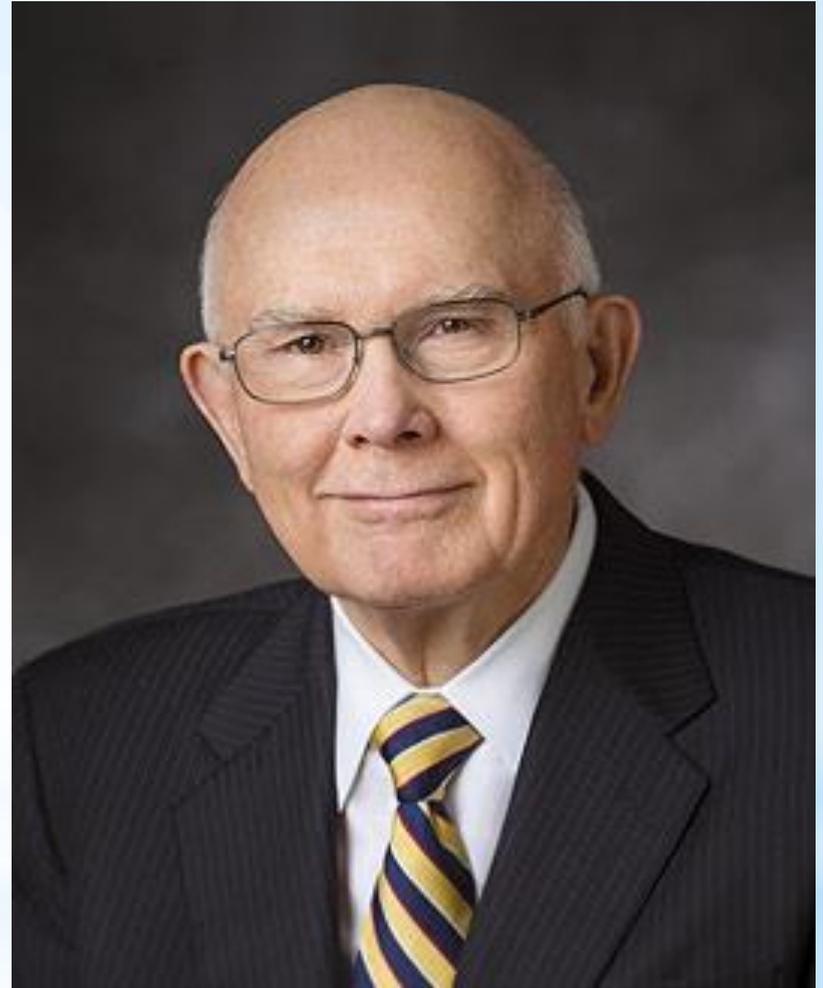


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- \* e. Make comments or ask questions that might undermine their faith.
- \* f. Use language or examples that could cause the Spirit to withdraw.



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- \* d. Criticize or treat lightly their questions and comments.
- \* e. Make comments or ask questions that might undermine their faith.
- \* f. Use language or examples that could cause the Spirit to withdraw.
- \* g. Fail to center lessons on gospel truths.

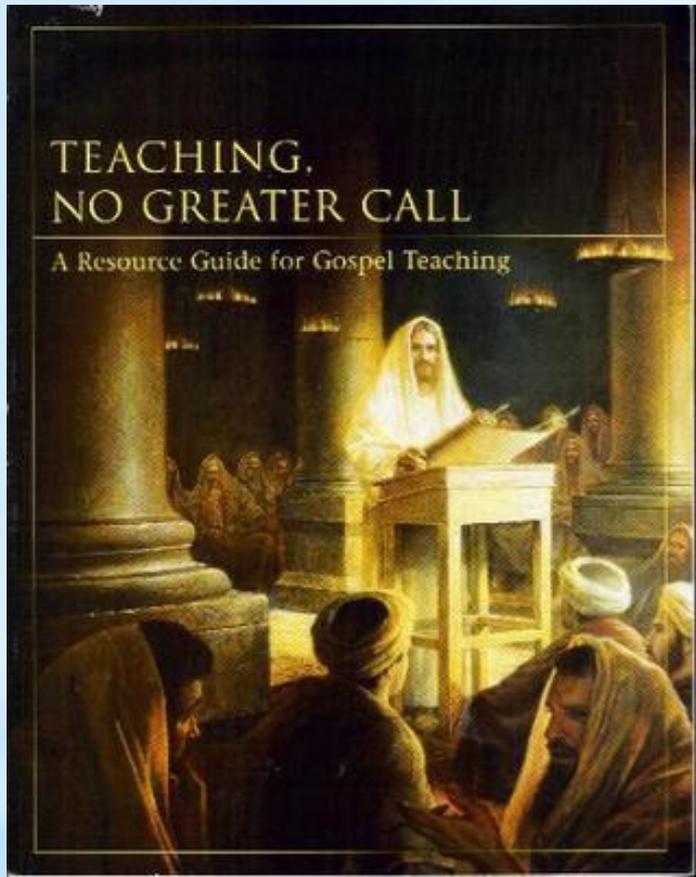
\*Elder Dallin H. Oaks  
made the following  
statement:



