



Lesson 18: The Lord Reveals the Law of Consecration

"Lesson 18: The Lord Reveals the Law of Consecration," *Primary 5: Doctrine and Covenants: Church History*, (1997), 91

Purpose

To encourage the children to willingly share their time, talents, and means to help build up the kingdom of God on the earth.

Love One Another

- As I have loved you,
Love one another.
This new commandment:
Love one another.
By this shall men know
Ye are my disciples,
If ye have love
One to another.

- *Words:* Luacine Clark Fox, 1914–2002
- *Music:* Luacine Clark Fox, 1914–2002; arr. by Jo Marie Borgeson Bray, 1925–1998
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**OUR OPENING PRAYER WILL
BE GIVEN BY**



(Enter Name Here)

- Let's play a game
- It's called

I don't need it – Would you Like it?

“I Don't Need It— Would You Like It?”



Let's read Psalm 24:1

1 The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalm 24:1

What does this scripture mean?

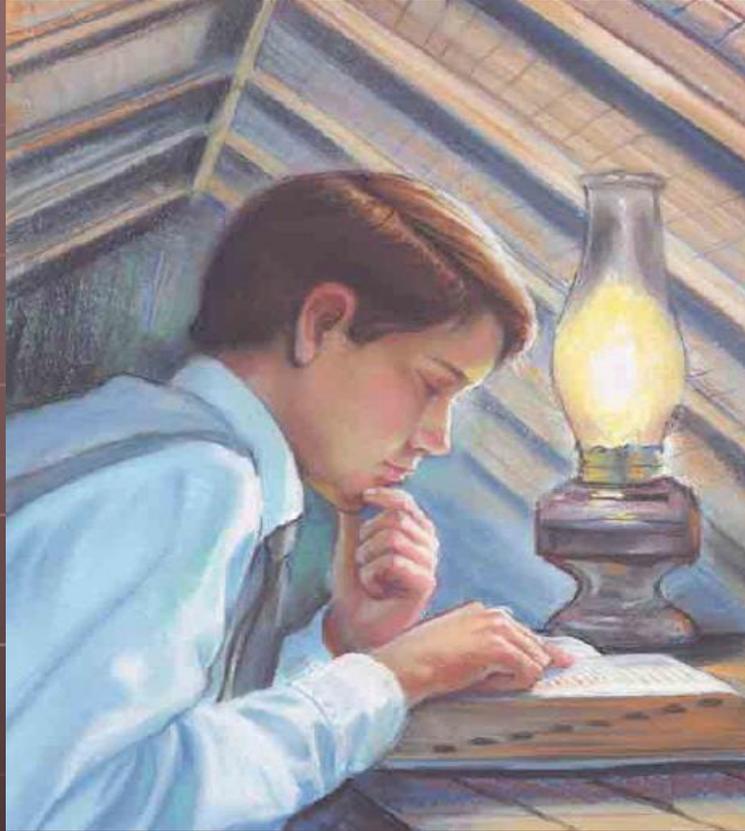
- Because the earth was created by Jesus Christ under the direction of Heavenly Father, everything on the earth belongs to them.
- They bless us by letting us use the things they have created.



- Heavenly Father and Jesus want us to share what we have with others, especially when we have more than we need.
- Sharing is one way we can show our love for Heavenly Father and Jesus and thank them for all that they have given us.

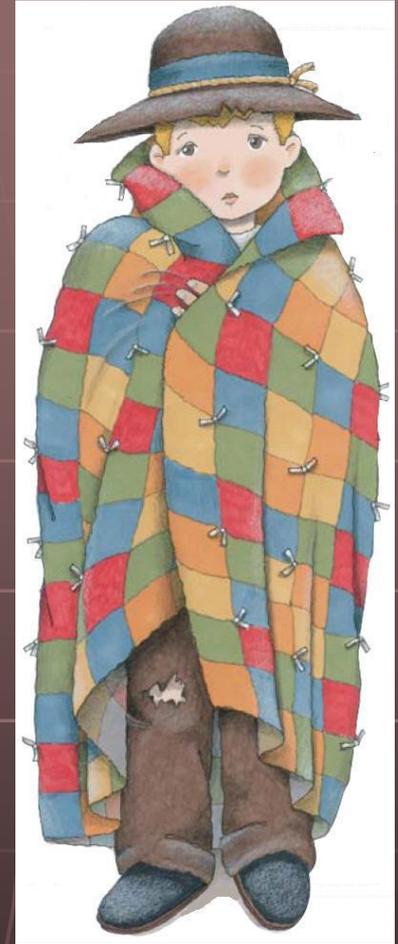


CONSECRATION



To consecrate means to dedicate or give for a sacred purpose.

