

The image depicts Jesus Christ on the right side, wearing a white robe with a blue sash, his hands outstretched in a gesture of blessing or teaching. He is surrounded by a group of people in traditional, earth-toned robes. The background is a bright, hazy, golden-yellow light, suggesting a divine or heavenly atmosphere. The overall scene is one of a significant religious event, likely the Great Commission.

# The Great Commission

This gospel of the Kingdom shall be Preached in all the World

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# The Great Commission

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## Gospel Questions

From the very beginning, God has desperately tried to share Himself and His love with all mankind. We know this because of Jesus Christ. In sacrificing His Only Begotten Son, the Father has shared His hope for us. He hopes that we might see the price of our sin in the cross and the cause of our joy in the resurrection, and thereby turn our hearts and our lives toward Him that we might receive eternal life.

Jesus is God's invitation to us to come home to Him, as well as our example so that we might see what's required to have an abundant life. As the Father sent the Son to bear witness of the Gospel [John 18:37], so Jesus sent His apostles to do the same [John 20:21]. Jesus has extended that same great commission to us in our day, saying:

Matthew 28:17 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 18 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; 19 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:14 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 15 He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.

This is God's great and marvelous work, that His children might come home to Him. However, how can they come home unless they believe? How can they believe unless they have heard the message? How can they hear the message unless one shares it? [Romans 10:8-18]. What is the message? Please read from Section 76:4g-l:

4g And **this is the gospel**, the glad tidings which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us, that he came into the world, **even**

Jesus to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; 4h that through him all might be saved, whom the Father had put into his power, and made by him; who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition, who deny the Son after the Father has revealed him; 4i wherefore he saves all except them.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to abolish death and to bring life and immortality to light through the Gospel [2 Timothy 1:10]. He commissions you, whether man, woman, or child, to do the same [Sec 38:9c-e, Sec 4].

## PLEASE READ: How to use the Booklet

This booklet is meant to help encourage others to grow in their knowledge of the Gospel so that they might become more confident in sharing it with others. As the Lord counseled Hyrum, “seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed [Sec 10:10a].”

To help you in your journey, we have highlighted five basic questions concerning the Gospel. Our hope is that each person might study this booklet, include their own scriptures and testimonies in order to answer to each question, and then create their own method to deliver the Gospel. In so doing, we believe that you will become more inspired and passionate to share the Gospel.

1. Who is God?
2. Why should we believe in Him?
3. How does He communicate with us?
4. What does He say we should do?
5. What are His promises?

For each question, we hope that you will follow these four steps:

1. Answer the question using at least 3 to 5 scripture references,<sup>1</sup> as well as testimonies. (**Please note** that we will help you get started by providing some scripture references of our own. The tables however are meant for you to fill in with references).
2. Examine how the topic impacts you and others as you find scripture references, in other words, explain why it's important. Why should someone care?
3. Take time to examine how someone might fulfill the topic in practical terms. Are there other principles or steps involved? Do you have life experiences that could help someone understand the topic?
4. Finally, think about how you might teach or share on the subject. Breakdown what you've learned and organize it in such a way that the hearer will understand what's most important to them.

After you have walked through these steps for each of the five questions, we also hope to equip you with two different methods to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. The first method will focus on sharing with those individuals whom you already have a relationship with, while the second will focus on your witness to your neighbors.

We understand that it can be very difficult for some individuals to feel comfortable enough to share about Christ with other people. In fact, it's our experience that those who identify themselves as introverts feel like this is utterly impossible. We hope that this booklet however will increase your confidence to speak with family, friends, and strangers.

It's also important to consider that not everyone we might share with will all be at the same level of knowledge, nor will they all have the same personality or interests. You will need to temper how you share depending on who you're talking with.

