

We Believe in Freedom of Religion and Conscience

Answer the following questions.

- When have you discussed religion or spiritual beliefs with someone whose beliefs are different than yours?
- How did they respond to your beliefs? How did you respond to theirs?

Consider the following scenario.

Liam is part of his school's soccer team. One of the members of his team, Zain, has a personal religious ritual that he does before each game. Zain is the only person of his religion on the team. Other members of the team have noticed what Zain does and have started to give him a hard time about it. Liam knows that Zain's religion is sometimes seen negatively by people in their community.

Study the following materials, thinking about how they might apply to Liam's situation and to your interactions with those who believe differently than you.

Alma 30:7–9

Articles of Faith 1:11

The Prophet Joseph Smith (1805–44) taught:



If it has been demonstrated that I have been willing to die for a “Mormon,” I am bold to declare before Heaven that I am just as ready to die in defending the rights of a Presbyterian, a Baptist, or a good man of any other denomination; for the same principle which would trample upon the rights of the Latter-day Saints would trample upon the rights . . . of any other denomination who may be unpopular and too weak to defend themselves.

It is a love of liberty which inspires my soul—civil and religious liberty to the whole of the human race. (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 345)

- What could you share with Liam that might help him respond to the situation he is in?
- What did you learn about how Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ would have you treat those who believe differently than you?