- When the Saints began gathering in Ohio in early 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith was concerned because many of them were very poor and did not have the things they needed, such as food, clothing, and shelter.
- The Prophet began looking for a way to help these poor members of the church.



From sugardoodle.net and the November 2006 Friend Magazine, pg. 30

- When the Prophet first arrived in Kirtland, Ohio, he found that some members of the Church were living together on a farm owned by Isaac Morley.



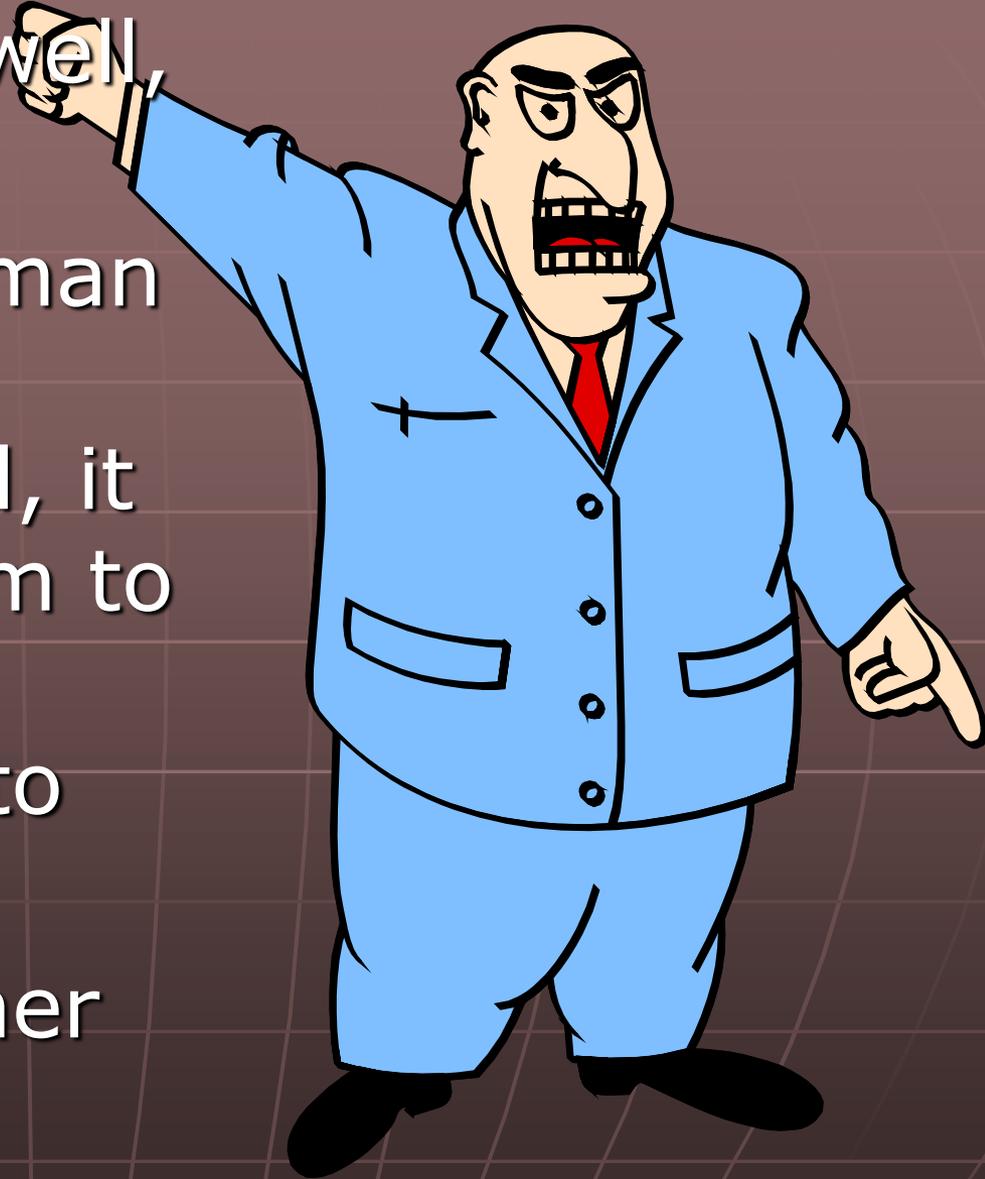
- They had read in the Bible that the members of the Church in Jesus' time shared everything they had, and they were trying to live the same way.