“Every gospel teacher who seeks to follow the Master will *focus all of his efforts on others and never on himself*. Satan said, ‘Send me, ... I will redeem all mankind, ... and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.’ Contrast that proposal with the example of the Savior, who said, ‘Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever’. A gospel teacher will focus his teaching on the needs of the sheep and the glory of the Master. He will avoid the limelight. He will teach the flock that they should always look to the Master. He will never obscure their view of the Master by standing in the way or by casting a shadow of self-promotion or self-interest” (address given 31 March 1998).

There are many things we  
can do to invite diligent  
learning.

# From Page 60 in the Teaching, No Greater Call manual.



(Warning: Pay attention to what 3 things help to invite diligent learning - there is a test coming up)

## INVITE DILIGENT LEARNING

---

**Each of us is responsible to learn the gospel through diligent effort.**

**We are also privileged at various times to serve as teachers – to inspire and help others in their responsibility to learn the gospel.**

**We render this important service by doing all we can to:**

- 1. Awaken and hold the interest of those we teach.**
- 2. Encourage their active participation in lessons.**
- 3. Show them how to live according to the truths they learn.**

**We are to do these things with love and by the power of the Spirit. This means that we should focus not so much on our performance as on how well we help others learn the gospel diligently and live it faithfully.**

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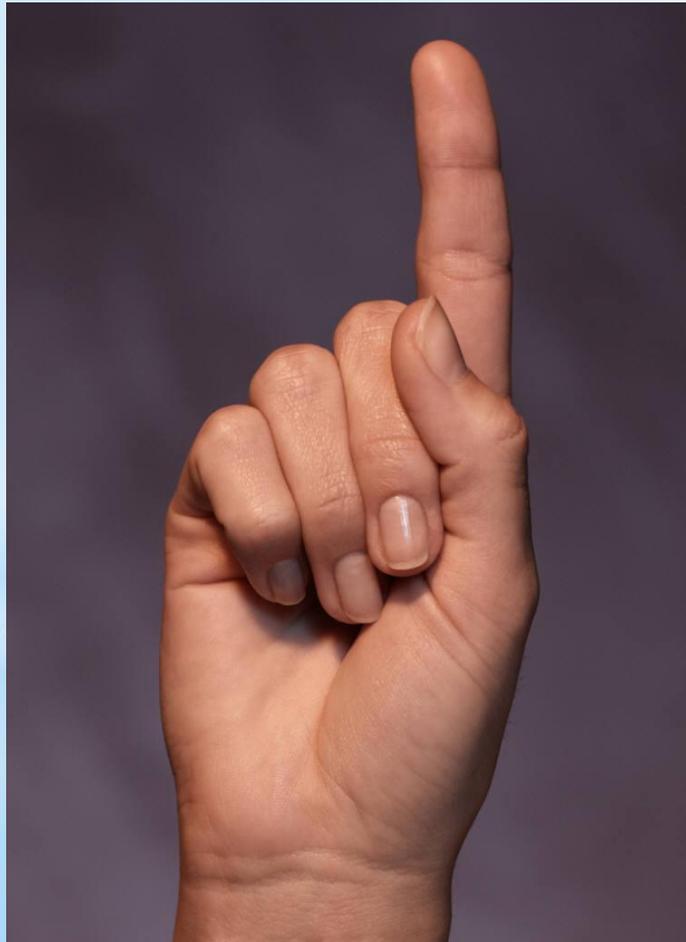
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What (3) things,  
that were just  
read, can we do  
to invite diligent  
learning?



