



# Lesson 22: The Latter-day Revelations Are Published

*"Lesson 22: The Latter-day Revelations Are Published," Primary 5: Doctrine and Covenants: Church History, (1997),115*

# **Purpose**

**To help the children gain a testimony of the importance of the Doctrine and Covenants and continuing revelation through the living prophet.**

## 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.”**



**OUR OPENING PRAYER  
WILL BE GIVEN BY**

**(Enter Name Here)**

- Please put your Doctrine and Covenants in a stack on the table.
- Think about Doctrine and Covenants 43:8.
- Please discuss this verse and prepare to tell me what the verse is about.



- **Why can't you tell me what the verse is about?**
- **Please take your Doctrine and Covenants and open to Section 43 verse 8.**



- **And now, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my church, how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given.**





- **Early Church members were instructed to teach each other about the revelations the Lord had given them**

**through the Prophet Joseph Smith, but the Church members did not have a book where they could read the revelations.**





- **The Lord commanded the Church members to publish the revelations in a book so that they**

**would be able to read and study them.**

**& We now call this book the Doctrine and Covenants.**

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**Joseph Smith and some of the Saints left Missouri and went back to Kirtland, Ohio.**

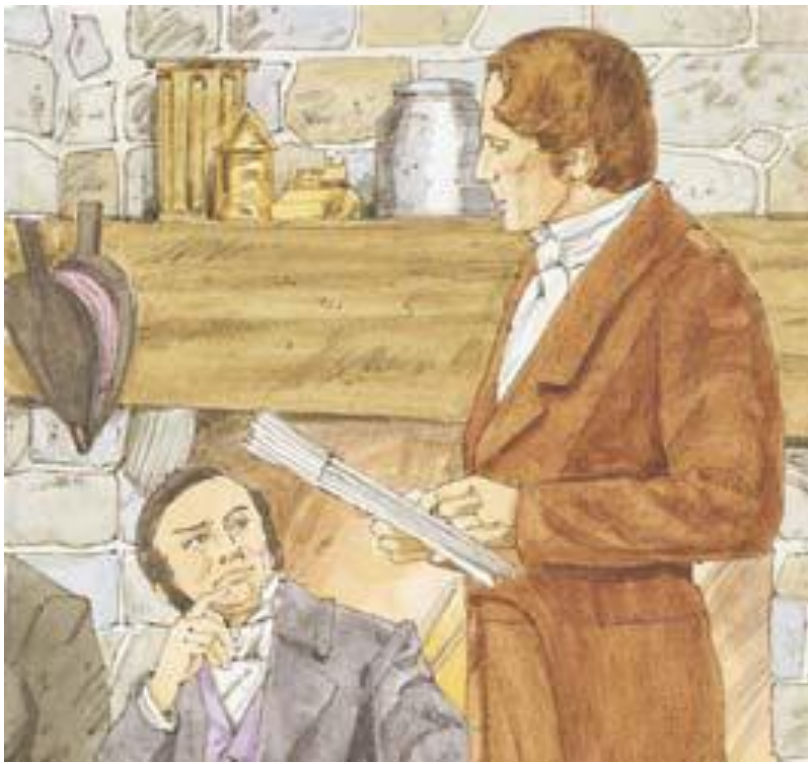


- **Soon a special conference was held.**
- **The purpose was to talk about printing the revelations the Lord had given to Joseph Smith.**

**& The revelations Joseph had received had been written down, but most Church members did not have copies of them.**



- In the conference, the Saints decided to publish the revelations in a book.**
- The book would be called the Book of Commandments.**
- Later it was called the Doctrine and Covenants.**



**& Jesus gave Joseph Smith two more revelations for the book.**

- One was for the beginning, and the other was for the end.**
- These revelations help us understand the importance of the book and of the restored gospel.**



- **The Doctrine and Covenants tells everyone that the true Church of Jesus Christ is on the earth again.**





- **The Doctrine and Covenants tells about the Priesthood.**
- **It also tells men how to use this power.**

- **The Doctrine and Covenants tells about the Book of Mormon.**
- **By reading the Book of Mormon, everyone can know about the gospel of Jesus Christ.**







- **The Doctrine and Covenants teaches the Saints to share.**
- **Those who share will be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

- **The Doctrine and Covenants teaches the commandments of God.**



⌘ **Saints who obey these commandments can live with Heavenly Father and Jesus forever.**

- **Jesus said all members of the Church should read the Doctrine and Covenants.**



- After the conference, Oliver Cowdery took copies of the revelations to Missouri.
- He gave them to William Phelps, a Church member who had a printing press.



- Oliver asked Brother Phelps to print 3,000 books.
- Before the printing was finished, however, wicked men stopped the press and destroyed most of the pages.

