

Likening Church History to Ourselves

Activity A

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

The Prophet Joseph Smith wrote, “Persecution has not stopped the progress of truth” (*History of the Church*, 4:540). The Lord had previously called many members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to serve missions overseas. Despite illness and difficulty, these determined brethren obediently left Nauvoo to serve. As a result, thousands of people—primarily from England—received a witness from God, joined the Church, and traveled to Nauvoo. They became a great strength to the Church.

Read 1 Nephi 3:7 and Doctrine and Covenants 3:1 and consider how these verses might relate to this example of missionary work.

Activity B

ESTABLISHING THE RELIEF SOCIETY

While the Saints were building the Nauvoo Temple, a few sisters noticed that many of the men working on the temple lacked adequate shoes, pants, and shirts. Inspired by the Lord, they organized a group of women and began working together to provide these clothes. Like similar groups of the time, they drafted a constitution. They presented the document to Joseph Smith for his approval.

[When] Joseph [saw it, he] said it was the best constitution of its kind. “But this is not what you want,” he said. “Tell the sisters their offering is accepted of the Lord and He has something better for them. . . . I will organize the women under the priesthood, after the pattern of the priesthood.” (*Saints*, 1:448)

On March 17, 1842, God directed Joseph Smith to organize the Relief Society. God continues to inspire Relief Society leaders today to serve and strengthen members of the Church and countless others.

Read Doctrine and Covenants 58:26–28, looking for how these verses might relate to the inspired women whose actions led to the establishment of the Relief Society.