**We render this important service by  
doing all we can to:**



- 1. Awaken and hold the  
interest of those we  
teach.**

**We render this important service by  
doing all we can to:**



**2. Encourage their  
active participation in  
lessons.**

**We render this important service by  
doing all we can to:**



**3. Show them how to  
live according to the  
truths they learn.**

**Here are some ideas on how you can  
invite diligent learning.**

**As we go thru these ideas, think of one  
or two that you can use on an  
upcoming teaching opportunity.**

**a. Ask someone to prepare to assist with a lesson. Help him or her prepare.**

**b. Ask someone to prepare an object lesson.**

**c. Share personal experiences as appropriate.**

**d. Ask those you teach to ponder the blessings the Lord has given them and their families.**

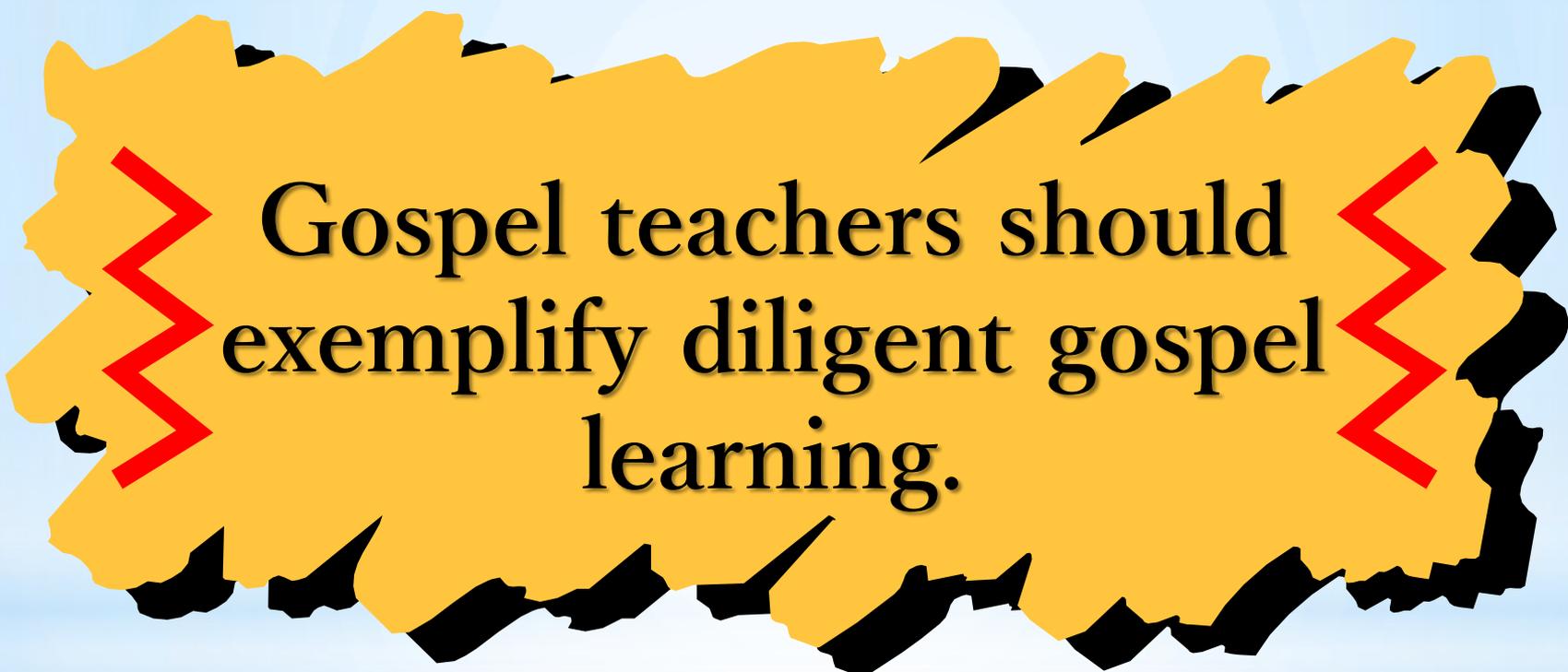
**e. Teach how to read the scriptures with understanding.**

**f. Acknowledge the worth of each individual's contribution to the lesson. Listen to and make use of ideas expressed during discussions.**

