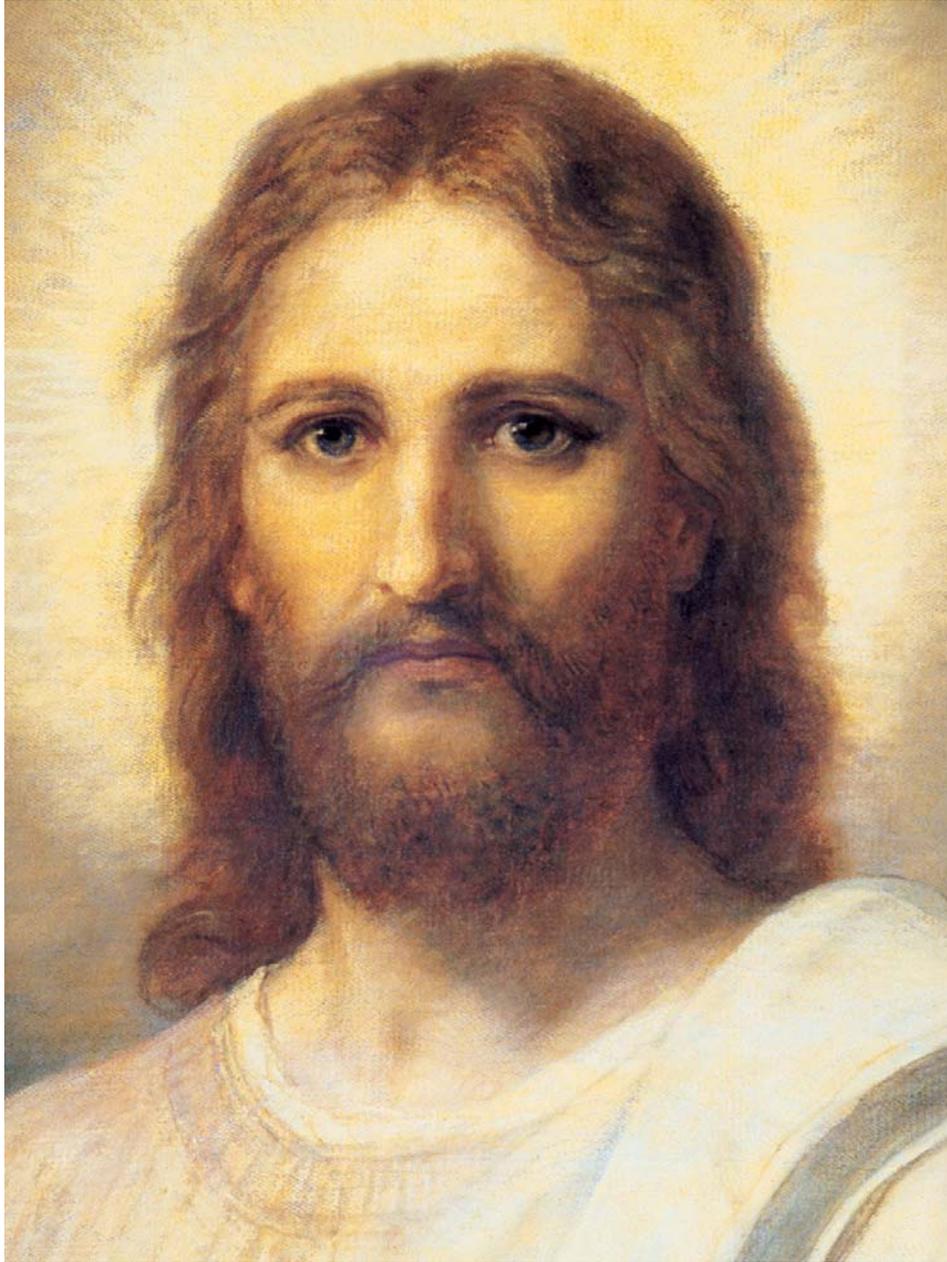


The Living Christ

An Easter Countdown



The Lord Jesus Christ by Heinrich Hofmann

Each day is based on a portion of
The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles
With daily devotionals, discussion questions, songs, and scriptures

Compiled by Montserrat Wadsworth at Chocolateonmycranium.blogspot.com

Easter is one of the most spiritual and beautiful holidays! To celebrate the atonement and resurrection of Jesus Christ and what it means in our lives is truly to reflect on the whole purpose of why we are here and on HE who makes it possible for us to be redeemed from our sins.

This 30 day countdown to Easter utilizes [The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles](#). Each day focuses on a portion of that document – either a sentence or a paragraph. Many names by which Christ is known are included in The Living Christ, consequently there are also days of the countdown that focus on a name given. Hopefully this will aid in understanding all the characteristics of Jesus Christ and how we can try to be more like Him in our daily lives.

As part of our countdown we also did many activities with our children. Links to those activities can be found at my blog on The Living Christ page:

<http://chocolateonmycranium.blogspot.com/2012/03/living-christ-30-day-easter-countdown.html>

Not only are there links to activities but there are also links to [The Life of Jesus Christ Bible Videos](#) the church has produced. The page on my blog will continually be updated as more videos are released. These add greatly to this countdown and are a valuable addition in teaching your children about Jesus Christ.



The pdf file is ordered as follows: the days of the countdown with daily devotional ideas, tags to cut out and display on an Easter tree, also included are all of the artwork or paintings first in small scale (for you to create your own tags) and also in large scale (to use as an art study). The paintings and artwork I chose are, for the most part, part of the public domain. Most were found at [wikimedia](#).

My hope is that your testimony and those of your children in the Savior, Jesus Christ, will grow as you focus more on Him this Easter season.

Enjoy!

Day One: The Birth of Jesus Christ

From the Living Christ: "As we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ two millennia ago, we offer our testimony of the reality of His matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth."

Song: Joy to the World, hymn 201 or your favorite Christmas hymn

Scripture Reading: Luke 2

Discussion Questions:

"There would be no Christmas if there were no Easter."
~Gordon B. Hinckley, *The Things of Which I Know*, May 2007 Ensign~

- Why do you think President Hinckley made such a statement?
- What did Christ do on Easter that makes His birth so special?
- How does reading about His birth at this time of year add to your understanding of the atonement?

Day Two: Jehovah

From the Living Christ: "He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament."

Song: Saints, Behold How Great Jehovah hymn 28

Scripture Reading: Psalms 83:18

Discussion Questions:

"Jesus was Jehovah. This sacred title is recorded only four times in the King James version of the Holy Bible (see [Ex. 6:3](#); [Ps. 83:18](#); [Isa. 12:2](#); [Isa. 26:4](#)). The use of this holy name is also confirmed in modern scripture (see [Moro. 10:34](#); [D&C 109:68](#); [D&C 110:3](#); [D&C 128:9](#)). Jehovah is derived from the Hebrew word *hayah*, which means "to be" or "to exist." A form of the word *hayah* in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament was translated into English as *I AM* ([Ex. 3:14](#))." *Russell M. Nelson, "Jesus the Christ: Our Master and More," Ensign, Apr 2000, 4*

"The second great certitude of which I am sure also has its foundation in the vision of the Prophet Joseph. It is that Jesus lives. He is the Living Christ. He is the Jehovah of the Old Testament and the Messiah of the New" ~Gordon B. Hinckley, *The Things of Which I Know*, May 2007 Ensign

- Who is Jehovah?
- What does Jehovah mean?
- What does this tell us about Jesus Christ?

- Can you find other scriptures that tell about Jehovah?

Day Three: Messiah

From the Living Christ: "He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New."

Song: For today's song, if you have the time listen to a recording of Handel's Messiah. It is truly a beautiful and masterful work of music. One good link is at NPR (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6581236> click on Listen: Handel's Messiah). There is an introduction to the history of Handel's Messiah at the beginning but then the whole concert is performed. Awe inspiring!

Scripture Reading: 2 Nephi 2:6; John 4:25-26

Discussion Questions: Messiah - read in the Bible Dictionary [here](#). **Anointed One** - also read about it in the Bible Dictionary [here](#). These readings help us learn that Anointed One, Messiah and Christ all mean the same thing. They just come from different origins - Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.

Day Four: Creator

From the Living Christ: "Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3)."

Song: All Things Bright and Beautiful Children's Songbook pg 231

Scripture Reading: Mosiah 3:8; Hebrews 1: 1-2;

Discussion Questions:

Under the direction of heavenly Father, Jesus created the world. We can think of Him whenever we see a butterfly, colorful flowers, a bright rainbow, or majestic mountains. We can think of Him when we pet a soft kitten, or feel the rain on our face, or feel the wind blowing our hair. We can remember that Jesus Christ created all these things for us to enjoy!