- **The Doctrine and Covenants was finally published in 1835.**



↳ **The Saints thanked Heavenly Father for the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants.**



- During one of these conferences, some of the Church leaders at the conference complained about the language of some of the revelations that Joseph Smith had received.

✂ They thought they could write better revelations.

✂ Joseph Smith had received were true (see [D&C 67:4](#)) and challenging anyone who would like to try to write a revelation to do so (see [D&C 67:5–8](#)).





**William E. McLellan took this challenge and tried to write a revelation.**

- **Joseph Smith recorded that Brother McLellin thought he was smart enough to write a revelation, but he could not do it.**
- **The Prophet said that it is “an awful [great and important] responsibility to write in the name of the Lord” (*History of the Church*, 1:226).**



**& All those present who saw Brother McLellin’s failure were strengthened in their testimony that the revelations Joseph Smith had received were true and had come from the Lord.**



- **William E. McLellin later left the Church.**
- **Joseph Smith said that people who criticize the Church and its leaders will eventually apostatize if they do not repent (see *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 156–57).**



- **When Oliver took the revelations to be printed, he would be traveling through unsettled country, the Lord told John Whitmer to go with him for safety (see D&C 69:1–2).**



↳ **It was a long, cold journey, but in January 1832 Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer arrived safely in Independence**

- They delivered the revelations to Brother Phelps, who started to set the type to publish them as the Book of Commandments.



- ↳ By July 1833 the first 160 pages of the Book of Commandments had been printed.



- **Because many Saints were arriving in Missouri, some of the original settlers of the area were uneasy.**
- **They began to fear that the Saints would take over the area, elect their own officials, and drive the original settlers off the land.**

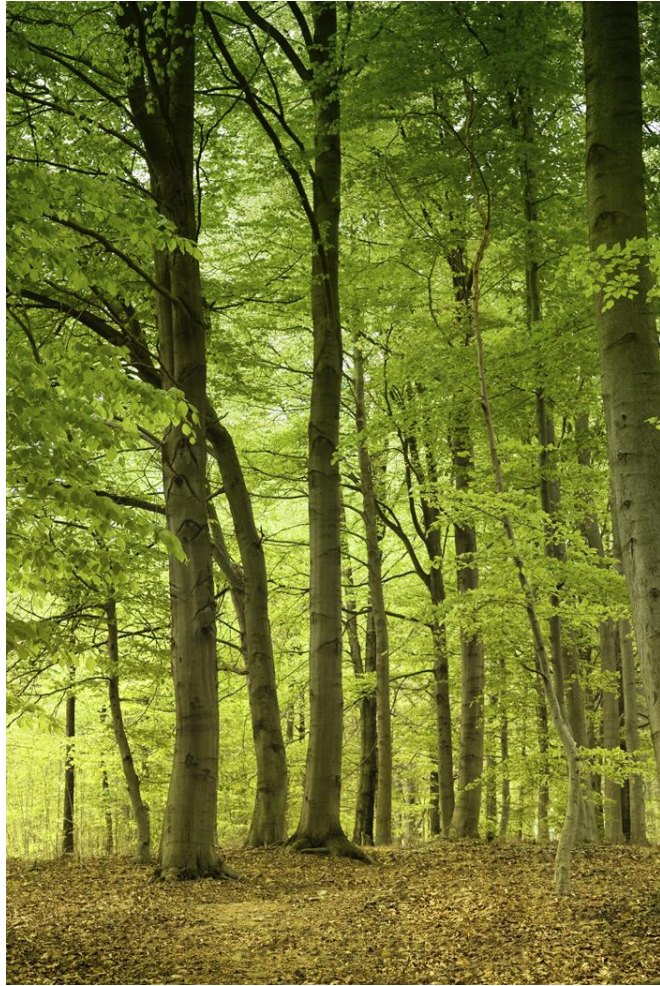




- **On Saturday, 20 July 1833, four or five hundred people who were against the Saints met in the Independence courthouse.**
- **The people formed a mob and demanded that the Saints leave their new homes or be killed.**



- The leaders of the Church in Missouri asked for three months to consult with Joseph Smith, who was in Ohio, but the mob refused this request.
- The Saints were told they had only fifteen minutes to decide what to do.