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<sup>1</sup> If you need help in how to study, review Spencer Hughes' class by going to [www.outreachbranch.org](http://www.outreachbranch.org), selecting resources, then "Adult Class," and finally "[Study Class of Studying for the Studios.](#)"

Ultimately, it's imperative that we allow God to lead us as Philip did with the eunuch [Acts 8:26-38], as Ananias did with Paul [Acts 9:10-18] and as Paul did with the Macedonians [Acts 16:6-10]. We must allow the Holy Spirit to direct us as we are sharing the Gospel just as these men did.

Finally, as you study this booklet, we ask that you consider the following principles as you go about answering the five basic questions.

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Who is God?               | 7. Zion                     |
| 2. The Fall of Man           | 8. The Church and Authority |
| 3. Redemption through Christ | 9. Reconciliation           |
| 4. Agency and Intelligence   | 10. Stewardship             |
| 5. The Doctrine of Christ    | 11. Restoration             |
| 6. The Kingdom of God        | 12. Eternal Life            |

## 1. Who is God?

In order to first build a relationship with God, we must first know who He is. Without this understanding, we will not desire to seek Him. In other words, we must find that “why factor.” People need to know that God loves them, and in order to believe or accept this, they need to know what God *has* done for them and what He *will* do for them. They must be enticed to seek.

### Scripture References

Consider the following scriptures to help you get started in your search for who God is, and then use the tables below to insert your own scriptures. We encourage you to include both restored gospel scriptures and King James Version (KJV) scriptures, as you might be sharing with people from other denominations.

- Exodus 3:14, John 1:1-14, John 3:16-21
- **Hint:** you may want to look up scriptures about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

### *The Father*

<b>Book</b>	<b>Reference</b>
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

### *The Son*

<b>Book</b>	<b>Reference</b>
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

### *The Holy Spirit*

<b>Book</b>	<b>Reference</b>
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

### **Additional questions to consider**

As you go through the four steps we listed in the “How to use this booklet” section, we encourage you to consider these questions.

1. How might you share about who God is both with and without using scripture?
2. How do you know God is real?

3. Why do you believe in Him?
4. Why should someone else believe in Him?
5. What is different about you know that you believe?

## 2. Why should we believe in Him?

God’s great and marvelous work is for all His children to come home to Him. However, how can they come home unless they believe? How can they believe unless they have heard the message? How can they hear the message unless one shares it? [Romans 10:8-18].

In order for someone to take a step toward God, they need to understand why it’s important to believe in Him. It’s not enough to simply believe that God exists, people must come unto God through Jesus Christ. They must believe in their heart to such an extent that they are willing to follow Him. Only then will their heart begin to change, and thereby their life.

### Scripture References

Consider the following scriptures to get you started in your search...

- 1 Nephi 3:6
- 2 Nephi 1:66-77
- Mosiah 8:74-89

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

### Additional questions to consider

1. Why do we need God?
  2. What does it mean to believe?
- 8 | 2. Why should we believe in Him?

### 3. Is belief different from faith? Why or why not?

## 3. How does God communicate with us?

God has never stopped wanting to speak to us. He wants us to know “the things whereof He had appointed” [read Alma 9:38-56]. God does not want us to be ignorant, He wants to empower us with knowledge. As we read in the title page of the Book of Mormon, God brought forth the Restored Gospel so that we might know the covenants of the Lord. “And for this cause, that men might be partakers of the glories which were to be revealed [i.e., eternal life], the Lord sent forth the fullness of His Gospel, His everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity, to prepare the weak for those things which are coming on the earth [Sec 108:11a].”

The fullness of the Gospel includes the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Inspired Version [read Sec 32:3d-e]. However, the scriptures are not the only way that God speaks to man. Genesis 5:44 reads:

44 And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost.

### Scripture References

Can you find references for how God has spoken through angels, His own voice, and the gift of the Holy Ghost? Here are a couple to get you started:

- By angels: Daniel 9:20-23, Matthew 2:3-8
- By God’s voice: Exo 3:4, Enos 1:1-10, Ether 1:68-81
- By the Holy Ghost: Mat 16:16-18, Acts 28:25-28, 2 Peter 1:21

### *By Holy Angels*

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	

D&C	
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*By His Own Voice*

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

*By the Holy Ghost*

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

**Additional questions to consider**

1. How does God communicate with us individually?
2. Does He still speak today?
3. What is the restored gospel? Why is it important?
4. What is the purpose of the Book of Mormon?
5. What are other verses or means to prove the Book of Mormon?