- What are your favorite things Jesus created for you?

Day Five: He was the creator of the earth

From the Living Christ: "Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" ([John 1:3](#)).

Song: "My Heavenly Father Loves Me" (*Children's Songbook*, 228-29)

Scripture Reading: John 1:3; Genesis 1 & 2; Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Nephi 17:36; Moses 1:33

Discussion Questions:

"Now, the word create came from the word *baurau*, which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship" (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, 6:308).

- Explain that the word *create* means to organize, not to make something from nothing.

- Who created the earth?
- In whose image were we created?
- What is our responsibility to the earth and all living things on it?
- What did God say about his creations? How should we feel about the good things we make or do?
- What did God do on the seventh day?

Further Reading for Teens and Adults: [Christ and the Creation](#) by Elder Bruce R. McConkie

Day Six: The Baptism of Jesus Christ

From the Living Christ: "Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and goodwill. He entreated all to follow His example."

Song: Baptism, Children's Songbook pg 100 or When Jesus Christ was Baptized, Children's Songbook pg 102

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:5; 2 Nephi 31:4-10, 17-21; Mosiah 18:8-17; Doctrine and Covenants 33:15

Discussion Questions:

- Who baptized Jesus?
- Why did John the Baptist hesitate to baptize Jesus?
- Why did Jesus want to be baptized?
- What does *immersion* mean? Why must we be put completely under the water when we are baptized?
- What happened right after Jesus was baptized?
- Why do we need to be baptized?
- How do we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost?
- How did you feel when you were baptized? How did you feel when you were confirmed and given the gift of the Holy Ghost?
- What did you promise when you were baptized? What does Heavenly Father promise us?

Day Seven: The Miracles of Jesus

From the Living Christ: "He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead."

Song: Come Follow Me hymn 116

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-15, 21-45; Mark 5:21-43; 1 Nephi 7:12

Discussion Questions:

"The Lord does not always heal the sick, nor save those in hazardous zones. He does not always relieve suffering and distress, for even these seemingly undesirable conditions may be part of a purposeful plan"

~Spencer W. Kimball, (*Tragedy or Destiny*, p. 5)~

- What is a miracle? (An extraordinary event caused by divine or spiritual power; see Bible Dictionary, "Miracles." 732–33.)
- Why do you think Jesus performed miracles? (Matthew 9:29–30; Mark 1:41; 2:5, 10; 5:36. To prove that he was the divine Son of God, to strengthen the faith of those who believed in him, because he loved and had compassion for those in need, and because of the faith of those who believed.)
- What is one of the Savior's miracles that you would like to have witnessed? Why?
- What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ?
- Read Pres. Kimball's quote above. Explain that sometimes a person is not healed of a sickness or handicap when prayers are offered. Does that mean we don't have faith? Why? Why might it not be God's will that a person be healed?

Day Eight: Jesus Taught the Truths of Eternity.

From the Living Christ: "He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, the purpose of our life on earth, and the potential for the sons and daughters of God in the life to come."

Song: I Lived in Heaven, pg. 4 of Children's Songbook

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5

Discussion Questions:

"[Perfection] will not come all at once, but line upon line, precept upon precept, example upon example, and even then not as long as we live in this mortal life. ... But here we lay the foundation ... to prepare us for that perfection. It is our duty to be better today than we were yesterday, and better tomorrow than we are today"
 ~Joseph Fielding Smith (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:18)~

- Explain that the teachings in Matthew 5:3–11 are often called the Beatitudes. How can the Beatitudes help us become more like Jesus? Discuss each one as you see fit for your family.
- What does it mean to be the "salt of the earth"? How can we be like salt?
- What does it mean to be a "light unto the world"? How can we be a light unto others?
- How should we treat our enemies or those who do not like us?
- How can we become perfect? Read quote above by Joseph Fielding Smith. Help the children understand that if they try to live the teachings that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, they will be on the path to perfection. Emphasize that perfection is a gradual thing that will not be accomplished in this life. What we need to do now is try to be more like Jesus each day.

Day Nine: He instituted the sacrament.

From the Living Christ: "He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice."

Song: The Sacrament, Children's Songbook pg 72

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:15-20

Discussion Questions:

"I am a witness that there is a spirit attending the administration of the sacrament that warms the soul from head to foot; you feel the wounds of the spirit being healed,

and the load is lifted. Comfort and happiness come to the soul that is worthy and truly desirous of partaking of this spiritual food. – *Melvin J. Ballard, "How Can We Have Spiritual Hunger?" (Improvement Era 1919)*

- What did Jesus do at this Passover meal? Why did he do this?
- What did Jesus say the bread represented?
- What did Jesus say the wine represented? (If any of the children ask why we use water instead of wine for the sacrament, refer them to Doctrine and Covenants 27:1–2)
- When we say "amen" to the sacrament prayers and partake of the sacrament, what are we promising to do?
- What does the Lord promise us in return?
- Why is it important for us to always remember Jesus?
- What can you do to always remember the Savior?

Day Ten: His great atoning sacrifice.

From the Living Christ: "He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. . . He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth."

Song: To Think about Jesus, Children's Songbook pg 71 or your favorite Sacrament Hymn

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42; Luke 22:39–46; John 3:16; D&C 19:15–18

Discussion Questions:

"In Gethsemane and on Calvary, He worked out the infinite and eternal atonement. It was the greatest single act of love in recorded history. Thus He became our Redeemer—redeeming all of us from physical death, and redeeming those of us from spiritual death who will obey the laws and ordinances of the gospel" (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [1988], 14)

- Why was Jesus willing to submit to the great suffering he knew he would experience in the Garden of Gethsemane? What can we learn from the Savior's prayer in Gethsemane? How have you been blessed as you have submitted to Heavenly Father's will?
- What did the Savior experience in Gethsemane?
- For whom did Jesus suffer in the Garden of Gethsemane?
- What is the atonement? (The Atonement—Jesus Christ's voluntary act of taking upon himself death and the sins and infirmities of all mankind. It is important to remember that the Atonement included the Savior's suffering both in the garden and on the cross.)

Additional Readings for Teens and Adults: [The Mediator](#) by Boyd K. Packer; [The Atonement Can Clean, Reclaim, and Sanctify Our Lives](#) by Elder Shayne M. Bowen

Day Eleven: The Betrayal and Trial of Jesus Christ

From the Living Christ: "He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob."

Song: Behold the Great Redeemer Die, hymn 191 or O Savior, Thou Who Wearest a Crown, hymn 107

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:14–16, 47–27:31; Luke 22:47–23:43

Discussion Questions:

- Who betrayed Jesus? How did Judas betray him? What happened to Judas?
- Why did Jesus stop his Apostles from defending him? What lesson do you think his disciples learned when Jesus healed the wounded man's ear?
- Why didn't Jesus answer his accusers during his trial?
- How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus? Why do you think Peter did this? How did Peter feel when he realized what he had done?
- What did the people do to Jesus after he was sentenced to be crucified?
- Why did Jesus allow the people to persecute him?

Additional Reading for Teens and Adults: [And Peter Went Out and Wept Bitterly](#) by Gordon B. Hinckley

Day Twelve: Calvary's Cross

From the Living Christ: "He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob, and sentenced to die on Calvary's cross. He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth."

Song: Your favorite Sacrament Song

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:32–66, Luke 23:26–56, John 10:17–18, 19:13–42

Discussion Questions:

- By what two names is the place where Jesus was crucified known?
- Who was Jesus crucified with? How did the two thieves react to Jesus? What did the second thief say that showed he was beginning to repent? What was Jesus' reply?
- What did the soldiers give Jesus to drink?
- Whom did Jesus ask Heavenly Father to forgive?
- Who were some of those who mocked and reviled (insulted) Jesus while he hung on the cross?
- How did Jesus show great love for his mother while suffering on the cross?
- How long did the darkness cover the land? What did Jesus cry out? Had God really forsaken his Son? (Explain that Heavenly Father had withdrawn his spirit for a time so that Jesus could complete his victory over sin and death by himself.)
- What miraculous events happened at the time of Jesus' death? What does "rent in twain" mean? (Torn in half.) What testimony did the centurion offer when he saw what happened?
- Who was Joseph of Arimathea? What did he do?
- What did the Pharisees ask Pilate to do? Why did they want the sepulchre guarded?