- **Before the fifteen minutes had passed, the mob broke into William W. Phelps's home, which contained the printing office where the Book of Commandments was being printed.**
- **Brother Phelps was not at home.**
- **Sister Phelps took her sick baby and her other children and hurried to the woods nearby.**



- **Fourteen-year-old Mary Elizabeth Rollins and her twelve-year-old sister, Caroline, watched members of the mob throw the Phelps' furniture and other possessions into the street.**







- **The mob then threw the press and the type out the window, along with most of the unbound pages of the Book of Commandments.**
- **Mary Elizabeth and Caroline courageously decided to save some of the copies, even though Caroline was afraid that the mob would kill them.**



- **The girls ran from their hiding place, gathered up as many pages as they could carry, and ran away.**
- **When the mobbers saw them, they shouted for the girls to stop.**
- **Mary Elizabeth and Caroline slipped through a hole in a fence and ran into a cornfield.**



- **They lay quietly on the ground among the cornstalks, listening to the men searching for them.**
- **When the sound of footsteps faded and the girls thought it was safe to leave, they gathered the papers in their arms again and began to find their way out of the field.**



- **As they approached an old log stable, they heard sounds.**
- **They entered the stable carefully and discovered Sister Phelps and her children making beds from branches so they could hide for the night in the stable.**



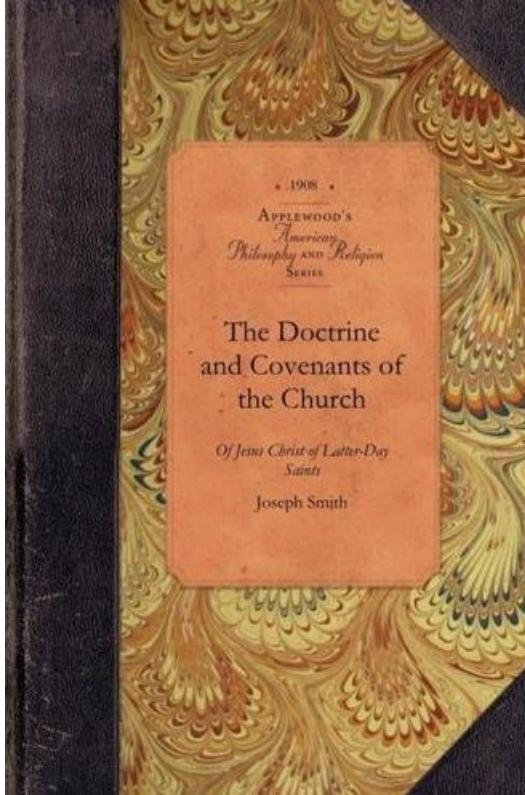
- **Knowing Brother Phelps would know what to do with the pages, the girls gave them to Sister Phelps.**





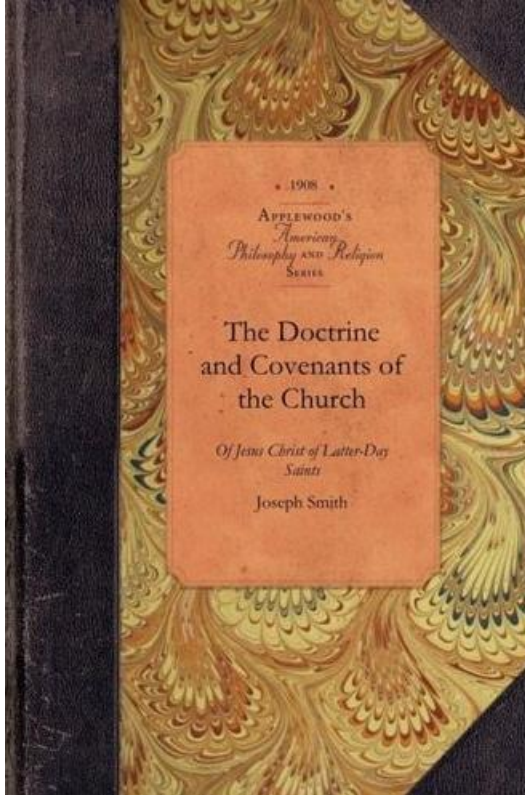
- **Later some of these original sheets of the Book of Commandments were bound into books, and Mary Elizabeth and Caroline were each given a copy.**
- **They treasured these books for the rest of their lives.**





- **The problems in Missouri interrupted the publication of the Book of Commandments.**
- **In 1834 the First Presidency prepared to publish a new edition of the revelations.**
- **The Prophet revised some of the revelations to correct printing errors, and forty-five more revelations were added to the Book of Commandments.**

- The revised book was published in Ohio in 1835 as the Doctrine and Covenants.