**4. What does God say we should do?**

After we grow in our knowledge of who God is, why we should believe in Him, and how He communicates with us personally. What does God tell us we should do?

Reconciliation is the means or tool by which two parties are able to come back into union with one another. God has already completed His part of the equation by sending His Only Begotten Son to pay the ransom for our transgressions (i.e., grace). The only thing that God requires us to do in this process is to enter into a covenant with Him and to repent by confessing and forsaking our old way of life and forgiving those who have trespassed against us. In so doing, God promises to make us new and to reconcile us to Him as we read in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

### Scripture References

Consider the following scriptures to get you started in your search...

- John 3:1-8
- Alma 5:24-28
- Acts 2:37-39
- Mosiah 9:39-41

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

### Additional questions to consider

1. What would happen to us if Jesus never came?
2. Is there anything required for us to be redeemed from the grave?
3. Is there anything required for us to be redeemed from our sin?
4. What does it mean to strive for holiness?
5. What is the Kingdom and how do we enter it?
6. What is reconciliation with God? What's required?
7. What is reconciliation with others? What's required?
8. Why is the ministry of reconciliation important?

9. What is stewardship opposed to ownership?
10. What does it mean to be a steward?
11. What does God require of us in our stewardship?

## 5. What are God’s promises?

Jesus’ core message is this, “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God; and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel [Mark 1:12-13; read also Mat 4:16 and Mat 7:9].

In other words, Jesus was telling the disciples, and thereby us today, to repent because it was the “Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom” [read Luke 12:34-35]. The Gospel is filled with promises and perhaps none greater than eternal life. [Sec 12:3]. God promises that if we seek first to (1) build up His Kingdom and (2) establish His righteousness (i.e., Zion), then all things shall be added unto us (i.e., eternal life)

### Scripture References

Can you find references explaining the Kingdom of God, Zion, and Life after death? Here are a few to get you started:

- Kingdom of God: Luke 4:43, Romans 14:17
- Zion: Genesis 7:23, 70, Sec 6:3, Sec 57:1a-d
- Life After Death: Job 14:1-2, 10, 14, Job 19:23-27, John 5:24

### *Kingdom of God*

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

## Zion

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

## Life After Death

Book	Reference
KJV	
IV	
BoM	
D&C	

### Additional questions to consider

1. What is God's greatest gift?
2. Why does the Father want to give us His Kingdom? How does this relate to holiness?
3. What is Zion to you?
4. How might you share Zion with someone both inside and outside our faith?
5. What is the spiritual condition of Zion?
6. What are the waste places of Zion and how do we build them up?
7. What happens to us after we die?
8. After we die, will we rise again?
9. Will all rise at once?
10. When is the millennial reign, the little season, and final judgment?
11. How will we be judged and who will judge us?

## The Great and Marvelous Work

God's great and marvelous work is to bring all of His children home to Him. However, as we mentioned earlier, how can they come home unless they believe? How can they believe unless they have heard the message? How can they hear the message unless one shares it? [Romans 10:8-18].

Jesus has given us the same great commission that His Father gave Him, and that Christ gave to the apostles, but that does not make it any easier to accomplish. There are many things that can hold us back from sharing the Gospel with others, including our fear of how others might view us, worry that we don't know enough, dislike for feeling uncomfortable, or even belief that we don't possess the talents to share.

I have felt all of these at one point or another, but praise be to God that He has helped me to overcome my fears. While I will be the first one to admit that I still have my fears and that I still have much room to grow in my witness to others, I will also testify that God has helped me to move past my fears and acquire new talents. My hope is that this section will give you some practical tips to share the Gospel and overcome your own fears or inadequacies.