Additional Reading for Teens and Adults: [The Sacrament – and the Sacrifice](#) by Elder David B. Haight

Day Thirteen: Firstborn

From the Living Christ: "He was the Firstborn of the Father,"

Song: He Sent His Son Children's Songbook pg 34

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:13–18; D&C 93:21–22

Discussion Questions:

Jesus is the firstborn of the spirit children of our Heavenly Father, the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, and the first to rise from the dead in the resurrection, "that in all things he might have the preeminence"

"The Father of Jesus is our Father also. Jesus himself taught this truth, when He instructed His disciples how to pray: 'Our Father which art in heaven,' etc. Jesus, however, is the firstborn among all the sons of God—the first begotten in the spirit, and the only begotten in the flesh. He is our elder brother, and we, like Him are in the image of God." (The First Presidency [Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, Anthon H. Lund], "The Origin of Man," Improvement Era, November 1909, 75-81).

- What does firstborn mean?
- What does this tell us about Jesus Christ?

Day Fourteen: Only Begotten Son

From the Living Christ: "He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh,"

Song: God Loved Us, So He Sent His Son hymn 187

Scripture Reading: John 3:16; 1 John 4:9; Matthew 16:16

Discussion Questions: Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, the first born to our Heavenly Father in the spirit and the Only Begotten in the flesh.

For the little ones we just read the scriptures. We discuss the quotes with the older children.

Elder James E. Talmage of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained: "That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, not in violation of natural law but in accordance with a higher manifestation thereof; and the offspring from that association of supreme sanctity, celestial Sireship, and pure though mortal maternity, was of right to be called the 'Son of the Highest.' In His nature would be combined the powers of Godhood with the capacity and possibilities of mortality; and this through the ordinary operation of the fundamental law of heredity, declared of God, demonstrated by science, and admitted by philosophy, that living beings shall propagate—after their kind. The Child Jesus was to inherit the physical, mental, and spiritual traits, tendencies, and powers that characterized His parents—one

immortal and glorified—God, the other human—woman.” (James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. (1973), 81)

President Ezra Taft Benson added his witness in these words: “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father!” (Ezra Taft Benson, *Come unto Christ* (1983), 4)

Day Fifteen: Redeemer

From the Living Christ: “He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.”

Song: He Died That We Might Live Again Children’s Songbook pg 65

Scripture Reading: Job 19:25; Doctrine & Covenants 18:11

Discussion Questions:

“It is called the gospel of Jesus Christ because it is the Atonement of Jesus Christ that makes redemption and salvation possible. Through the Atonement all men, women, and children are unconditionally redeemed from physical death, and all will be redeemed from their own sins on the condition of accepting and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ.” *Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Have We Not Reason to Rejoice?,” Ensign, Nov 2007, 18–21*

Jesus Christ is the great Redeemer of mankind because he, through his atonement, paid the price for the sins of mankind and made possible the resurrection of all people.

- What does redeemer mean?
- What does this tell us about Jesus Christ?
- Can you find more scriptures that talk about our Redeemer?

Additional Reading for Teens and Adults: [Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer](#) by Elder Richard G. Scott

Day Sixteen: The Risen Lord

From the Living Christ: “He rose from the grave to “become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20). As Risen Lord, He visited among those He had loved in life.”

Song: Did Jesus Really Live Again? Children’s Songbook pg 64 or He is Risen hymn 199

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:52–53, 28:1–15, Luke 24; John 20; 1 Corinthians 15:6; Acts 1:3, 9-11

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Mary Magdalene and the other women come to the tomb on Sunday morning?
- Whom did the women see when they went to the tomb? What did the angels say to the women?
- What did the angels mean when they said, "He is risen"? What does it mean to be resurrected?
- What did the women do after they saw the empty tomb?
- Why didn't the disciples believe the women's account of what the angels had said?
- What did Peter and the other disciple find when they went to the tomb? (Explain that "the other disciple" was probably John.) Why did they believe Jesus Christ had been resurrected?
- What blessings will we receive because of Jesus' Resurrection?
- Why were Cleopas and his companion sad as they walked along the road to Emmaus? What did the resurrected Lord teach them as they walked?
- How did the two disciples feel as Jesus taught them? What gave them this feeling?
- What did the Apostles think they were seeing when the Savior appeared to them on the evening of the day he was resurrected? How did Jesus reassure them that he was a resurrected being, not a spirit?
- How did Thomas respond to the other Apostles' testimonies that the Lord had been resurrected? How did he come to believe that the Lord had been resurrected?
- Who else did Jesus appear to after his resurrection?
- How long did Jesus stay with his disciples after his resurrection?
- How did Jesus ascend into heaven? Who came to explain to the people what had happened? What does this account teach us about Jesus' second coming?

Day Seventeen: Good Shepherd

From the Living Christ: This name is not given in The Living Christ but because it does that Christ "ministered among His "other sheep" (John 10:16) in ancient America" I thought it was appropriate to talk about this name.

Song: The Lord is My Shepherd hymn 108 or Dear to the Heart of the Shepherd hymn 221

Scripture Reading: Psalms 23:1- 6; Alma 5:38

Discussion Questions: Jesus gave this name to himself in John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine."

"A shepherd watches over his sheep. He keeps them safe in a place where nothing can harm them. He takes them to pastures where there is good food and water. The sheep know their shepherd's voice and follow him. A good shepherd would give his life to protect his sheep from danger; he leads them to safety. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He watches over us and shows us the way to go. We hear His voice as we study His words in the scriptures and as we follow His chosen leaders. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has given His life for us, and He will lead us safely back to Heavenly Father. We are like His sheep when we listen to His voice, follow Him, and *remember Him.*" *Ann Jamison, Friend, Apr 2000, 37*

- What does Good Shepherd mean?
- What does this tell us about Jesus Christ?
- Why is Jesus known by the name of "Good Shepherd" instead of simply "Shepherd"?

Day Eighteen: His Other Sheep

From the Living Christ: "He also ministered among His "other sheep" (John 10:16) in ancient America."

Song: Easter Hosanna, Children's Songbook pg 68

Scripture Reading: 3 Nephi 8-11

Discussion Questions:

- What had Samuel the Lamanite prophesied to the Nephites about the Savior's death? (Helaman 14:20-27) Why was he trying to prepare them? (Helaman 14:28-29) How were these prophecies fulfilled? (3 Nephi 8:5-25)
- What did the Savior say was the reason the people had been killed? (3 Nephi 9:2, 12) What did he say to the people who had not been killed? (3 Nephi 9:13-14) What does it mean to come unto Christ?
- What blessings will we receive as we become more like the Savior?
- What did Jesus teach the people about his mission? (3 Nephi 9:15-17) Why is it important for us to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?
- What did Jesus say was the reason he came into the world? (3 Nephi 9:21) What must we do to be saved from our sins? (3 Nephi 9:22) How did understanding the Atonement make the people feel? (3 Nephi 10:10)
- How many times did the people at the temple in the land Bountiful hear the voice from heaven and not understand it? (3 Nephi 11:3-4) What did the people do so they could understand the voice? (3 Nephi 11:5-6) What does it mean to "open their ears to hear it?"
- What did the people hear Heavenly Father tell them the third time? (3 Nephi 11:6-7) What important things do we learn from this introduction?
- What did the people see as they looked up toward heaven? (3 Nephi 11:8) When the Savior told them who he was, why do you think the people fell down to the earth? (3 Nephi 11:10-12)
- How would you have felt if you had been there? Why did Christ have the people feel the wounds in his body? (3 Nephi 11:14-15)
- How did the Nephites feel and show gratitude and love for the Savior? (3 Nephi 11:16-17) How can we show love and gratitude for him and what he has done for us?

Day Nineteen: Alpha & Omega

From the Living Christ: Alpha and Omega are not used in The Living Christ. They do mean the first and the last.

Song: Be Still, My Soul hymn 124

Scripture Reading: Revelations 1:8; 3 Nephi 9:18; Doctrine & Covenants 19:1

Discussion Questions: Read [Alpha](#) and [Omega](#) in the Bible Dictionary. Christ gave this name to himself.

- What does Alpha mean?
- What does Omega mean?
- What do these tell us about Jesus Christ?
- How does the hymn we sung today go along with Alpha & Omega?

Day Twenty: Advocate

From the Living Christ: "I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father" ([D&C 110:3-4](#)).