**Discussion Time**



- **Why couldn't William E. McLellin write a revelation?**



- ⌘ **Who was the only person authorized to receive revelation for the Church at that time?**  
**(D&C 28:2.)**

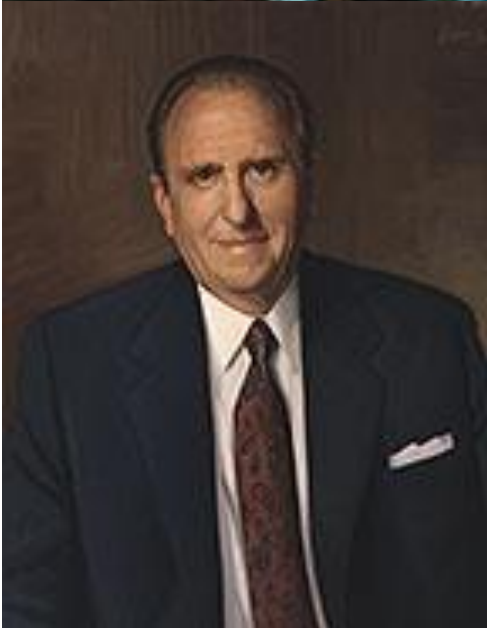
- ⌘ **Who receives revelation for the Church today?**



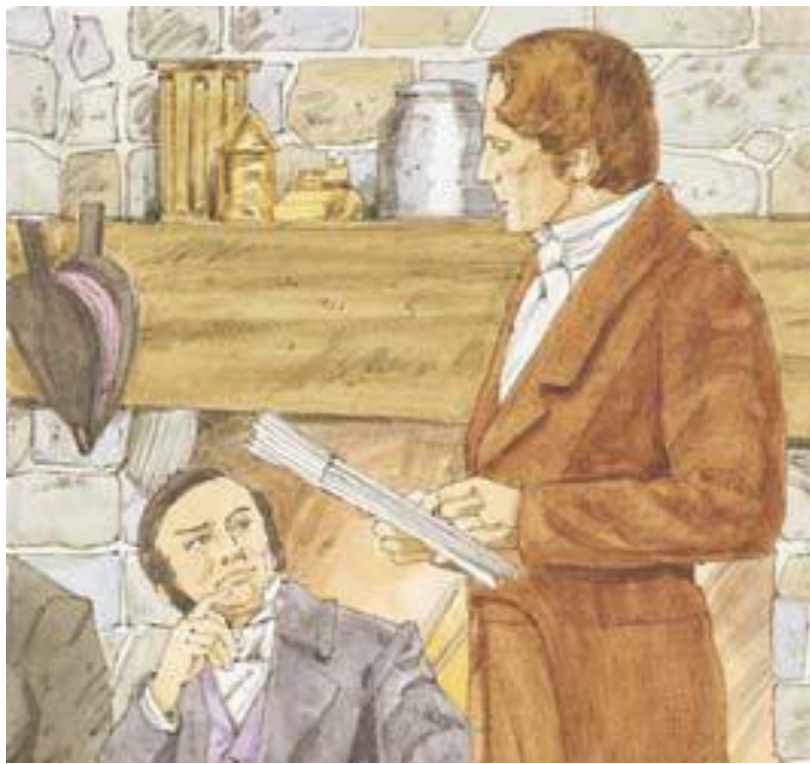
- **Why couldn't William E. McLellin write a revelation?**



- ⌘ **Who was the only person authorized to receive revelation for the Church at that time?**  
**(D&C 28:2.)**



- ⌘ **Who receives revelation for the Church today?**  
**∅ The living prophet.**



- **Why was it important for Joseph Smith to receive revelation for the Church in his day?**

**& Why does the living prophet need to receive revelation for our day?**



- Name some things you have in your lives that people in Joseph Smith's time did not have.

& Radio

& Telephone

& Cell phones

& Television

& Computers

& Cars

& Motorcycles

& Internet



- **How have some of the modern conveniences you named help members of the Church learn and share the gospel?**



- ✎ For example, many members of the Church learn what the Lord wants them to do by listening to general conference on the radio or watching it on television or via satellite.
- ✎ Even though we have the scriptures, we still need continuing revelation to help us know what to do in a changing world.



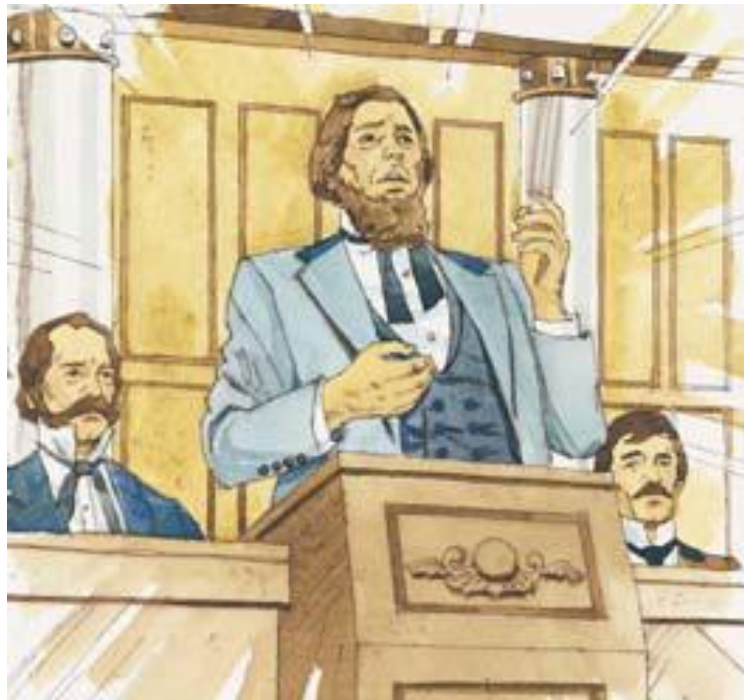


- **Think of some things that the Lord might reveal to the living prophet today.**