- This plan did not always work very well, however.
- For example, one man thought that if all things were shared, it was all right for him to sell a watch that actually belonged to another man.



- This plan did not always work very well, however.
- For example, one man thought that if all things were shared, it was all right for him to sell a watch that actually belonged to another man.
- This made the owner of the watch very angry.



- The Prophet saw that although it was good that these people were trying to share with each other, their plan was not approved by the Lord.
- Joseph prayed to find out what the Lord wanted the members of the Church to do.



- A few days after calling Edward Partridge to be the bishop of the Church, the Lord revealed to Joseph Smith the law of consecration.

([D&C 42:30–39, 42](#))



From gapages.com

- This law commanded the Saints to share with each other in an organized way.
- The Lord gave the following instructions:

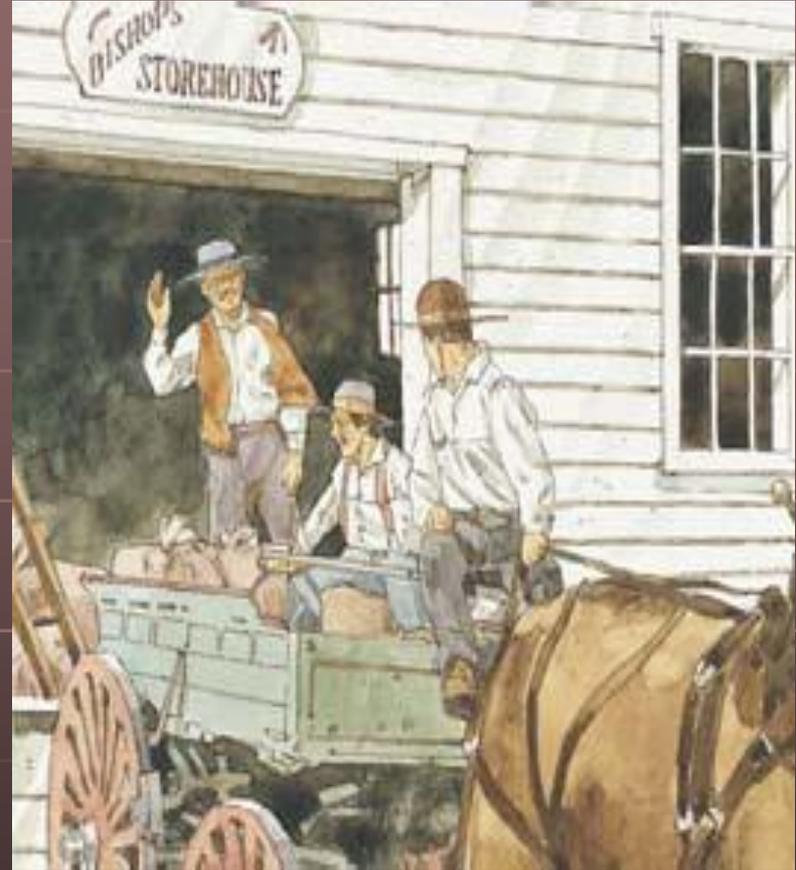
- 1. The Saints were to consecrate, or give, all of their property and possessions to the Church.



- The bishop would be responsible for these consecrations.



- 2. The bishop would decide with the head of each family what property and possessions the family needed to work and live.
- The bishop would give these needed items to the family.



- 3. Families would work hard to provide for themselves using the things they were given.



- After they filled their own needs and wants, anything extra they had earned or created was to be given to the bishop to help the poor and strengthen the Church.



Taken from the Doctrine and Covenants Seminary Guide, pg. 103 at sugardoodle.net

- This law helped the Church grow and helped the members take care of each other while they lived in Ohio and Missouri.
- People donated their time and talents as well as their money and possessions so that missionary work could be done, a temple could be built, and newly arriving Saints would have a place to live and food to eat..