Song: I Stand All Amazed hymn 193

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:1; Moroni 7:28; Doctrine & Covenants 29:5

Discussion Questions:

"Jesus is our Advocate with the Father (see 1 Jn. 2:1; D&C 29:5; D&C 32:3; D&C 45:3; D&C 110:4). The word *advocate* comes from Latin roots meaning a "voice for" or "one who pleads for another." Other related terms are used in scripture, such as *mediator* (see 1 Tim. 2:5, 2 Ne. 2:28; D&C 76:69). From the Book of Mormon we learn that this responsibility to mediate, or make intercession, was foreseen before His birth: Jesus "shall make intercession for all the children of men; and they that believe in him shall be saved" (2 Ne. 2:9). . . . Comprehending Him as our Advocate, Intercessor, and Mediator with the Father gives us assurance of His unequaled understanding, justice, and mercy (see Alma 7:12)." *Russell M. Nelson, "Jesus the Christ: Our Master and More," Ensign, Apr 2000, 4*

- Look up all the scriptures in Elder Nelson's quote.
- What does Advocate mean?
- What does this tell us about Jesus Christ?
- How does knowing Jesus is our advocate make you feel?

Day Twenty-One: I Am the First and the Last

From the Living Christ: "I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father" (D&C 110:3-4).

Song: That Easter Morn hymn 198

Scripture Reading: Alma 11:39-40; Revelation 22:13;

Discussion Questions: Jesus created the earth, He guides and sustains us now, and He will come to the earth again in glory. Christ is so called, because He is the Author and the Preserver of all things. He is Eternal.

- What does The First and The Last mean?
- What does this tell us about Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty-Two: Chief Cornerstone

From the Living Christ: “We declare in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth—“built upon the foundation of ... apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” ([Ephesians 2:20](#)).

Song: How Firm a Foundation hymn 85

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:20; Helaman 5:12

Discussion Questions: Many prophets compare Christ with a rock or stone, as in “the rock [or foundation] of our salvation.” All buildings have a cornerstone, and Christ is the cornerstone of our church and of our faith.

“These great God-given gifts are the unshakable cornerstones which anchor The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as the individual testimonies and convictions of its members: (1) the reality and the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God; (2) the sublime vision given the Prophet Joseph Smith of the Father and the Son, ushering in the dispensation of the fulness of times; (3) the Book of Mormon as the word of God speaking in declaration of the divinity of the Savior; and (4) the priesthood of God divinely conferred to be exercised in righteousness for the blessing of our Father’s children.

Each of these cornerstones is related to the other, each connected by a foundation of Apostles and prophets, all tied to the chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ. On this has been established His Church, “fitly framed together,” for the blessing of all who will partake of its offering (Eph. 2:21)” (Gordon B. Hinckley, Ensign, Nov. 1984, 53).

“He is the chief cornerstone of the Church that bears His name, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is no other name given among men whereby we can be saved (see Acts 4:12). He is the Author of our salvation, the Giver of eternal life (see Hebrews 5:9). There is none to equal Him. There never has been. There never will be. Thanks be to God for the gift of His Beloved Son, who gave His life that we might live and who is the chief, immovable cornerstone of our faith and His Church.”
Gordon B. Hinckley, We Testify of Christ, Ensign March 2008

- Look up the word cornerstone in the dictionary.
- What does cornerstone mean?
- What does this teach us about Jesus Christ?
- How can you build your foundation on Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty-Three: His Priesthood and Church are Restored

From the Living Christ: “We declare in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth—“built upon the foundation of ... apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20).”

Song: The Priesthood is Restored, Children’s Songbook pg 89 or The Sixth Article of Faith, Children’s Songbook pg. 126

Scripture Reading: Articles of Faith 5 & 6; Joseph Smith—History 1:68–74 (including the footnote to verse 71) D&C 13; D&C 20:1–4, 37, 71–79; 21:1–5

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery go into the woods to pray? Who appeared to them? Who was John the Baptist?
- How did John the Baptist ordain Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to the Aaronic Priesthood?
- Why did this priesthood authority need to come from a heavenly messenger? (The priesthood needed to be given by someone with the proper authority. Because the priesthood had been taken from the earth, no one on the earth had that authority.) How are men ordained today?
- What priesthood authority is necessary to baptize? (Aaronic Priesthood; see JS—H 1:69) What priesthood authority is necessary to give the gift of the Holy Ghost? (Melchizedek Priesthood; see JS—H 1:70)
- Who were Peter, James, and John?
- When was the Church organized? What was Joseph Smith called to be in the Church? What was Oliver Cowdery called to be? Who gave Joseph and Oliver these callings? Who calls men to be apostles and prophets today? (Jesus Christ)
- What were the early members of the Church taught about the Prophet Joseph Smith? Who tells us what Jesus Christ wants us to do today? (The living prophet.) Where can we hear or read about the teachings of the living prophet? Why should we learn what the living prophet is teaching us today?
- Why is it important that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the same as the church Jesus established when he lived on the earth? Why do we need Jesus Christ’s church on the earth today? What blessings do you receive by being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Day Twenty-Four: Joseph Smith’s Testimony; Testimony of the Apostles

From the Living Christ: “Of Him the Prophet also declared: “And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

“For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

“That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God” (D&C 76:22–24).”

“We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God.”

Song: Joseph Smith's First Prayer, hymn 26

Scripture Reading: D&C18:26-36; D&C 76:22-24; D&C 107:23-24,

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the duties of the Twelve Apostles?
- What responsibility do Apostles have that sets them apart from other officers in the church?
- What does it mean to be a witness?
- When do we hear these men bear witness of Jesus Christ?
- What rarely used punctuation mark is used in D&C 76:22? Why do you think it is used there?
- Who did Joseph Smith see?
- What things can we learn about the Savior from Joseph Smith's testimony?
- Is it necessary to see Jesus to know that he lives?

Additional Reading for Teens and Adults: ["And He Gave Some, Apostles"](#) by Edward J Brandt; [The Twelve](#) by Boyd K. Packer

Day Twenty-Five: King of Kings

From the Living Christ: "He will rule as King of Kings."

Song: Joy to the World hymn 201 or Come, O Thou King of Kings hymn 59

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:15; Psalms 89:18; D&C 45:59

Discussion Questions:

"After the agony of Gethsemane came His arrest, His trials, His condemnation, then the unspeakable pain of His death on the cross, followed by His burial in Joseph's tomb and the triumphant coming forth in the Resurrection. He, the lowly babe of Bethlehem who two millennia ago walked the dusty roads of the Holy Land, became the Lord Omnipotent, the King of kings, the Giver of salvation to all. None can fully comprehend the splendor of His life, the majesty of His death, the universality of His gift to humankind. We unequivocally declare with the centurion who said at His death, "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39)." Gordon B. Hinckley, We Testify of Jesus Christ, Liahona, March 2008

- What is a King?
- How is Jesus the King of Kings? What does that mean?
- What does this teach us about Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty-Six: Lord of Lords

From the Living Christ: "He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him."

Song: I Believe in Christ hymn 134

Scripture Reading: Rev. 17: 14; Deuteronomy 10:17

Discussion Questions:

"That power has influenced for good the hosts of His followers on the earth for almost two thousand years. It is the power in the knowledge that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, our Savior, our advocate with the Father, the King of kings, Lord of lords, and the Prince of peace. It is the power by which, through faith and obedience to His teachings, we can find joy and happiness, peace and comfort. It is the priesthood power by which the world was created, the plan of salvation and happiness was put in place to eternally bless our lives if we are true to our covenants. It is the power that was magnified by His agony on the cross, bringing the singular most important blessing to mankind. The greatest of all acts in all history was the atoning sacrifice of our Savior and our Redeemer." James E. Faust, Christmas Devotional, December 1995

"With the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, there emerged a great endowment, a power stronger than weapons, a wealth more lasting than the coins of Caesar. This child was to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Promised Messiah, even Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Born in a stable, cradled in a manger, He came forth from heaven to live on earth as mortal man and to establish the kingdom of God. During His earthly ministry, He taught men the higher law. His glorious gospel reshaped the thinking of the world. He blessed the sick. He caused the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear. He even raised the dead to life. ...

"His mission, His ministry among men, His teachings of truth, His acts of mercy, His unwavering love for us prompts our gratitude and warms our hearts. Jesus Christ, Savior of the world—even the Son of God—was and is the ultimate pioneer, for He has gone before, showing all others the way to follow" (Thomas S. Monson, *Ensign*, May 1997, 52).

- What does Lord mean?
- What does Lord of Lords mean?
- What does this teach us about Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty-Seven: The Second Coming

From the Living Christ: "We testify that He will someday return to earth. "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isaiah 40:5). He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him."