• Here are some examples:

- Where to build temples
- Whom to call when new apostles are needed
- Where to send missionaries
- What to teach people in general conference.

- **Why is it unwise to criticize our leaders, as William E. McLellin and others criticized Joseph Smith?**
- **What should we do if we feel critical of our leaders?**



- Why was it important to publish the revelations Joseph Smith had received?  
([See the first paragraph of the “Explanatory Introduction” to the Doctrine and Covenants.](#))

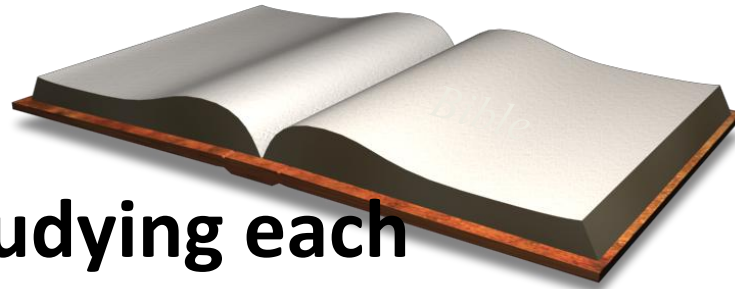


- ⌘ How do you think having the revelations published in a book helped the Saints learn what Jesus Christ wanted them to do?
- ⌘ How can studying the Doctrine and Covenants help you find out what Jesus wants you to do?

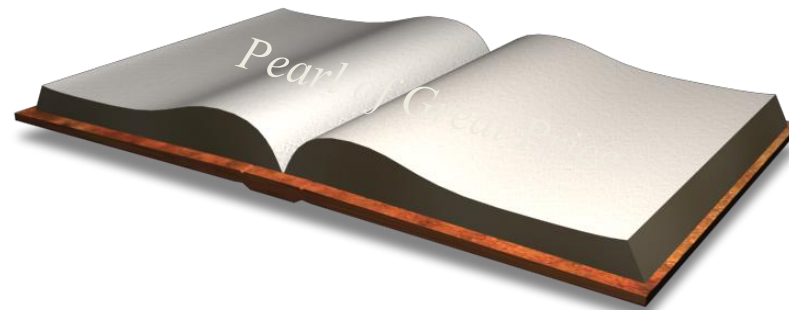
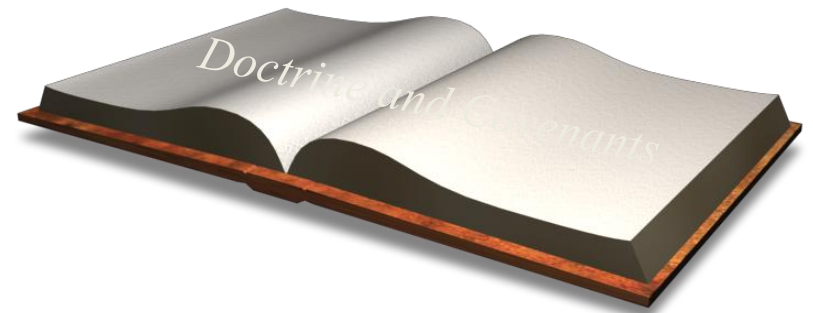
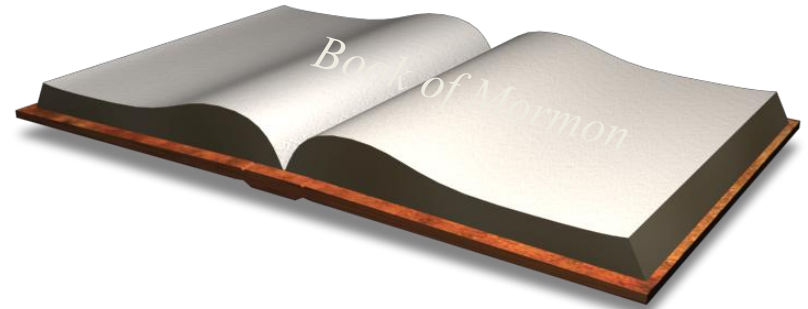
- What are the standard works of the Church?
- How is the Doctrine and Covenants different from the other standard works? ([See the third paragraph of the “Explanatory Introduction” to the Doctrine and Covenants.](#))



⌘ Why do we need all four of the standard works?