Taken from the Doctrine and Covenants Seminary Guide, pg. 103 at sugardoodle.net

- Even though most of the people were poor, when they shared what they did have, everyone had enough.

- People gave to the Church in many ways. For example, everyone helped build the Kirtland Temple.



From scriptures.lds.org

- Men worked on the building itself, and women made clothes for the workers and curtains and carpets for the temple.

- Someone donated a horse and a yoke of oxen.
- The Church sold the animals and used the money to buy building supplies for the temple and food for the workers who were building it.





Image from Wikipedia.com

- One woman worked all summer spinning one hundred pounds of wool.
- She was told that she could keep half of the wool for herself because she had worked so hard, but she did not even keep enough to make herself a pair of stockings.
- She felt that those who were working on the temple needed the wool more than she did.

- Many people also helped with missionary work.
- Men left to serve missions, and other members helped care for their families and provided them with food and clothing while the men were gone.



- Once the Prophet asked John E. Page to serve a mission to Canada.
- Brother Page said that he could not go because he did not have a coat to wear, so the Prophet removed his own coat and gave it to him.

- Because the Saints were willing to work hard and share what they had, the members of the Church were cared for and the Church had enough money for other important purposes, such as buying land in Missouri for homes and a temple.

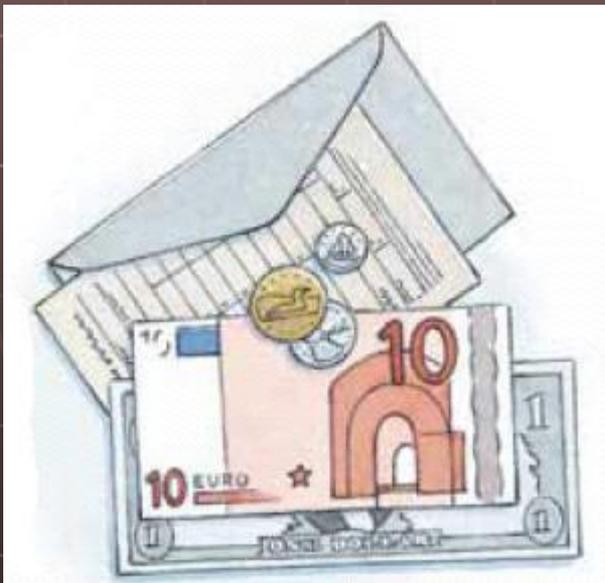


Photo from LDS.org / temples

- As the Saints helped each other, their testimonies of the truthfulness of the gospel grew and the kingdom of God on the earth was strengthened.

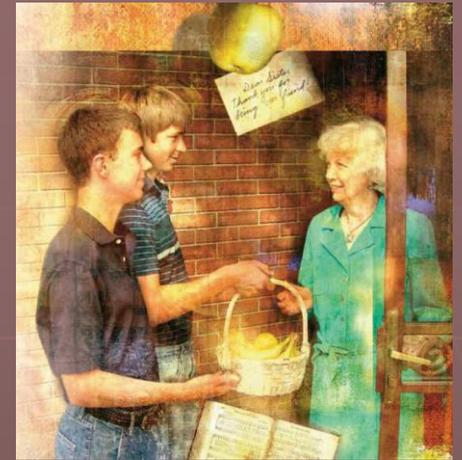
Early members of the Church lived the law of consecration for only a short while.

Someday the Church will practice the law of consecration again, but today we as members are asked to live only part of the law.



We are not asked to give all we have to the Church, but we are asked to pay tithing and fast offerings.

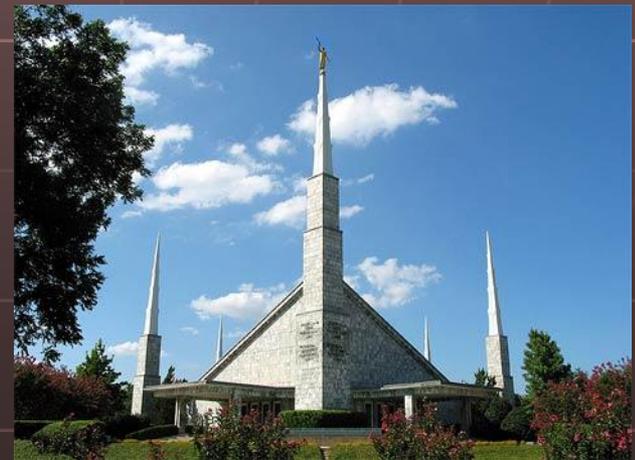
- Tithing and fast offerings are used to take care of the poor, build temples and meetinghouses, and provide other things such as lesson manuals.