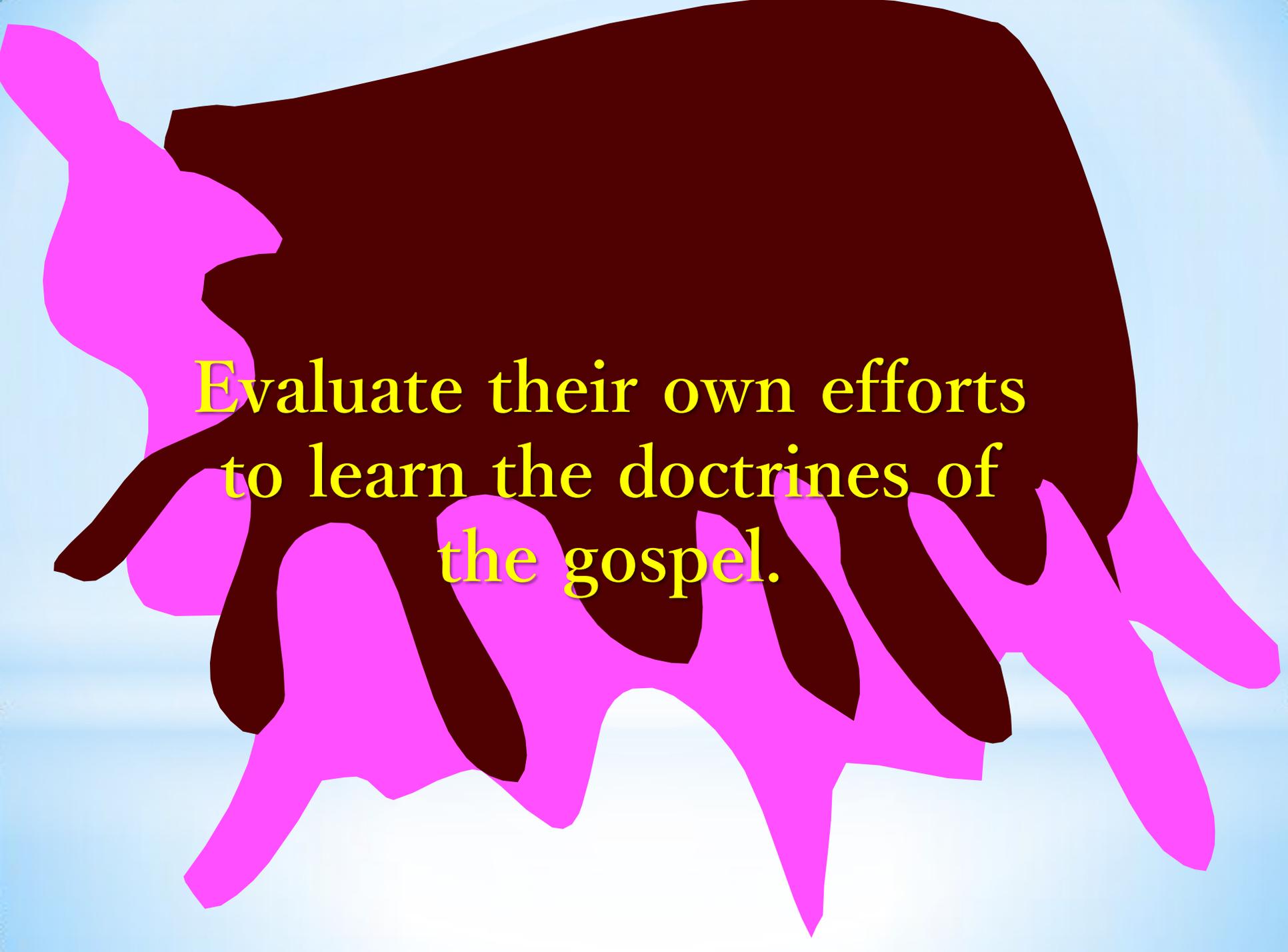
**g. Ask questions that stimulate thought and invite contributions to discussions.**