Song: When He Comes Again, Children's Songbook pg 82

Scripture Reading: D&C 29:9-11; D&C 45:44-54; D&C 49:7; 88:96-99 D&C133:4, 10-11, 42-52

Discussion Questions:

- When will the Second Coming take place?
- What will happen to the righteous at the time of His coming? To the wicked?
- What will the Savior be wearing at His second coming?
- What can we do in our lives now to prepare for the Second Coming?

Day Twenty-Eight: Judgment

From the Living Christ: "Each of us will stand to be judged of Him according to our works and the desires of our hearts."

Song: Lord, I Would Follow Thee, hymn 220

Scripture Reading: Revelation 20:12-14; D&C 137:9

Discussion Questions:

"Like it or not, therefore, reality requires that we acknowledge our responsibility for our desires. Brothers and sisters, which do we really desire, God's plans for us or Satan's? Righteous desires need to be relentless, therefore, because, said President Brigham Young, "the men and women, who desire to obtain seats in the celestial kingdom, will find that they must battle every day" (in Journal of Discourses, 11:14). Therefore, true Christian soldiers are more than weekend warriors." ~Neal A. Maxwell, Oct. 1996)~

"We should remember that righteous desires cannot be superficial, impulsive, or temporary. They must be heartfelt, unwavering, and permanent. So motivated, we will seek for that condition described by the Prophet Joseph Smith, where we have "overcome the evils of [our lives] and lost every desire for sin." 5 That is a very personal decision. As Elder Neal A. Maxwell said:

"When people are described as 'having lost their desire for sin,' it is they, and they only, who deliberately decided to lose those wrong desires by being willing to 'give away all [their] sins' in order to know God."

"Therefore, what we insistently desire, over time, is what we will eventually become and what we will receive in eternity." ~ Dallin H. Oaks, April 2011~

- What does the word *desire* mean?
- How can you tell how strong your desire is for something?
- Why do you think we will be judged according to our desires as well as according to our works?

Additional Reading for Teens and Adults: [We Serve That Which We Love](#) by Marvin J. Ashton;

[According to the Desire of \[Our\] Heart](#) by Neal A. Maxwell; [Desire](#) by Dallin H. Oaks

Day Twenty-Nine: Immanuel

From the Living Christ: “He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father.”

Song: Lord I Would Follow Thee hymn 220

Scripture Reading: Isa. 7:14; D&C 128:22

Discussion Questions: Read Immanuel in the bible dictionary [here](#).

“Jesus was foreordained to be the promised Immanuel. Remember Isaiah’s remarkable prophecy: “The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14). Fulfillment of that prophecy was not just unlikely, it was humanly impossible. Incredible! Everyone knew a virgin could not bear a child. And then for that child to be given such a pretentious name was doubly daring. The Hebrew name—the title of which Isaiah prophesied, Immanuel—literally means “with us is God”! (See Isa. 7:14, footnote e.) That holy name was subsequently given to Jesus in the New Testament, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants (see Matt. 1:23; 2 Ne. 17:14; D&C 128:22).

Immanuel could be such only at the will of His Father.” Russell M. Nelson, Jesus Christ, Our Master and More, April 2000

- What does Immanuel mean?
- What does this teach us about Jesus Christ?

Additional reading for Teens and Adults: [Immanuel: God With Us](#) by Elder Henry D. Taylor

Day Thirty: Jesus is the Living Christ

From the Living Christ: “Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.”

Song: Beautiful Savior, Children’s Songbook pg. 62

Scripture Reading: Christ, Bible Dictionary; Matthew 16:16; John 6:69

Discussion Questions:

Invite all to bear their own testimonies of Jesus Christ

As we commemorate the birth of
Jesus Christ two millennia ago . . .

(Reproduction of the Shepherd by Giovanni Stanetti)



1

As we commemorate the birth of
Jesus Christ two millennia ago, we offer our
testimony of the reality of His matchless life
and the infinite virtue of His great atoning
sacrifice. None other has had so
profound an influence upon all who
have lived and will yet live upon the earth.

He was the creator of the earth.

(Reproduction of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego by Carl Gustav)



5

Under the direction of His Father,
He was the creator of the earth
. “All things were made by him;
and without him was
not any thing made
that was made” (John 1:3)

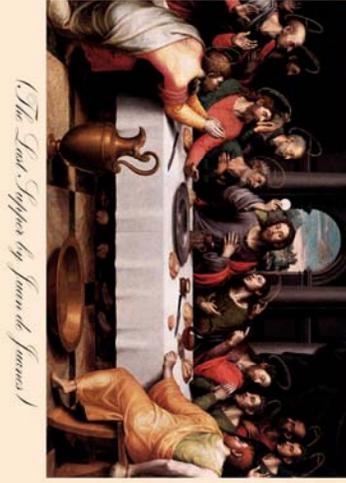
(From the Baptist, Baptizing Jesus by Henry Stanetti)



6

Though sinless, He was baptized to
fulfill all righteousness. He “went about
doing good” (Acts 10:38), yet
was despised for it. His gospel was a
message of peace and goodwill.
He entreated all to follow His example.

He instituted the sacrament . . .



(The Last Supper by Juan de Juanes)

He taught the truths of eternity . . .



(Sermon on the Mount - Raphael)

He walked the roads of Palestine . . .



(Christ Healing the Sick in Palestine by Carl Bloch)

6

He instituted the sacrament
as a reminder of
His great atoning sacrifice.

8

He taught the truths of eternity,
the reality of our premortal existence,
the purpose of our life on earth,
and the potential for the sons and
daughters of God in the life to come.

7

He walked the roads of Palestine,
healing the sick,
causing the blind to see,
and raising the dead.

His great atoning sacrifice

(Christ in Gethsemane by Howard Chandler Christy)



10

He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth.

Convicted to satisfy a mob

(Spurred On, Hours by Stefano Banti)



11

He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob,

arrested and condemned

(The Flagellation of Our Lord Jesus Christ by William Adolphus Bouguereau)



11

He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob,

Sentenced to die on Calvary's Cross

(The Crucifixion by Shakespeare (Caroline Howard))



12

sentenced to die on Calvary's cross.
He gave His life to atone
for the sins of all mankind.

arrested and condemned

(Last Will, Taken by Carl Shindler)



11

He was arrested and condemned
on spurious charges,
convicted to satisfy a mob,

He rose from the grave

(The Resurrection of Jesus, Christ by Howard Chapman)



16

He rose from the grave to
“become the firstfruits of them
that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Joseph Smith's Testimony

(Shirley Feght by Samuel Sandberg)



Of Him the Prophet [Joseph Smith] declared: "And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: 'That he lives!'"
(D&C 76:22-24)

24

His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth.

(Richard W. Matthews' "Priesthood" by Howard Pyle)



We declare in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth — "built upon the foundation of ... apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20).

23

He ministered among His "other sheep"

(The Good Shepherd "Based on Matthew 9:13" by Howard Chandler Christy)



As Risen Lord, He visited among those He had loved in life. He also ministered among His "other sheep" (John 10:16) in ancient America.

18

We bear testimony,
as His duly ordained Apostles.



24

We bear testimony,
as His duly ordained Apostles

He will someday return to earth.

(The Second Coming by Harry Anderson)



27

We testify that He will someday return to earth. "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isaiah 40:5). He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him.

Each of us will stand
to be judged of Him

(Washington O'Connell, Mount)

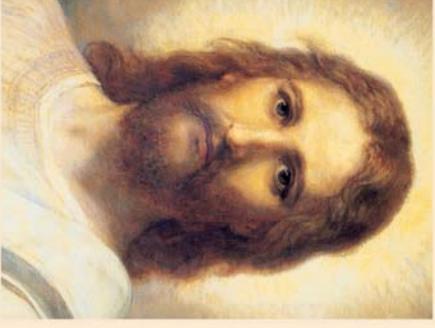


28

Each of us will stand to be
judged of Him according to our
works and the desires of our hearts.

Jesus is the Living Christ

(The Good News (Bible by Howard W. Hymers))



30

Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great

King Immanuel, who

stands today on the right hand of

His Father. He is the light, the life

, and the hope of the world. His way

is the path that leads to happiness in

this life and eternal life in the

world to come. God be thanked

for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

Creator

4

Under the direction of His Father,
He was the creator of the earth.
“All things were made by him;
and without him was not any
thing made that was made” (John 1:3).

Messiah

3

He was the
Great Jehovah of the Old Testament,
the Messiah of the New.