- How can studying each of the standard works help you learn about Jesus Christ?







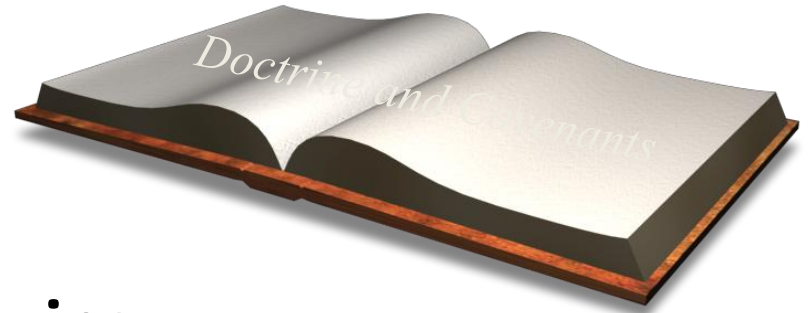
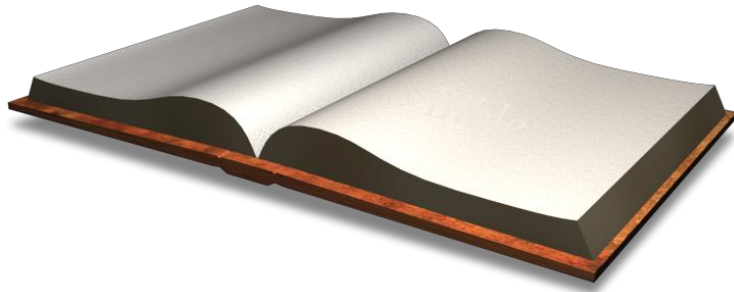
# Enrichment Activities



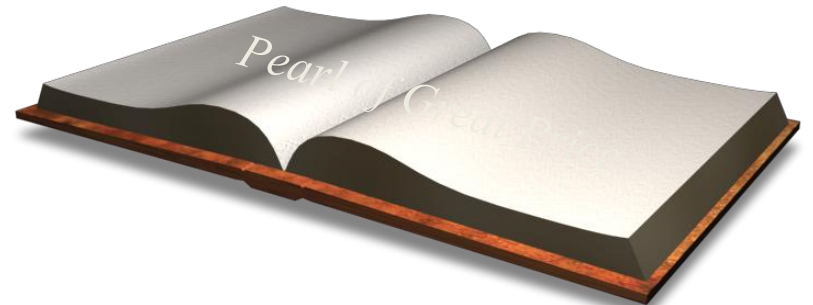
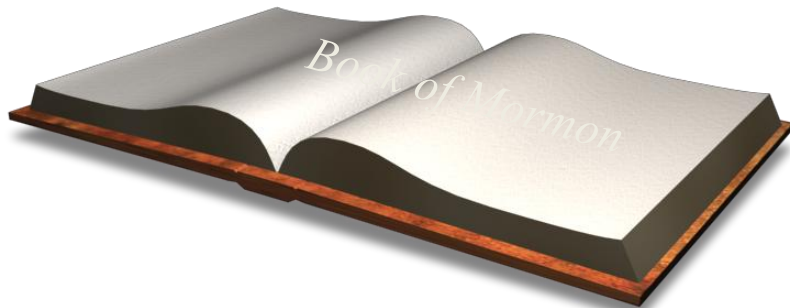
- **The Bible** tells us about prophecies of Jesus Christ and about the Savior's life and teachings when he was on the earth.
- **The Book of Mormon** is another testament of Jesus Christ and tells us about the Savior's dealings with the people on the American continent.

⌘ **The Doctrine and Covenants** is a collection of revelations from Jesus Christ for the latter days, or our times.

⌘ **The Pearl of Great Price** gives us teachings and testimonies of Jesus Christ from ancient prophets as well as Joseph Smith's history and testimony of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.



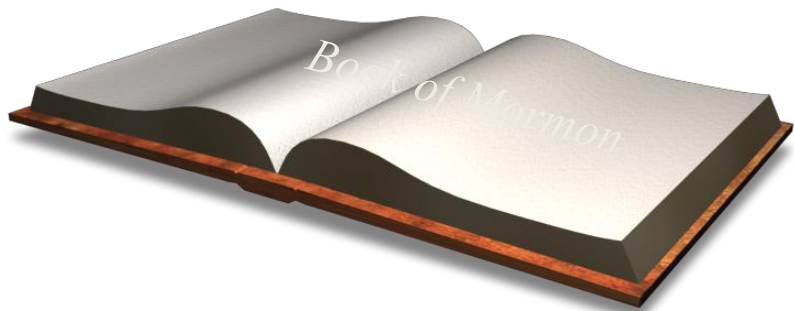
**As the following  
questions are asked,  
Hold up the scripture  
that you think we are  
talking about.**