Taken from the November 2008 New Era Magazine, pg. 35

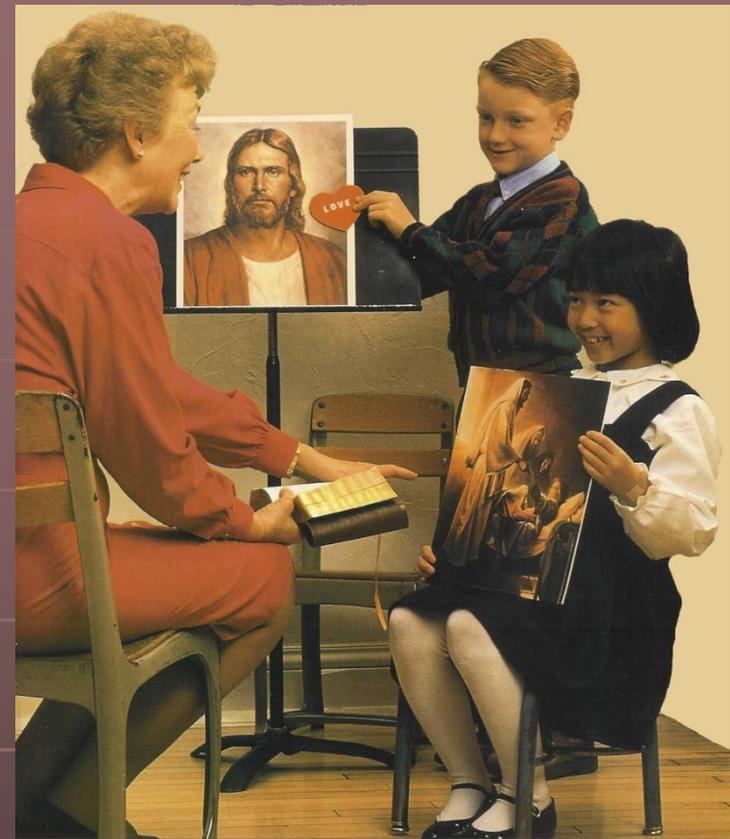


From flickr --- lds meetinghouses

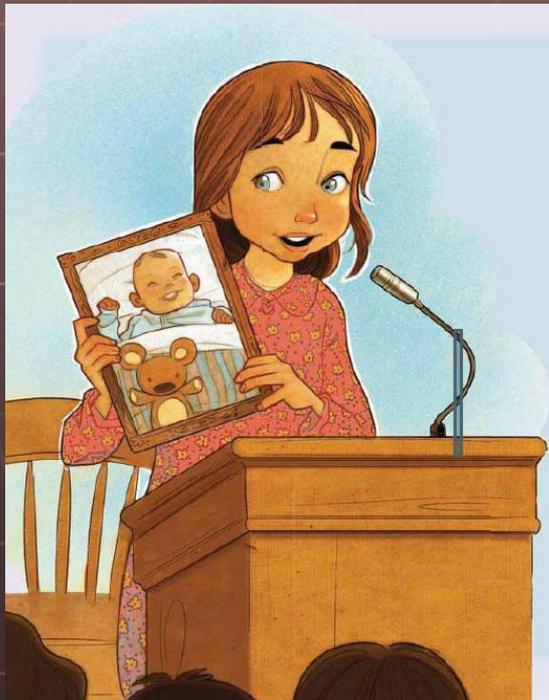


Taken from LDSchurchtemples.com

We are also asked to share our time and talents by doing things such as giving talks or teaching Primary classes.



From sugardoodle.net and the February 1996 Friend Magazine



From sugardoodle.net and the April 2009 Friend Magazine, pg. 4

As we share, we are helping to build the kingdom of God on the earth.

Discussion Time





- Why did the Lord give the early Church members the law of consecration? (D&C 42:30, 34–35.)
- What did members do to follow this law? (D&C 42:31–33.)
- What were the excess money and goods used for?

- How are Church members today asked to help build Church buildings and temples?