Jehovah

2

He was the
Great Jehovah of the Old Testament,

Firstborn

13

He was the Firstborn of the Father,

*Son
Begotten
Only*

14

He was the Firstborn of the Father,
the Only Begotten Son in the flesh,

Redeemer

15

He was the Firstborn of the Father,
the Only Begotten Son in the flesh,
the Redeemer of the world.

Shepherd

Good

17

He also ministered among
His "other sheep" (John 10:16)
in ancient America.

Omega

Alpha

19

"I am the first and the last;
I am he who liveth,

Advocate

20

I am your advocate
with the Father" (D&C 110:3-4).

I am the first and the last

Head of Christ by Warner Sallman



21

“I am the first and the last;
I am he who liveth,
I am he who was slain;
I am your advocate with the Father”
(D&C 110:3–4).

Cornerstone

Chief

22

“built upon the foundation
of ... apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself
being the chief corner stone”
(Ephesians 2:20).

*King of
Kings*

25

He will rule as King of Kings

*Lord of
Lords*

26

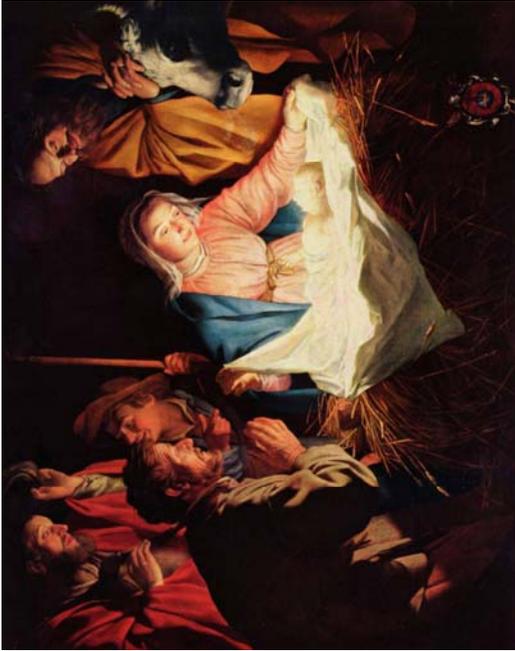
He will rule as King of Kings
and reign as Lord of Lords,

Immanuel

29

He is the great King Immanuel,
who stands today
on the right hand of His Father.

The following pages have all the artwork in small scale for you to create your own tags or something else. You could print them off to make a small book for each child or just make larger tags for a garland or Easter tree.



Adoration of the Shepherds
by Gerard von Horthorst



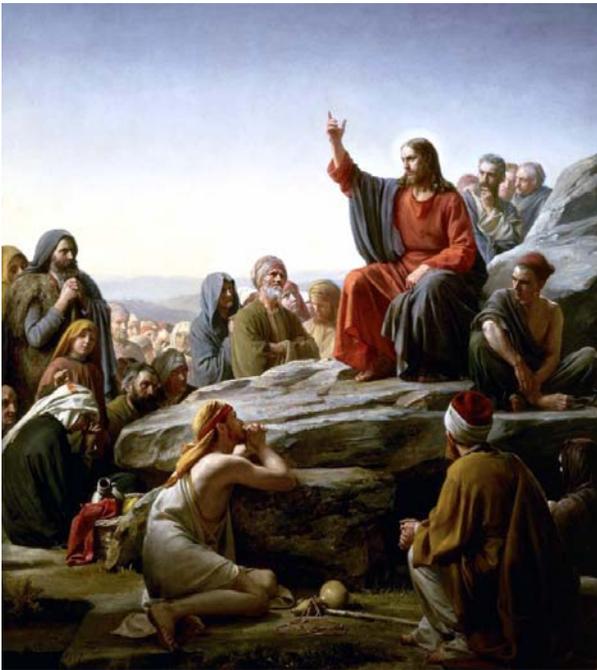
Creation of Plants (woodcut)
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



John the Baptist Baptizing
By Harry Anderson



Jesus Christ Healing the Sick at Bethesda
by Carl Bloch



Sermon on the Mount
Copenhagen Chapel



The Last Supper
by Juan de Juanes



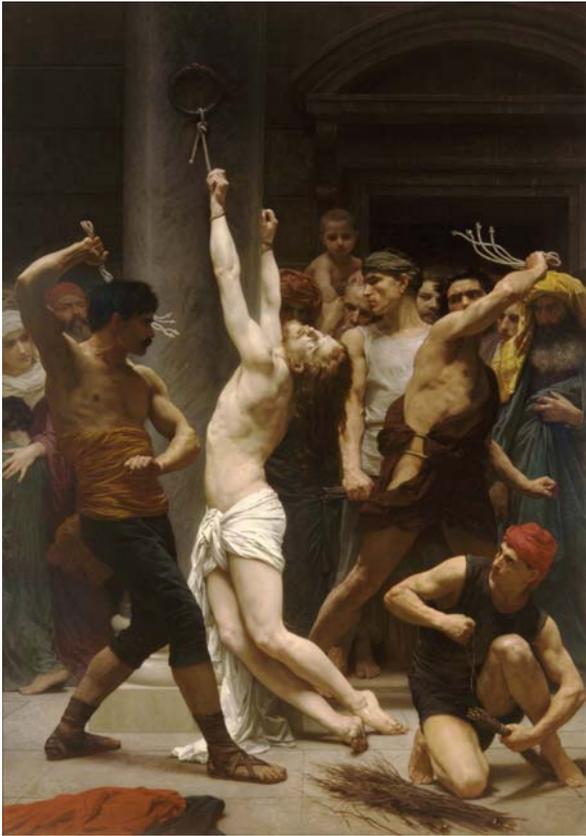
Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane
by Heinrich Hofmann



Behold the Man! By Antonio Ciseri



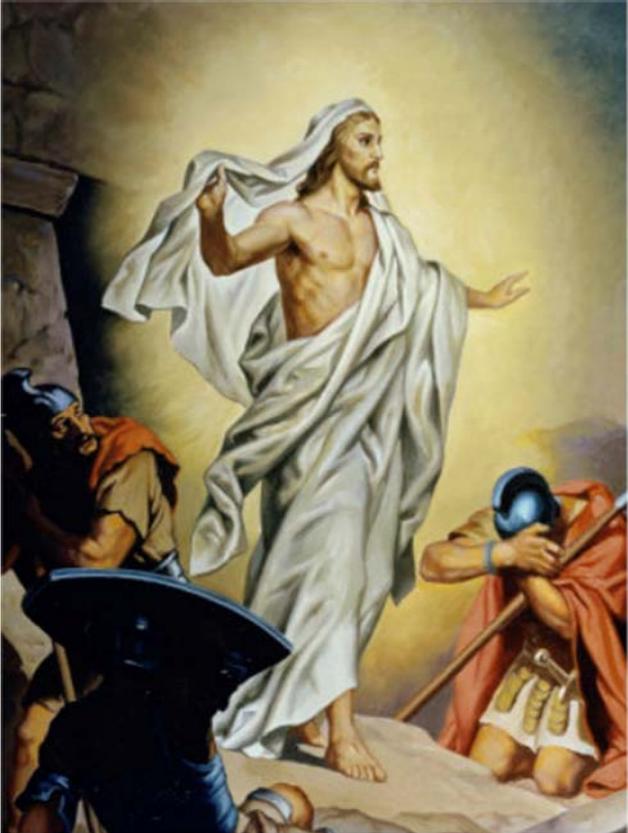
Christ with Thorns by Carl Bloch



The Flagellation of Our Lord Jesus Christ by William-Adolphe Bouguereau



The Crucifixion by Bartolome Esteban Murillo



Resurrection of Jesus Christ by Heinrich Hofmann



The Lost Lamb (left) Christ in America (right)
by Minerva Teichert



Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood
by Kenneth Riley



Brother Joseph by David Lindsley



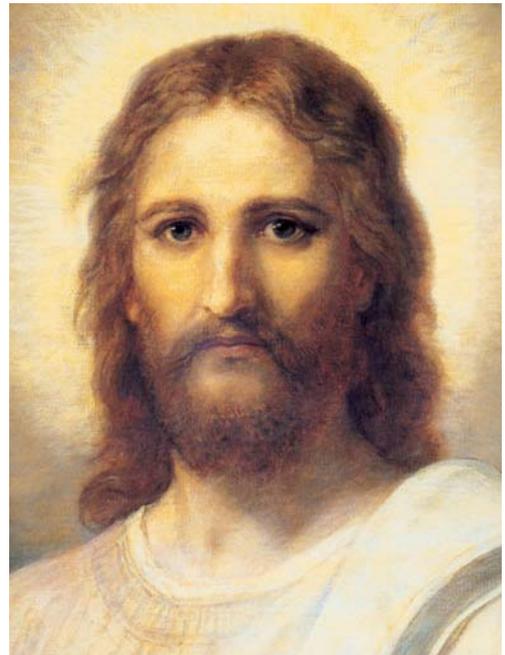
Quorum of Twelve Apostles



The Second Coming
by Harry Anderson



Washington DC Temple
Mural



The Lord Jesus Christ
by Heinrich Hofmann

The following pages contain all the artwork as full sized pages to be used as an art study or to just see all the paintings in more detail. A wonderful way to study them is to talk about the details in each painting.