- **Which book tells the most about the dealings of the Lord with his people in the Holy Land, beginning with the creation of the earth?**

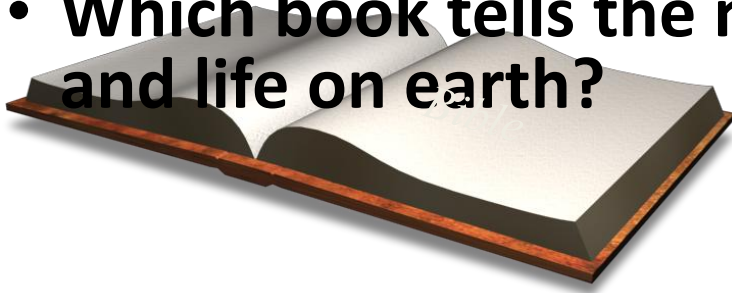


- **Which book tells about Jesus Christ's visit to the American continent?.**





- **Which book tells the most about Jesus Christ's birth and life on earth?**



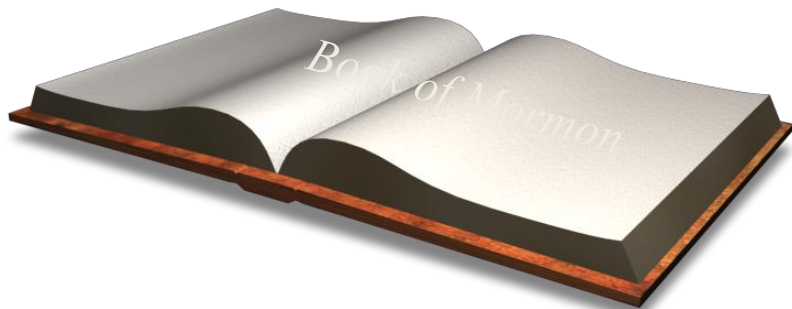
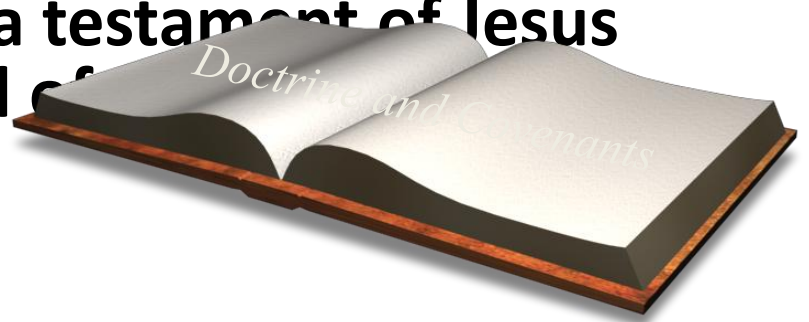
- **Which book contains a record of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ's appearance to Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove?**



- Which book contains revelations on how the Church should be established in the latter days of the world, as revealed by Jesus Christ to Joseph Smith?