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- How are Church members today asked to help build Church buildings and temples?
 - By paying tithing
- How are we asked to help the poor and needy?
 - Through fast offerings and other donations



- Where did the Church keep the extra supplies that the Saints donated? ([D&C 42:34.](#))
- Who was responsible to collect and care for these things?



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([D&C 42:34.](#))
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- The bishop
- The Church still uses bishops' storehouses today.
 - These storehouses are filled with food and goods that are donated to or purchased by the Church.

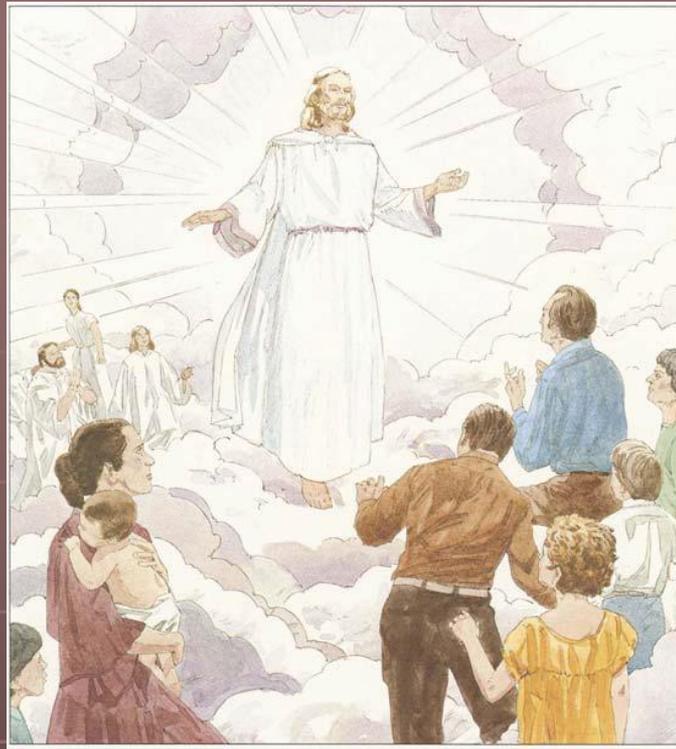


Paul Chinn / The Chronicle

- Members of the Church who do not have what they need can be sent by their bishops to get food and other necessary items from these storehouses.



- What did the Lord tell the Saints about the importance of working? ([D&C 42:42.](#))
- Why is it good for people to work hard for the things they need?
- What work do you do to help your family?
- What work do you do to help the Church?
- What else could you do?



- Who has given you your talents?
- How could you share your time or talents with others?

- Why do you think the Saints were willing to share everything they had, even though most of them did not have very much?
- Whom are we really serving when we help others?
([D&C 42:31, 38; Mosiah 2:17.](#))
- How does sharing what we have show Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ that we love them?
- How do you feel when you share with or help someone else?



Enrichment Activities



- There are many ways we can share with others.
- Let's discuss what some of the ways are.

- “means” (money and the material things they own) :
 - tithing,
 - fast offerings
 - missionary fund donations
 - food and clothing given to the poor

- “time”:

- supporting their parents in their Church callings
- babysitting while their parents attend the temple
- working on a Church welfare project
- visiting someone who is lonely

■ “talents”:

- speaking in Primary or sacrament meeting
- playing a musical instrument
- singing for others’ enjoyment
- making decorations for a Church activity

- There are many ways we can share with others, even if we do not have much money or many possessions.



- A bishop can use fast offerings to provide food, shelter, clothing, and medical care for the poor and needy.

- In addition to fasting regularly on fast Sunday, members of the Church sometimes hold special fasts to help needy people throughout the world. The fast offerings donated during these fasts are used for many projects:



- Some of the money has been used to give immunization shots to children in Africa to protect them from disease.
- Some money has been given to people in another part of Africa to help them provide clean drinking water to villages.



- Money has also been given to help farmers in Guatemala learn how to produce more and better quality food to feed their families and livestock.



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- Money from fast offerings has been used to provide medical and dental care to people who would not otherwise have opportunities to be treated by a doctor or dentist, and it has also been used to help victims of natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods.





- Many people have been blessed by giving and receiving fast offerings.

(See Thomas S. Monson, in Conference Report, April 1991, pp. 65–67; or *Ensign*, May 1991, pp. 48–49.)