There are many different ways to share the Gospel, but I have found, as well as others, that the following two methods can be quite effective. The first is called "the Kenyan method," for it has helped the Church to expand rapidly in East Africa, and the second is called "the No Purse or Scrip" method, which is named after Section 83:7-22.

### The Kenyan Method

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word "missionary?" For many, they tend to think of sharing the Gospel with total strangers. While this is certainly important, it's not the only way to witness of God. If you are one who struggles to make friendships with others or to talk with someone you don't know, then we recommend you start trying to share with those whom you already know.

This is what the saints do in Kenya. Once they convert to the Restored Gospel, they immediately reach out to past friends, current friends, and family, and ask if they can share what they have learned with them. With this in mind, here are the steps you can take to follow the Kenyan Method:

1. Make a list of all your family and friends who either don't know the Gospel or are perhaps struggling with their faith.
2. Spend time in prayer and fasting about whom the Lord would direct you to reach out to, and then do it.
3. If the relationship has become old or stale, first start to strengthen that relationship, and then start inserting your faith.
4. If you already have a strong relationship, ask if you can set up a visit in order to share what you believe with them. Most won't turn you down.
5. Finally, be sure to continue to follow-up and reach out. Some individuals will need constant connection or guidance as they draw nearer to the Lord. You cannot bring someone to Church one time and then forget about them.

**Tip:** Try not to invite friends and family to things unless you already have a solid relationship with them first. Inviting someone to a service or class before they have time to build that relationship with you can be off-putting.

## The No Purse or Scrip Method

When Jesus called the apostles [Mat 10] and the seventy [Luke 10], He sent them out to share the Gospel without purse, meaning a girdle to carry money, and scrip, which was a leather pouch for food “for the workman is worthy of his meat.”

Jesus did the same thing during the early days of the Restoration. In Section 83:7-22, we read that the whole world lies in darkness and in the bondage of sin, that the Church in Zion had treated lightly the things it had received and thus come under condemnation, and that God would forgive them if they went into all the world to send the testimony of Christ to every creature. In these verses, Jesus explains how the early Church in Jerusalem

was established, and commands the latter-day Church to do the same. How was the Church established? By going without purse or scrip.

Now we know this sounds very scary, but God gave the saints a pattern in Section 83 to help them accomplish the task. He told them to first start with the house, then the village, and then the city just as He had with the apostles and seventy in Jerusalem. For how could they go to the city before going to the village, and how could they go to the village before going to the house? We can follow this same pattern today. Here are the steps you can take to follow the no purse or scrip method:

1. Pray about where you should start. It could be your own neighborhood, the neighborhood around your branch, or even your workplace.
2. After the Lord designates the place where you should begin, start to walk the area, offering prayers for the souls around you as you go.
3. Once you have done this at least once, start taking note of those homes or individuals that God would lead you to. Write them down so you don't forget.
4. Then start knocking on the doors. Introduce yourself and, if applicable, your family. Build a relationship first, perhaps having them over for a game night, asking if you can help them with yard work, or even asking if you can pray for them, etc.
5. Once you have started to develop a friendship, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you as you share about the Gospel. Be sure to listen to their beliefs as well.
6. Again, make sure you continue to follow-up and reach out. This method will take time and effort.

**Tip:** Once you start to make a couple contacts, consider pausing knocking on doors. Chances are, you will get too spread out if you are doing this on your own. Make sure you can dedicate the proper amount of time to share with your neighbors.

## Conclusion

This booklet is meant to help encourage others to grow in their knowledge of the Gospel so that they might become more confident in sharing it with others. To help you in your journey, we have highlighted five basic questions concerning the Gospel.

1. Who is God?
2. Why should we believe in Him?
3. How does He communicate with us?
4. What does He say we should do?
5. What are His promises?

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God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to abolish death and to bring life and immortality to light through the Gospel [2 Timothy 1:10]. He both invites and commissions you, whether man, woman, or child, to do the same [Sec 38:9c-e, Sec 4].