

# Doctrine and Covenants 23–24: Counsel from the Lord

Choose at least two of the following people to read about. Look for phrases in the verses that connect with the historical summary. This can help you see evidence that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ knew each person and offered counsel for their personal lives.

## Oliver Cowdery

**DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 23:1–2; 24:10–12**



Oliver was a schoolteacher. He served as a scribe for Joseph Smith Jr. when translating the Book of Mormon. He was one of the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon and was the second elder of the restored Church. He shared the gospel with the Whitmer family and his other friends in Fayette, New York. On several occasions his pride was manifested, including once when he wrote to Joseph Smith Jr. concerning part of a revelation with which he did not agree. His pride caused him to leave the Church for a time between 1838 and 1847.

## Hyrum Smith

**DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 23:3**



Hyrum was an older brother of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He assisted in the publication of the Book of Mormon by working directly with the printer. He had great desires to preach the restored gospel, but he was asked to wait and prepare by studying God's word (see Doctrine and Covenants 11:21–22). He served as president of the first branch of the Church in Colesville, New York. Hyrum fulfilled his duty to the Church and was faithful to the Lord throughout his life.

## Joseph Knight Sr.

**DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 23:6–7**



Joseph Knight Sr. was a close friend of Joseph Smith Jr. and had shown him great kindness. He provided the Prophet with supplies while he worked on the translation of the Book of Mormon. He felt a desire to be baptized with others on the day the Church was organized, but he waited because he wanted to study the Book of Mormon further. Soon after receiving the Lord's counsel in Doctrine and Covenants 23, Joseph Knight Sr. chose to be baptized. He remained a faithful member of the Church throughout his life.

## Joseph Smith Jr.

**DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 24:1–9**



Joseph Smith Jr. was the Lord's Prophet. In April 1830, Joseph organized the restored Church. Immediately, the new Church faced persecution. Joseph was arrested on false charges and released. He had the responsibility to provide for his family and lead the Church at the same time. "As busy as he was with the new church, he had to plant his fields soon if he wanted a successful fall harvest. His payments to Emma's father on the farm were already late, and if his crops failed, he would have to find another way to pay off his debt" (*Saints*, 1:90).