- When Thomas S. Monson was a boy, his Sunday School class was saving money for a big party.
- The children were very excited about the cakes, cookies, pies, and ice cream that the money would buy.
- But they found a more important way to use the money:



- “None of us will forget that gray morning in January when our beloved teacher announced to us that the mother of one of our classmates had passed away.
- We thought of our own mothers and how much they meant to us.
- We felt sorrow for Billy Devenport in his great loss.





- “The lesson that Sunday was from the book of Acts, chapter 20, verse 35: ‘Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Picture from the **July 1995** Ensign article about President Monson (sugardoodle.net)

- At the conclusion of the presentation of a well-prepared lesson, [our teacher] commented on the economic situation of Billy’s family.



- These were depression times; money was scarce.
- With a twinkle in her eyes, she asked, 'How would you like to follow this teaching of the Lord?'

Picture from the **July 1995** Ensign article about President Monson (sugardoodle.net)

- How would you feel about taking your party fund and, as a class, giving it to the Devenports as an expression of our love?'
- The decision was unanimous.
- We counted very carefully each penny and placed the total sum in a large envelope. ^I _I

- “Ever shall I remember the tiny band walking those three city blocks, entering Billy’s home, greeting him, his brother, sisters, and father.
- Noticeably absent was his mother.
- Always I shall treasure the tears which glistened in the eyes of each one present as the white envelope containing our precious party fund passed from the delicate hand of our teacher to the needy hand of a grief-stricken father.



- We fairly skipped our way back to the chapel.
- Our hearts were lighter than they had ever been, our joy more full, our understanding more profound.
- This simple act of kindness welded us together as one.
- We learned through our own experience that indeed it is more blessed to give than to receive”



(in Conference Report, Apr. 1992, pp. 81–82; or *Ensign*, May 1992, pp. 59–60).

- Did you notice how the children in the story shared their time, talents, or means?

- Listen to this story by President Monson and watch for the children to use their time, talents, and means.

- “When I was a deacon, I loved baseball.
- ... My friends and I would play ball in a small alleyway behind the houses where we lived.
- The quarters were cramped but all right, provided you hit straight away to center field.



- “When I was a deacon, I loved baseball.
- ... My friends and I would play ball in a small alleyway behind the houses where we lived.

- The quarters were cramped but all right, provided you hit straight away to center field.
- However, if you hit the ball to the right of center, disaster was at the door.



- Here lived a lady who would watch us play, and, as soon as the ball rolled to her porch, her [dog] would retrieve the ball and present it to Mrs. Shinas as she opened the door.

- Into her house Mrs. Shinas would return and add the ball to the many she had previously confiscated. ...



- None of us had a good word for Mrs. Shinas, but we had plenty of bad words for her. ...

- “One night as I performed my daily task of hand-watering our front lawn, holding the nozzle of the hose in hand as was the style at that time, I noticed that Mrs. Shinas’s lawn was dry and turning brown.



- I honestly don't know what came over me, but I took a few more minutes and, with our hose, watered her lawn.

- This I did each night, and then when autumn came, I [raked] her lawn free of leaves as I did ours, and stacked the leaves in piles at the street's edge to be burned or gathered.
- During the entire summer I had not seen Mrs. Shinas.
- We had long since given up playing ball in the alley.
- We had run out of baseballs and had no money to buy more.



- “Then early one evening, her front door opened, and Mrs. Shinas beckoned for me to ... come to her front porch. ...
- [She] invited me into her living room, where I was asked to sit in a comfortable chair.
- She went to the kitchen and returned with a large box filled with baseballs and softballs, representing several seasons of her confiscation efforts.
- The filled box was presented to me; however, the treasure was not to be found in the gift, but rather in her voice.



- I saw for the first time a smile come across the face of Mrs. Shinas, and she said, 'Tommy, I want you to have these baseballs, and I want to thank you for being kind to me.'
- I expressed my own gratitude to her and walked from her home a better boy than when I entered.
- No longer were we enemies.
- Now we were friends"
- (in Conference Report, Apr. 1991, pp. 68–69; or *Ensign*, May 1991, pp. 49–50).



- Did you notice how the children in the story shared their time, talents, or means?

- Listen to this story by President Monson and watch for the children to use their time, talents, and means.