- Why do you think certain colors were used?
- What expressions are on the faces of those in the paintings?
- What do you think they are feeling or thinking?

It is also fun to have your children draw their own artwork trying to copy and mimic what they see.

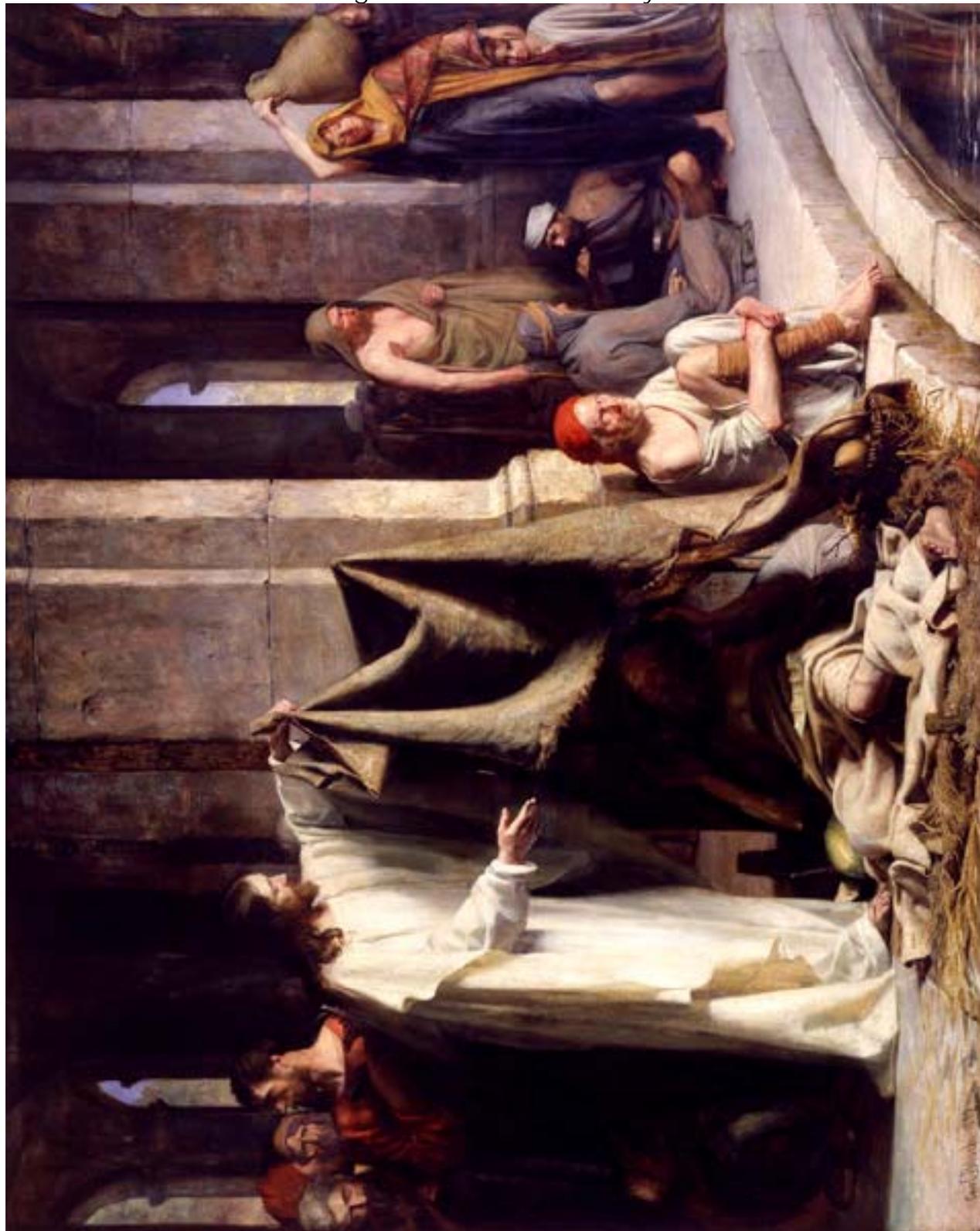
Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard von Honthorst



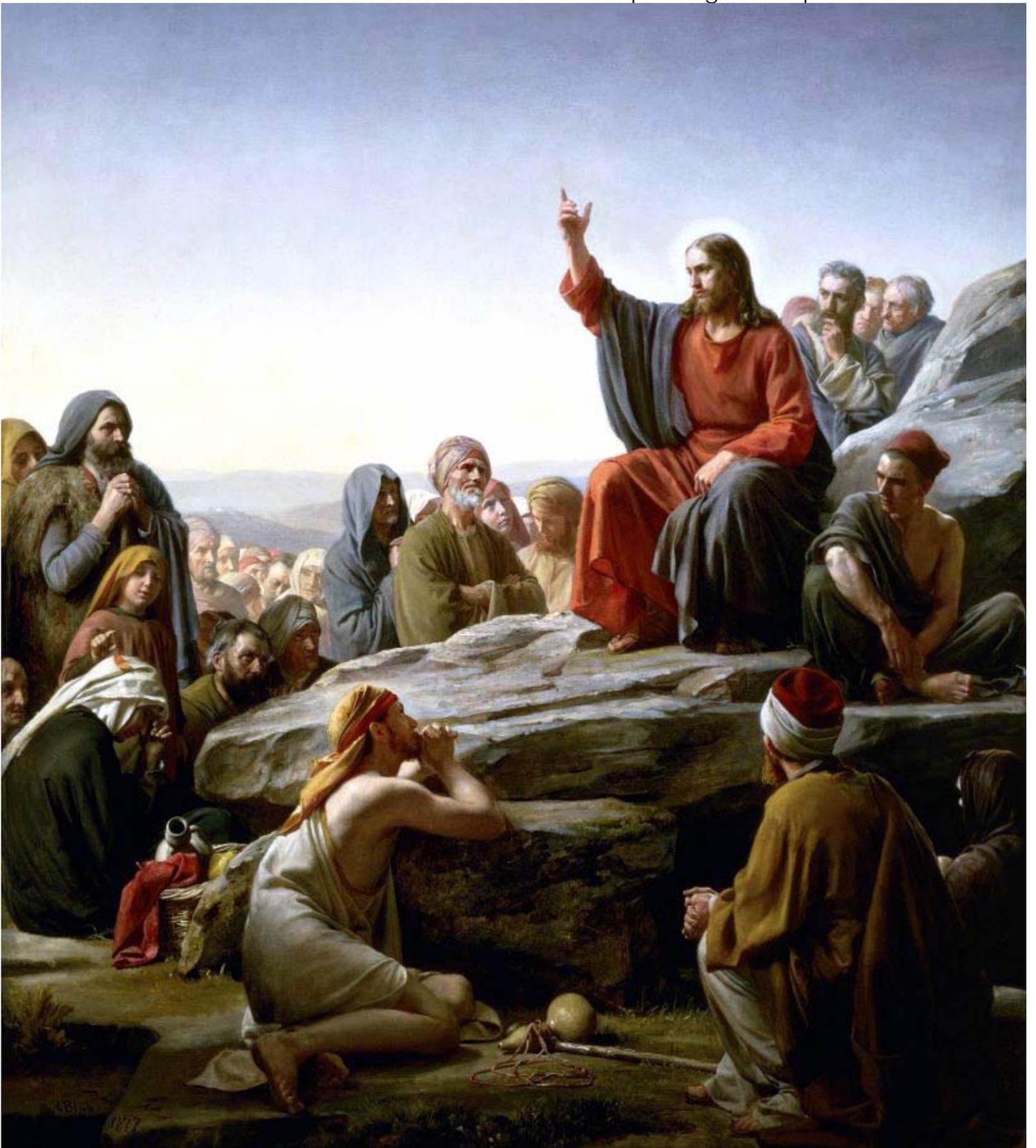
Creation of Plants (a woodcut) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