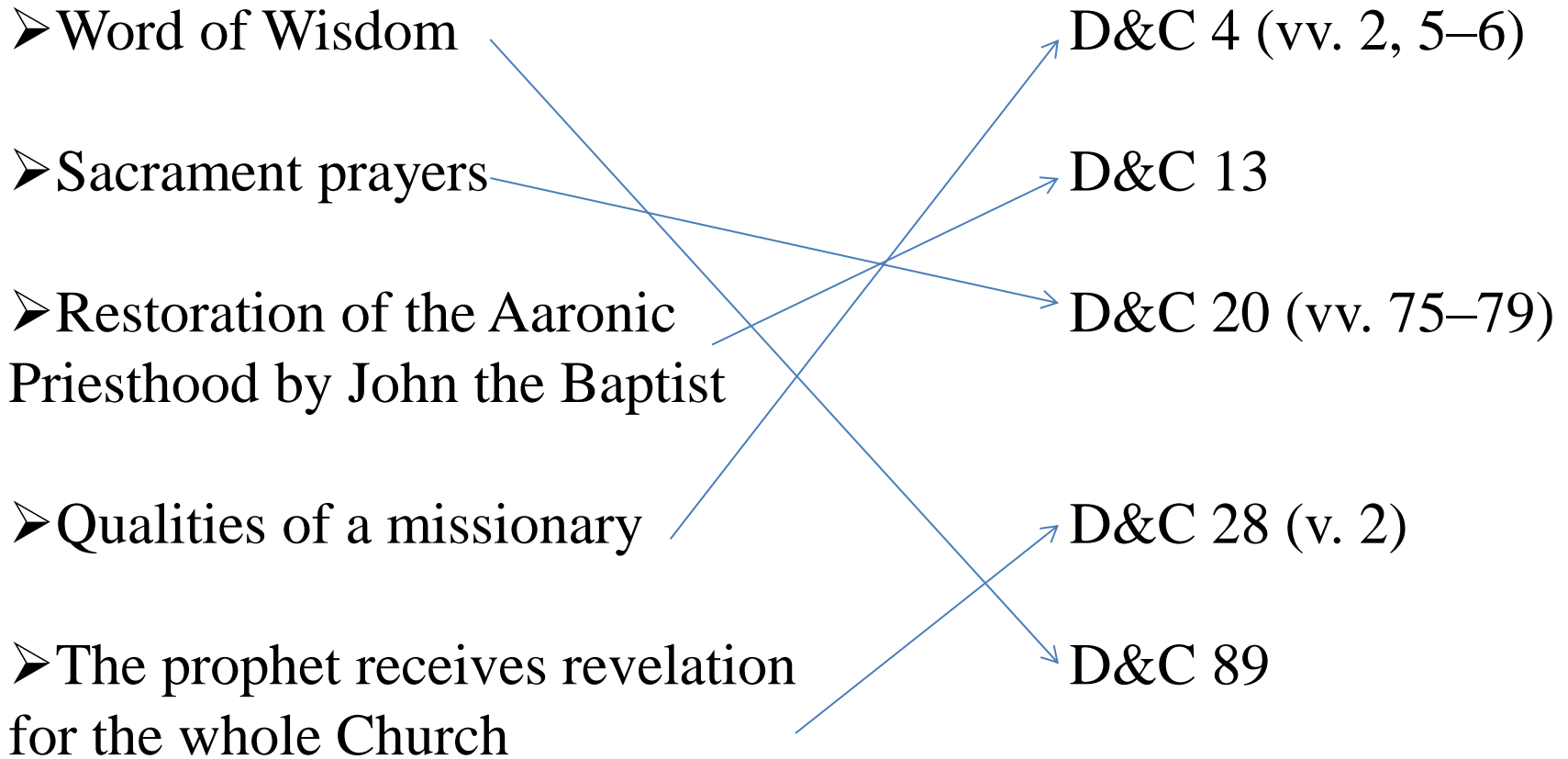


- Each of the standard works is a testament of Jesus Christ, and we should study all of





**On the following slide, we're going to show you several topics and several verses. See if you can find which verse goes with which topic.**





# Match Game



- 1. Take turns turning over a pair of cards to try to make a match.**
- 2. If you make a match, give one reason why it is important for that principle to be part of the restored church.**
- 3. If you do not make a match, return the cards to their original positions so another child can have a turn.**

# TESTIMONY

- **I want to bear my testimony of the importance of the Doctrine and Covenants to us because it was revealed in these latter days.**
- **I am grateful for continuing revelation for the Church through the living prophet.**
- **I want to encourage you to ask their parents what their favorite sections of the Doctrine and Covenants are and why those sections are their favorites.**



**OUR CLOSING PRAYER  
WILL BE GIVEN BY**

**(Enter Name Here)**



***THE END***

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

# D&C 67:4

4 And now I, the Lord, give unto you a testimony of the truth of these commandments which are lying before you.

# D&C 67:5–8

- 5 Your eyes have been upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and his language you have known, and his imperfections you have known; and you have sought in your hearts knowledge that you might express beyond his language; this you also know.
- 6 Now, seek ye out of the Book of Commandments, even the least that is among them, and appoint him that is the most wise among you;
- 7 Or, if there be any among you that shall make one like unto it, then ye are justified in saying that ye do not know that they are true;
- 8 But if ye cannot make one like unto it, ye are under condemnation if ye do not bear record that they are true.



- **The Doctrine and Covenants is a collection of divine revelations and inspired declarations given for the establishment and regulation of the kingdom of God on the earth in the last days.**
- **Although most of the sections are directed to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the messages, warnings, and exhortations are for the benefit of all mankind, and contain an invitation to all people everywhere to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking to them for their temporal well-being and their everlasting salvation.**





- From the “Explanatory Introduction” to the Doctrine and Covenants:
- **The book of Doctrine and Covenants is one of the standard works of the Church in company with the Holy Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Pearl of Great Price.**



- **However, the Doctrine and Covenants is unique because it is not a translation of an ancient document, but is of modern origin and was given of God through his chosen prophets for the restoration of his holy work and the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth in these days.**



- **In the revelations one hears the tender but firm voice of the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking anew in the dispensation of the fulness of times; and the work that is initiated herein is preparatory to his second coming, in fulfillment of and in concert with the words of all the holy prophets since the world began.**

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