- “One Sunday morning in a nursing home [where sick or elderly people go when there is no better way to care for them] ... , I witnessed the presentation of a beautiful gift as a young girl shared her musical talent with those lonely and elderly men and women. ...



- “A hush fell over the wheelchair-confined audience as the girl took bow in hand and played on her violin a beautiful melody.



- “A hush fell over the wheelchair-confined audience as the girl took bow in hand and played on her violin a beautiful melody.
- At the conclusion, one patient [said], ‘My dear, that was lovely.’

- Then she began to clap her hands to express approval.



- A second patient joined in clapping, then a third, a fourth, and soon everyone applauded.

- “Together the young girl and I walked out of the nursing home. She said to me, ‘I have never played better. I have never felt better’”

(in Conference Report, Apr. 1991, p. 81; or *Ensign*, May 1991, p. 62).



Memorize



- Doctrine and Covenants 42:38

For inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, ye do it unto me.

"Where Love Is"

Where love is, there God is also.
Where love is, we want to be.
Guide us, his truths to follow;
Help us obey him faithfully.

Where love is, there God is also.
We think of him rev'rently.
Teach us to pray, to talk with him above
And know that he will guide us with his love.

The comfort of loving arms around us,
A song that makes us want to sing,
The happiness we feel when love has found us,
'Tis love we get when love we bring.

Where love is, there God is also.
And with him we want to be.
Show us the way and guide us tenderly
That we may dwell with him eternally.

Words: Joanne Bushman Doxey, b. 1932,
and Norma B. Smith, b. 1923

Music: Joanne Bushman Doxey, b. 1932,
and Marjorie Castleton Kjar, b. 1927

"I'm Trying to Be like Jesus"

1. I'm trying to be like Jesus;

I'm following in his ways.

I'm trying to love as he did, in all that I do and say.

At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice,

But I try to listen as the still small voice whispers,

2. I'm trying to love my neighbor;

I'm learning to serve my friends.

I watch for the day of gladness when Jesus will come again.

I try to remember the lessons he taught.

Then the Holy Spirit enters into my thoughts, saying:

Chorus

"Love one another as Jesus loves you.

Try to show kindness in all that you do.

Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,

For these are the things Jesus taught."

Testimony

- I want to testify to you the importance of sharing your time, talents, and means.
- The Blessings of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ for your sharing, will enable the church to continue to grow on the earth.

**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.

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 30 And behold, thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken.

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 31 And inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid before the bishop of my church and his counselors, two of the elders, or high priests, such as he shall appoint or has appointed and set apart for that purpose.

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 32 And it shall come to pass, that after they are laid before the bishop of my church, and after that he has received these testimonies concerning the consecration of the properties of my church, that they cannot be taken from the church, agreeable to my commandments, every man shall be made accountable unto me, a steward over his own property, or that which he has received by consecration, as much as is sufficient for himself and family.

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 33 And again, if there shall be properties in the hands of the church, or any individuals of it, more than is necessary for their support after this first consecration, which is a residue to be consecrated unto the bishop, it shall be kept to administer to those who have not, from time to time, that every man who has need may be amply supplied and receive according to his wants.

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 34 Therefore, the residue shall be kept in my storehouse, to administer to the poor and the needy, as shall be appointed by the high council of the church, and the bishop and his council;
- 35 And for the purpose of purchasing lands for the public benefit of the church, and building houses of worship, and building up of the New Jerusalem which is hereafter to be revealed—

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 36 That my covenant people may be gathered in one in that day when I shall come to my temple. And this I do for the salvation of my people.
- 37 And it shall come to pass, that he that sinneth and repenteth not shall be cast out of the church, and shall not receive again that which he has consecrated unto the poor and the needy of my church, or in other words, unto me—

D&C 42:30–39, 42

- 38 For inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, ye do it unto me.
- 39 For it shall come to pass, that which I spake by the mouths of my prophets shall be fulfilled; for I will consecrate of the riches of those who embrace my gospel among the Gentiles unto the poor of my people who are of the house of Israel.
- 42 Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer.

D&C 42:30, 34–35

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D&C 42:31–33

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D&C 42:34

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D&C 42:42

- 42 Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer.

D&C 42:31, 38; Mosiah 2:17

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D&C 42:31, 38; Mosiah 2:17

- 38 For inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, ye do it unto me.
- 17 And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.