**h. When someone asks a question, invite others to suggest answers.**

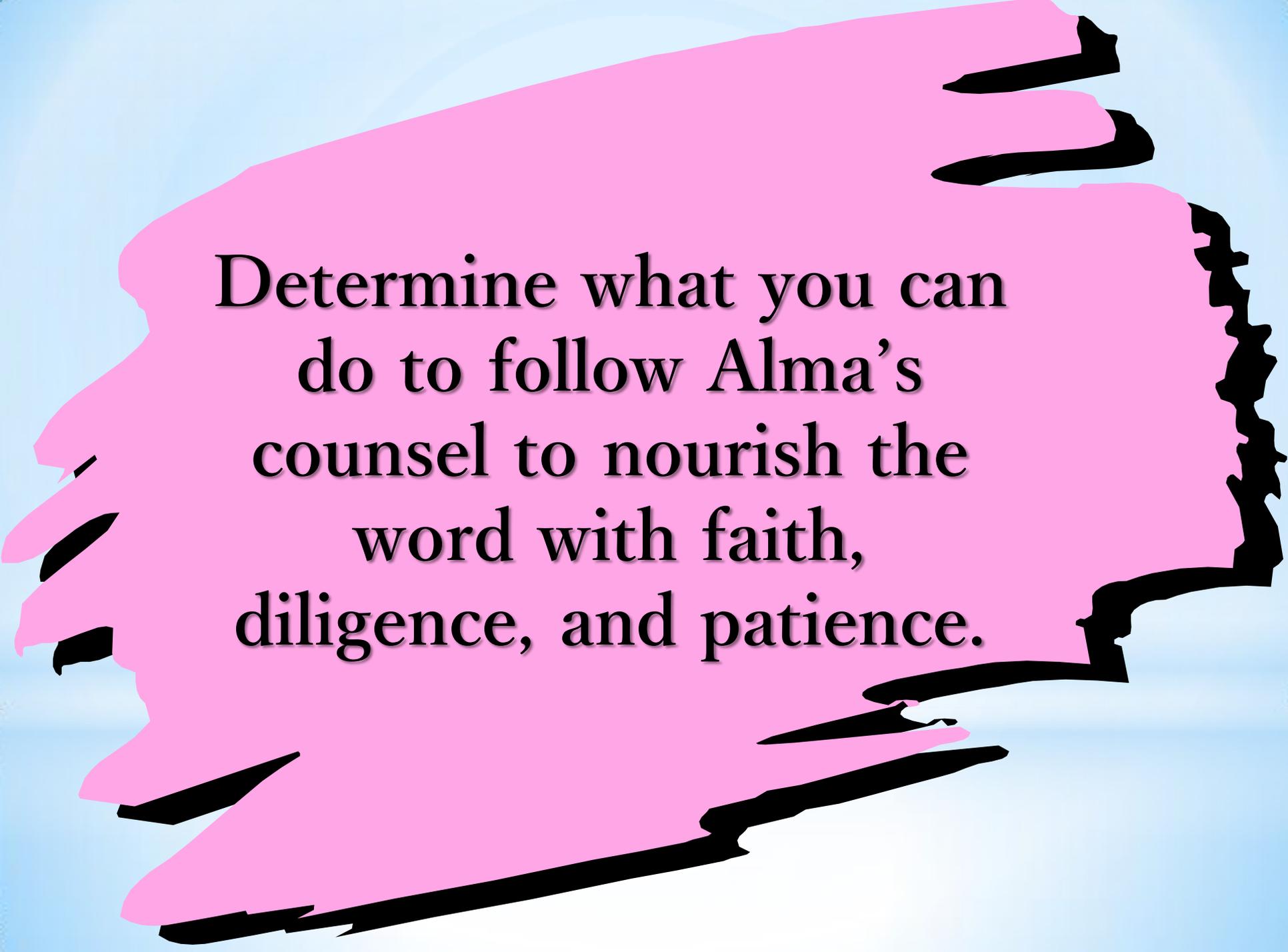
**i. Ask those you teach to think about how they can apply the things they have learned.**



Gospel teachers should  
exemplify diligent gospel  
learning.



Evaluate their own efforts  
to learn the doctrines of  
the gospel.



Determine what you can  
do to follow Alma's  
counsel to nourish the  
word with faith,  
diligence, and patience.



Remember the  
sacredness of each  
individual's agency.



**President Spencer  
W. Kimball made  
the following  
statement:**

\*“The treasures of both secular and spiritual knowledge are hidden ones—but hidden from those who do not properly search and strive to find them. ... Spiritual knowledge is not available merely for the asking; even prayers are not enough. It takes persistence and dedication of one’s life”

*(The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 389-90).*

I want to bear my Testimony that when properly prepared to teach, and with the help of the spirit, we can touch the hearts of those we teach and will invite diligent learning.