Christ Healing the Sick at Bethesda by Carl Bloch



Sermon on the Mount a mural at the Copenhagen Chapel



The Last Supper by Juan de Juanes



Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane by Heinrich Hofmann



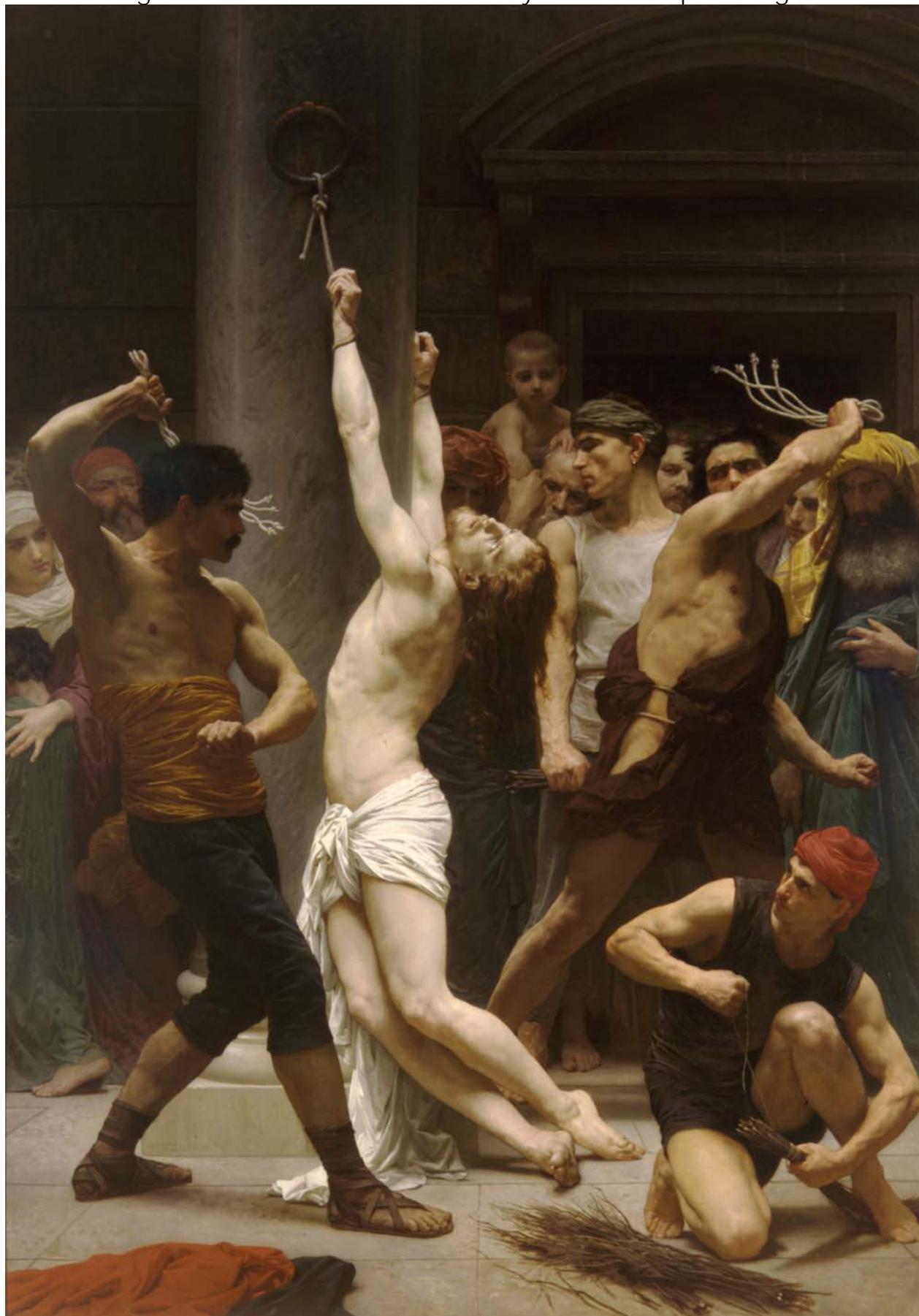
Behold the Man! by Antonio Ciseri



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The Crucifixion by Bartolome Esteban Murillo



Resurrection of Jesus Christ by Heinrich Hofmann



The Lost Lamb (left) Christ in America (right) both by Minerva Teichert



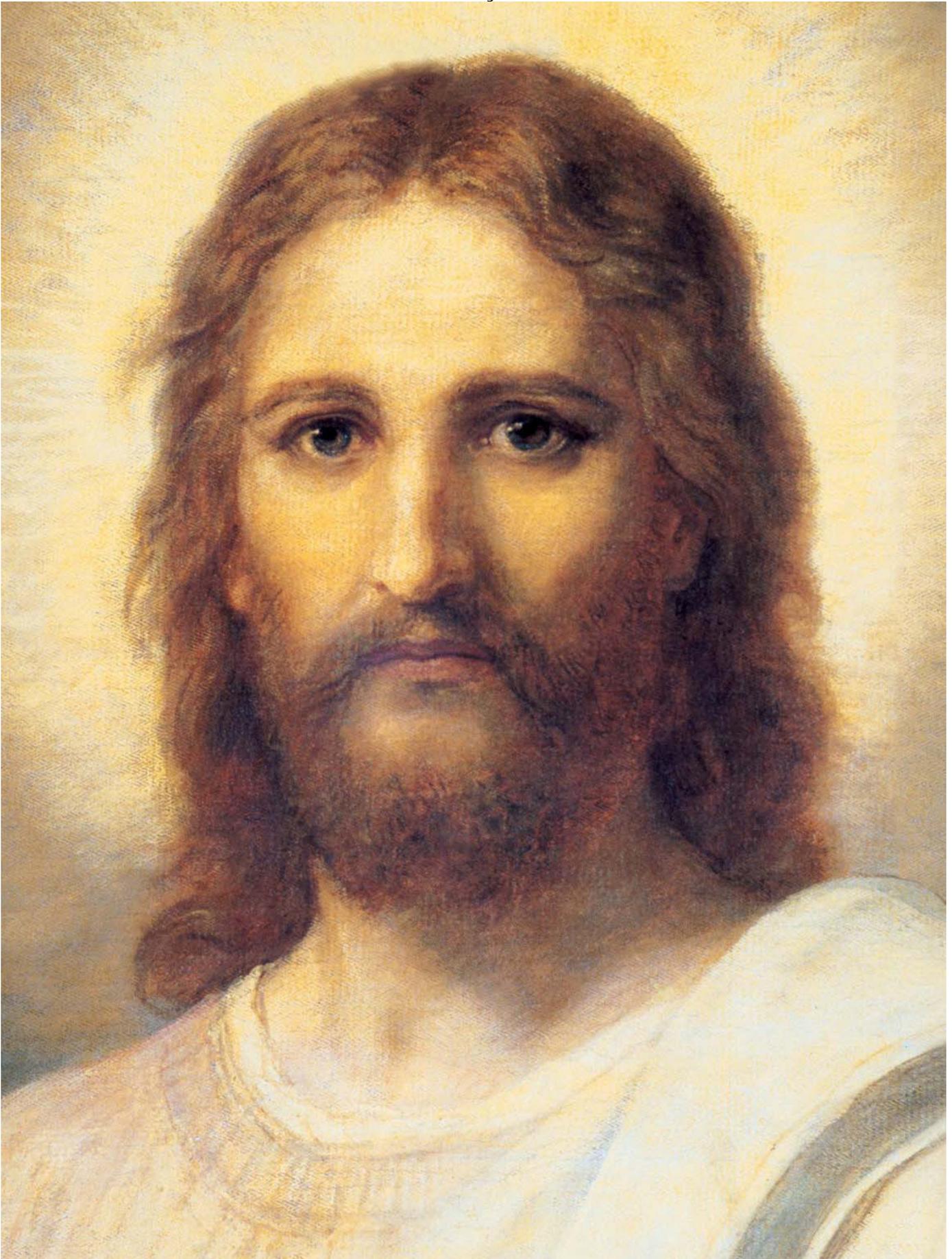
Washington DC Temple Mural



Head of Christ by Warner Sallman



The Lord Jesus Christ by Heinrich Hofmann



The other pictures included on the tags can be found in the gospel art kit:

John the Baptist Baptizing Jesus by Harry Anderson
Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood by Kenneth Riley
Brother Joseph by David Lindsley
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles found at LDS.Org
The Second Coming by Harry Anderson