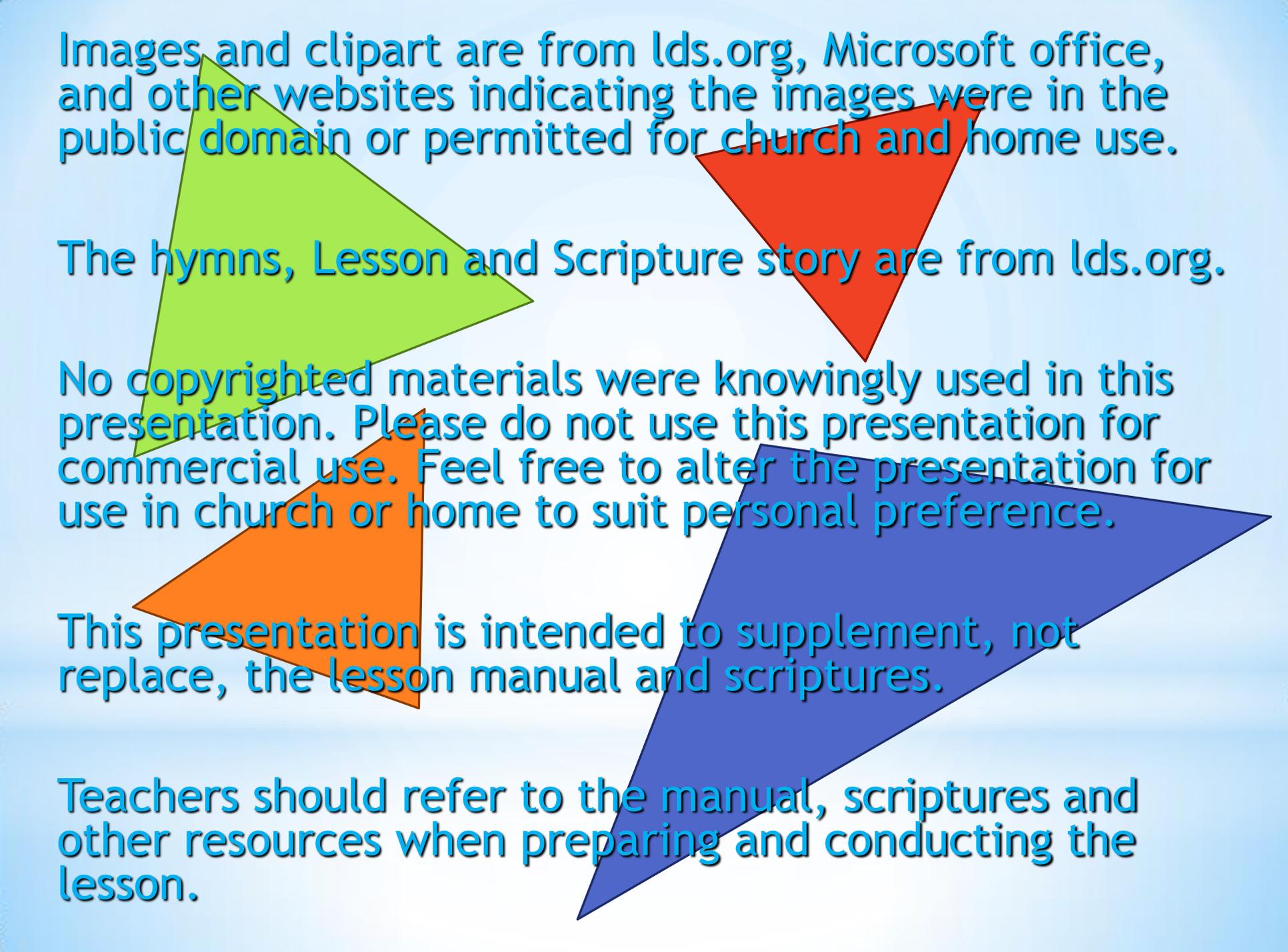
**\*OUR CLOSING PRAYER  
WILL BE GIVEN BY**



**(Enter Name Here)**



***THE END***



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This presentation is intended to supplement, not replace, the lesson manual and scriptures.

Teachers should refer to the manual, scriptures and other resources when preparing and conducting the lesson.

# *Alma 32:6*

6 And now when Alma heard this, he turned him about, his face immediately towards him, and he beheld with great joy; for he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the word.

# *Alma 32:27-28*

27 But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words.

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# *Alma 32:27-28*

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# *Alma 32:41*

41 But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life.

# ***D&C 29:35***

**35 Behold, I gave unto him that he should be an agent unto himself; and I gave unto him commandment, but no temporal commandment gave I unto him, for my commandments are spiritual; they are not natural nor temporal, neither carnal nor sensual.**